

CATTLE NEWSLETTER

Ashe County Center

January 2017



Virginia Quality Assured (VQA) Feeder Cattle Marketing Program

Sale Date	Wean By	Last Day To Vaccinate
March 27	February 18	March 21
July 10	June 3	July 4
August 21	July 15	August 15
November 6	September 30	October 31
December 4	October 28	November 28

*If you are planning to participate in a VQA Sale you **MUST** contact me at the North Carolina Cooperative Extension, Ashe County Center at (336) 846-5850 three weeks prior to the sale date.*

Contact Us

North Carolina Cooperative
Extension, Ashe County Center
134 Government Circle, Suite 202
Jefferson, NC 28640

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<http://ashe.ces.ncsu.edu/>

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The Abingdon Feeder Cattle Association initiated the VQA Program to:

- Improve the health and genetics of feeder cattle.
- Identify feeder cattle with superior health and/or genetic history to improve their marketability and reward producers for their efforts.
- Improve the communication between buyers and sellers of feeder cattle.
- Enhance the reputation of feeder cattle.
- Allow smaller producers the opportunity to share in load-lot premiums.

General Program Guidelines:

To partner with the AFCA in this marketing program,

- Producers will become Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) Certified.
- Vaccinations will be verified by a third party (Extension Agent, Veterinarian, Feeder Cattle Association Board Member).
- Calves intended for sale **must be consigned** by the Extension Office in Washington County, Virginia—234 West Valley Street, Suite B, Abingdon, VA 24210; Phone (276) 676-6309.
- Cattle must weigh a minimum of 400 pounds.
- All calves will be dehorned and healed.
- All steers must be healed (following castration) and showing no bullish characteristics.
- Heifers are “Guaranteed Open.” Producers consigning bred heifers will reimburse the purchaser \$200 per animal. Animals found bred in the market and returned to the producer will be subject to a **\$50 per head fee** payable to the AFCA.
- Steers are “Guaranteed” to be cleanly castrated with no animals displaying “stagish” characteristics. Animals found to be stags (verified by veterinarian, Extension Agent, or livestock grading official) will be subject to a \$100 per head fee payable to the purchaser.
- Animals must be owned by the seller for a minimum of 120 days. Producers intending to market purchased animals must notify Phil Blevins, Washington County Extension Office, 234 West Valley Street, Suite B, Abingdon, VA 24210; Phone (276) 676-6309, of marketing intentions 90 days prior to sale.

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Weaning/Vaccinating/Tags:

- Calves must be weaned a minimum of 45 days.
- All vaccinations will be given according to BQA Guidelines and product label directions in the approved region of the neck.
- Vaccination must be given after the calves are 120 days old and at least 14 days prior to delivery.
- Calves will be vaccinated for:
 1. 7-way Clostridials
 2. Modified-Live Viruses (IBR, PI3, BRSV, BVD I & II)
 3. Pasteurella

Vaccines Commonly Used By Participating Producers Include:

Modified-Live Viruses with Pasteurella:



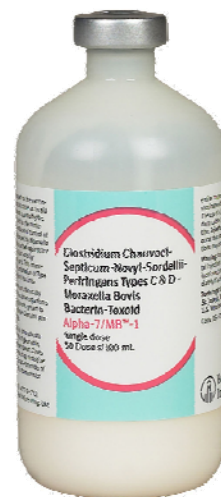
OR



Clostridials/Blackleg Vaccines:

- If animals have not received “Blackleg” vaccine prior to weaning, use Alpha 7/MB 1.
- If animals have been vaccinated for Clostridials prior to weaning, give a booster vaccine with the same product that was used before.

*****Other vaccines are efficacious and acceptable for use in the program. Please discuss vaccine selections with your Veterinarian or Extension Agent prior to vaccinating cattle.*****



All Animals Will Be Identified With An Abingdon Feeder Cattle Association VQA Ear Tag:

- Tags are purchased from your local Extension Agent.
- Tags are \$2.00 each.
- Place tags in the animal’s **LEFT EAR**.
- **TAKE ALL HOME TAGS OUT.**

Gold tags are for use in cattle for which the vaccinations are certified. Purple tags are for use in cattle for which the vaccinations and genetics are certified. Discuss with your Extension Agent which tag color most accurately describes your herd.

Grading/Evaluation:

1. Animals will be evaluated on-farm by VDACS Livestock Marketing Representatives.
2. **Marketable Weights**—In most instances we can market steers that weigh between 400 and 975 pounds. We can easily market heifers in a weight range of 400 to 850 pounds. If you plan on marketing in the VQA Program, evaluate animals and choose a sale date in which your animals will fit in the marketable weight ranges.
3. Only Large and Medium Frame 1's and 2's will be sold. No small frame or #3 muscle cattle will be accepted.
4. Breeds/colors accepted will include black, black-white face, and Charolais-X (no pink noses).
5. Animals graded on the farm will be reevaluated on "Take-up Day" at the Livestock Market. Animals with defects and/or do not match their respective group **will be removed** by the Graders. **It is the responsibility of the producer** to check with the Livestock Market to be sure that all of the calves are acceptable.
6. Producers with animals that are ineligible for sale left at the market after weigh-up is completed will receive a phone call reminder to pick them up.

Delivery/Take-Up Day:

- Animals will be delivered to Tri-State Livestock Market in Abingdon, VA.
- Producers will provide a mailing address and phone number.
- Animals will be weighed individually on a first-come first serve basis.
- Weighing will begin at 7:00 a.m. unless other announcements are made.
- Producers are encouraged to get animals to the market as soon as possible (no later than 2:00 p.m.).
- Producers are responsible for determining if all animals were sale eligible. This information can be obtained at the market office. Ineligible animals will be penned awaiting their owners return.
- Checks will be available the day following the sale.

General Management Tips:

- **Feeding**—A general recommendation for feeding/backgrounding calves is to feed grain at 1 1/2% of the animal's body weight (Ex: 400 pound calf will get 6#'s grain, 500 pound calf will get 7.5#'s). It is the responsibility of the producer not to **excessively fill** animals prior to weighing. Animals that appear to be "filled" will be subject to rejection (**removed from the sale**) at final grading.
- **Tail Trimming**—If you choose to trim an animals tail, please do not cut it off level/even. Tail trimming is often used by "traders" to make animals look younger, and this is making the buyers suspicious as to whether the calves are home raised.
- **Castration**—It is important to get calves castrated early. Delayed castration is more stressful, it allows calves to develop "bullish features" (head and neck), and it results in the dropping of the pink covering of the penis (often generating the comment— "stag calf"). To prevent rejects on delivery day and to minimize buyer complaints, please castrate calves early.
- **Implants**—Producers are encouraged to implant calves (especially at mid-summer).

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For additional information regarding the VQA Feeder Cattle Sales, please contact the North Carolina Cooperative Extension, Ashe County Center at (336) 846-5850.

Sincerely,

Micah Orfield
Extension Agent,