

MONTANA LAW CREATING PROGRAM:

- 80-11-801. Montana-certified natural beef cattle marketing program.** (1) The department and the department of livestock shall administer a program to qualify and market beef cattle from Montana that have been certified as natural.
- (2) To qualify as Montana-certified natural beef cattle, the beef cattle must have been born and raised in Montana and finished following naturally raised protocols. The beef cattle must be:
- (a) raised in an environmentally prudent manner that is consistent with Montana's best grazing standards;
 - (b) raised pursuant to beef quality assurance standards or similar guidelines;
 - (c) raised without subtherapeutic antibiotics, synthetic hormones, synthetic growth promotants, and ionophores; and
 - (d) fed only natural feeds that contain no drugs, chemicals, or animal byproducts.
- (3) To qualify as Montana-certified natural grass-fed beef cattle, the beef cattle must meet the requirements of subsection (2) and must also have been finished on grass.
- (4) A producer who desires natural beef cattle certification shall maintain records of the birth of the beef cattle by month and keep health records for the beef cattle, including vaccine lot numbers, the vaccine manufacturer, and dates of vaccination.
- (5) To ensure compliance, the department and the department of livestock shall jointly adopt rules requiring at least one inspection of the ranch of origin of the beef cattle as well as development of the necessary protocols for recordkeeping and verification for the certification of natural and natural grass-fed beef cattle.
- (6) The department shall include the promotion of Montana-certified natural beef cattle in its agricultural product marketing programs.

ADMINISTRATIVE RULES:

4.18.101 DEFINITIONS

As used in this subchapter, the following definitions apply:

- (1) "Animal by-products" means biodegradable wastes consisting of animal carcasses, parts of animal carcasses, and products of animal origin that are not intended for human consumption.
- (2) "Beef product" means edible muscle tissue produced from the harvesting and processing of finished cattle.
- (3) "Best grazing standards" means proper grazing using the practice of managing forage harvest by all grazing animals including domestic livestock at a sustainable yield that does not accelerate erosion and sedimentation above acceptable levels for the receiving waters.
- (4) "Certificate" means a document signed by the department verifying the producer is raising cattle within the parameters of the "Montana Certified Natural Beef" program.
- (5) "Certificate holder" means a producer who has met all requirements for participation in the program and has received a certificate signed by the department.
- (6) "Certified enrolled cattle" means feeder and finished cattle that have been enrolled and raised in compliance with the requirements of the program.
- (7) "Corrective action" means the action required of a certificate holder by the department to come into compliance with the requirements of the program.
- (8) "Department" means the Department of Agriculture.
- (9) "Ionophores" means the technical name for a class of additives designed to effect the microbial population found in the rumen that are commonly fed to cattle to improve feed efficiency and rate of gain.
- (10) "Montana Beef Network" means a program providing animal identification for Montana cattle that meet specific beef quality and consistency targets.
- (11) "Producer" means a person, partnership, association, corporation, cooperative, trust, sharecropper, and all other business units, devices, and arrangements who raise, own, feed, or finish cattle.
- (12) "Program" means the Montana Certified Natural Beef Program created by Title 80, chapter 11, part 8, MCA and this chapter.
- (13) "Raised" means the animal must have spent its entire life in Montana except for up to five days allowing for slaughter.
- (14) "Sub-therapeutic antibiotics" means antibiotics used as preventatives such as those administered below the dosage levels used to treat diseases.
- (15) "Synthetic hormones" or "synthetic growth promotants" means hormones or growth promotants that are developed in the laboratory to be used in enhancing growth in cattle.

History: [80-11-801](#), MCA; [IMP](#), [80-11-801](#), MCA; [NEW](#), 2008 MAR p. 564, Eff. 3/28/08.