

Requirements

Genetics:

MNA requires cattle to be no less than 50% Red or Black Angus. Each animal must be at least 50% Angus, not just the average of the group. MNA does not allow Brahman or dairy influence. Verification of lack of Brahman or dairy influence will be made by a trained MNA field person prior to contracting. Producers are required to document the genetic claim on the MNA Affidavit (MNA300) and to keep ranch records (bull pedigrees or cow purchases) for a minimum of 3 years. Cloned animals or progeny of cloned animals are not allowed.

Feed:

Cattle may receive only natural feed and rations such as grass pasture, legume pasture, hay, grain silage, grains, and pellets made from grains or grasses. A strong natural vitamin and mineral program is also recommended.

All cattle must be fed a MNA approved probiotic during the finishing phase. This will provide a pre-harvest food safety practice through the reduction of the presence of E.coli.

No animal by-products are allowed in the feed (which includes mineral and supplements). The following list is examples of disqualifying products, but is not limited only to the products on this list:

1. Bone and bone meal.
2. Blood and blood products.
3. Gelatin
4. Fat and tallow.
5. Fish oil and fish meal.
6. Chicken crop and feather meal.

Animal Treatment:

MNA does not allow the use of antibiotics in cattle, whether in the form of injection, bolus or an ingredient in feed or water. The following list is examples of disqualifying products, but is not limited only to the products on this list:

1. Penicillin: Penicillin, Pen G, Combiotic, etc.
2. Cephalosporin: Naxel, Excenel and Excede.
3. Aminoglycosides: Neomycin, Streptomycin, Gentamicin, Amakacin, Spectinomycin.
4. Sulfonamides: Sulfa's, Albon, Sustain Bolus, DI-Methox
5. Fluoroquinolones: Florfenicol, Nuflor
6. Macrolides: Tylan, Micocil, Erythromycin
7. Tetracycline: LA200, Oxytet 200, Oxybiotic 200, Duramycin 200, Procure 200, Oxyshot 200, and other generics – Oxytetracyclines, and Aureomycin-Chlorotetracyclines.
8. Ionophores: Rumensin, Bovatec, Cattlyst.
9. Other: Optaflexx, Zilmaxx

MNA does not expect producers to allow their cattle to die or suffer due to lack of treatment with antibiotics, but instead they must be marked when treated so that MNA will not receive the animal. Producers may utilize a variety of methods to identify treated animals, as long as it is consistent, documented and auditable. These methods may include, but are not limited to:

1. Ear tagging the treated animal.
2. Notching an existing ear tag.
3. Electronic ear tag with records on the individual animals.

Any animal that has lost its tag must be classified as treated, unless adequate records exist to determine that the animal was not treated.

Hormones:

MNA does not allow the use of growth hormones or implants. The following list is examples of disqualifying products, but is not limited only to the products on this list:

1. MGA (Whether fed to induce breeding synchronization or in the feedlot to control riding)
2. Synchronization products (SyncroMate B, Lutalise, Cydar)
3. Compudose
4. Ralgro & Ralgro Magnum
5. Synovex C, S, H, Plus, Choice
6. Finaplix H, S
7. Revalor H, S, G, 200
8. Component ES, E-H, E-C, T-s, T-H, TE-S
9. Encore
10. Duralease

Humane Farm Animal Care (HFAC):

MNA is certified by HFAC that its producers raise cattle according to HFAC Standards. The standards are detailed in the HFAC section of this manual or can also be found on the web at www.certifiedhumane.com. In general the standards require that cattle are fed a nutritious diet without antibiotics or hormones, and they are raised with shelter, resting areas, sufficient space and the ability to engage in natural behaviors.

Sex:

MNA accepts only steers and heifers for slaughter. Bulls and/or stags are not eligible for the program and may not be shipped to the packing plant for slaughter.

Source and Age:

MNA requires that each animal is born and raised in the USA and that each animal is under 30 months of age at harvest. Due to those requirements, all parties that were involved with the raising and care of MNA harvested cattle must be known to MNA. Each party must be identified and attest that they raised the animals according to MNA requirements. In addition, the ranch of birth must supply the birth date range of the cattle. The source and age information is communicated to MNA via the Affidavit (MNA300).

Affidavit:

In order to document that the above requirements have been met, the Meyer Affidavit (MNA300) must accompany the animals from birth to harvest. By reading and signing the affidavit, each producer attests that the requirements were met and that MNA, USDA, HFAC or MNA customers may audit records to verify compliance. All parties that were involved with the raising and care of MNA harvested cattle must read and sign the affidavit. A sample Affidavit is located in this handbook. Completed affidavits are required before cattle contracts can be written and approved.

Professional Resources:

In order to provide our customers with information on the latest developments that impact the success of feeding Natural cattle, MNA has identified a group of experts in their respective fields that we can turn to when seeking advice and input. From health and nutrition, to animal handling to food safety issues, MNA strives to be a proactive company that is evaluating and implementing when appropriate the type of practices that will differentiate our product to the consuming public.

Dr. Simon Timmermans
Dr. Temple Grandin
Nutrition Physiology Corp.

Health and Nutrition
Animal Handling
Pre-Harvest Food Safety