

# Virginia Quality Assured Feeder Cattle Marketing Program

Virginia Quality Assured (VQA) is a feeder cattle marketing program, which is used to identify and market feeder cattle that meet superior health and genetic requirements. The Gold Tag program focuses on superior health requirements, while the Purple Tag program takes into account both health and genetic considerations.

VQA Tags and Accompanying Requirements are shown below:



## Gold Tag – Health Program Assured

- ❖ Vaccinated for IBR, BVD (Type I & II), PI3, 7 strain clostridial and Pasteurella (Mannheimia with Leukotoxoid). Modified live IBR, BVD, PI3 vaccine must be used at least once.
- ❖ Processing map and certification form to accompany the cattle.



## Gold Tag with 'W' – Health Program Assured + Weaned

- ❖ All Gold Tag requirements plus
- ❖ Calves weaned at least 45 days
- ❖ Feed and water trough broke



## Purple Tag – Genetic and Health Program Assured

- ❖ All Gold Tag requirements plus
- ❖ Breed of sire identified
- ❖ Sire must meet minimum Yearling Weight EPD's

[For details on sire minimums – Click Here](#)



## Purple Tag with 'W' – Genetic and Health Program Assured + Weaned

- ❖ All Purple Tag requirements plus
- ❖ Calves weaned at least 45 days
- ❖ Feed and water trough broke

## Program Goals

1. Improve the health and genetics of Virginia feeder cattle.
2. Identify feeder cattle with superior health and/or genetic history to improve their marketability and reward producers for their efforts.
3. Improve the communication between buyers and sellers of feeder cattle.
4. Enhance the reputation of Virginia feeder cattle.

## General Requirements

1. To qualify for VQA, feeder cattle must be certified by a third party, such as a veterinarian, extension agent, VQA personnel, or someone who has been trained as a certifier.
2. Vaccinations are to be given according to label directions, except the initial dose of vaccines requiring booster may be given at any time after four (4) months of age; thus extending the period between the initial and booster injections.
3. All required vaccinations must be given after calves are 120 days old and at least 14 days before sale (booster should be given if required by label instructions).
4. Cattle producers must be Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) certified.
5. All vaccinations must be given in the neck area.
6. A processing map and verification form must accompany cattle.
7. Cattle must weigh a minimum of 400 pounds.
8. Heifers are guaranteed open.
9. Steers are castrated, healed and guaranteed against stags.
10. All calves are dehorned and healed.
11. Cattle are owned by the seller for at least 60 days.