



May 2014

Dear Valued Supplier:

In 2013, we introduced to you the Tyson FarmCheck™ program for on-farm animal handling reviews, called Site Checks, for locations that source or supply the Tyson Fresh Meats Beef Division. The first phase of Site Checks, completed in the fall of 2013 was a pilot audit program, and was conducted by Tyson team members.

The next phase in 2014 includes utilizing the services of an independent 3rd party auditing firm to expand onsite review coverage to more sites and also provide the important element of an independent audit process. IMI Global will be conducting FarmCheck™ Site Checks at selected feedyard locations of direct Tyson suppliers focusing on employee training, handling and general well-being of animals in the feedlot. All fees associated to the 3rd party review are paid by Tyson.

As previously discussed, we recognize Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) as the primary platform for continuous improvement in production of quality, safe and responsibly raised cattle. We encourage all of our suppliers and beef producers to participate in the BQA program. FarmCheck™ is designed to build upon the BQA programs by providing independent verification that the cattle you supply to Tyson are treated responsibly and handled properly. We believe the key to animal well-being is the behavior of the caretaker. The foundation of our on-farm assessment is individual training of all caretakers that work daily with the animals coupled with periodic 'Self-Checks' conducted by management, to ensure all employees' understand and comply with their training.

Throughout 2014, onsite reviews will be performed by trained 3rd party and Tyson auditors at randomly selected feedyards and livestock markets that directly supply Tyson. All IMI Global and Tyson onsite auditors have agricultural backgrounds, extensive audit training, and appropriate certifications and credentials. All Site Check reviews will be done in a manner that complies with good industry practices and will start in July 2014.

Included in this mailing is the **Tyson Beef Supply Chain Site Check Form**, which contains FarmCheck™ requirements specific to feedyard operations and is the actual form that will be used for the on-farm Site Checks. Please use this form to become familiar with Tyson FarmCheck™ expectations and begin preparing for an onsite review.

As mentioned, the 2014 FarmCheck™ Site Check reviews will be starting soon. The site manager should become BQA trained and certified, if not already. This training should include the BQA Cattle Industry's Guidelines for the Care and Handling of Cattle. A member of management should train every employee working independently with animals and document that training as soon as you can after receiving the training materials. A member of management should conduct the training session and they should also have record of the animal care/handling training for each individual caretaker or handler. If you have any questions about Tyson's FarmCheck™ program, please contact your Tyson cattle buyer.

The goal of FarmCheck™ Site Check is to verify that you serve as a responsible steward for the cattle that you produce. We appreciate your commitment and dedication to this purpose. We also want to thank you for being a valued supplier to Tyson Fresh Meats.

Sincerely,

John Gerber
Vice-President, Cattle Procurement



Beef Supply Chain Site Check for Feedyard Operations

Revised: 05/01/14

Original: 10/18/13

Date		Name of Site		Tyson Buyer Name	
Tyson Supplier Name			Manager's Name		
911 Site Address	Street _____		City _____	State _____	Zip _____
Mailing Address <i>[if different than above]</i>	Street _____		City _____	State _____	Zip _____
Tyson ID# <i>[if applicable]:</i>					
Contact Phone#	Office -	Mobile -		Fax -	
Email Address					
Auditor's Name				Auditor Phone #	
Recent Weather Conditions <i>[Temp/Precip]</i>					
<i>Data below is collected for informational purposes only.</i>					
Indicate Site 'type' <i>[circle all that apply]:</i>	Earthen Lot with Windbreak	Earthen Lot with Shed	Earthen Lot		
Complete Confinement Building with Solid Floor	Other <i>[describe]:</i>				
Complete Confinement Building with Slatted Floor					



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Check each element as applicable. Use back of sheet for additional comments if needed.

*Descriptive aspects in the Criteria column are intended as a guide and may not be all inclusive of observations of animals or processes. Interpretative judgments based on experience and training of reviewer may be necessary in some cases.

Tyson Site Check Elements	Criteria*	Result	Notes** <small>Observations/Corrective Actions</small>
<p>Animal Welfare Training Review training records of employees/caretakers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Site Manager is BQA trained and certified. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Retraining is completed basis training program standard. ○ Record of training is available. ▪ Caretakers responsible for independent animal handling at the site have had animal handling training. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Upon interview, caretaker(s) can articulate or demonstrate methods of proper animal handling for their assigned task(s). ○ Record of training is available. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Site Manager is trained [BQA or equivalent] and care takers are trained in animal handling practices– <i>Acceptable</i>. ▪ Site Manager or caretakers (either/or) is not trained, no record of training or caretaker is unable to articulate proper animal handling per their assigned task – <i>Needs Improvement</i>. ▪ No site workers are trained and there are no plans to train – <i>Unacceptable</i>. 	<p><input type="radio"/> Acceptable</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Needs Improvement</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Unacceptable</p>	

At least one employee at the Site is BQA trained [current within last 3 years]? -----> YES NO [circle one]

Name: _____ BQA Training Date: _____ BQA Module(s): _____

Site Responsibility of BQA Trained designee above [circle one]: Owner Site Manager Animal Care Taker Other _____

BQA Site Assessment completed? -----> YES NO [circle one] Site Assessment Date: _____

BQA Site Assessment completed by [circle one]: Owner Site Manager State BQA Coordinator Consulting Veterinarian Other _____



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<p>Site Assessment & Site Self- Check</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ BQA Feedyard Site Assessment (or equivalent) is conducted (recommended frequency is annual). ▪ Site Self-Check is completed annually by the feedyard management. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Verify by record and/or verbal interview. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ BQA Site Assessment and Self-Check has been conducted and records are available to demonstrate – <i>Acceptable</i>. ▪ BQA Site Assessment or Self-Checks (either/or) are not being made or are not being made at prescribed frequencies – <i>Needs Improvement</i>. ▪ BQA Site Assessment and Self-Checks are not being made and there are no plans to conduct this activity – <i>Unacceptable</i>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Acceptable ○ Needs Improvement ○ Unacceptable 	
<p>Animal Observations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All animals have access to water and feed and general animal welfare conditions are provided. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Confined systems must have observations for each animal and pen at least once per 24 hours. ○ Verify by record and/or verbal interview. ▪ A Euthanasia SOP/Plan is in place at the site. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assess by review of written plan, visual observations, and/or verbal interview. ○ Plan should include aspects of timely euthanasia, confirmation of death, equipment accessibility and maintenance, backup options are identified. ▪ Direct observations are made for water availability, provision of feed, major injuries requiring attention, lameness, open wounds or abscesses, facility and equipment hazards, etc., and environmental conditions that may affect the animals’ general well-being. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Aspects of body space vary between type of operation. Refer to criteria described in BQA. ▪ Observe all populated pens including grow/finish pens or areas, processing areas, loading/unloading pens, hospital pens, etc. ▪ Group Movement Code – If able, assess one group of market-ready cattle and assess Group Movement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No observations of ‘unacceptable’ conditions of general well-being, body condition, body space, etc. observed – <i>Acceptable</i>. ▪ Some observations of concern to general well-being conditions, body condition, body space, etc. observed, but were immediately addressed and/or easily correctable – <i>Needs Improvement</i>. ▪ Numerous observations of ‘unacceptable’ conditions of general well-being, body condition, body space, etc., indicative of a systematic concern are observed - <i>Unacceptable</i>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Acceptable ○ Needs Improvement ○ Unacceptable 	



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<p>Animal Handling Practices Interview employees and observe animal handling activities conducted in facility. Focus on times they are being moved or handled. If procedures or practices are not performed at time of audit, interview responsible care-takers to assess their knowledge. If possible, request care-taker[s] to conduct a procedure [i.e., processing, loading, unloading, etc.] that allows you to observe the actual handling procedure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Excessive force is not used to move/handle animals ▪ Electric prod use minimized. If used, prods not carried or readily available. <p>Processing -----</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Proper movement during processing demonstrated ▪ Cattle processed/worked to mitigate overheating ▪ Bull calves castrated prior to 120 days of age or 500 lbs., or veterinarian protocol is used. ▪ Cattle dehorned prior to 120 days of age, or veterinarian protocol is used. Dehorning should be done prior to the base of the horn grows to 1-inch in diameter. ▪ Chute-side observations may be made to verify the following. If there is concern with observations, official count/verification should be made. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Vocalizing [5% or less while in restraint] ○ Fall Score [2% or less] ○ Prod Score [10% or less] ○ Miscaught [0%] <p>Load/Unload -----</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Trucker[s] – trained in proper transport of cattle ▪ Trailer & Equipment – properly equipped and in good repair <p>Euthanasia -----</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Euthanasia is timely and properly performed ▪ Method of euthanasia appropriate ▪ Animals unfit for transport are euthanized and not loaded for transport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No animal handling practice concerns observed – <i>Acceptable</i>. ▪ Some animal handling practices observed were of concern, but were immediately addressed and/or easily correctable – <i>Needs Improvement</i>. ▪ Numerous and/or repeated animal handling practices observed were of concern – <i>Unacceptable</i>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Acceptable <input type="radio"/> Needs Improvement <input type="radio"/> Unacceptable 	



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<p>Acts of Animal Abuse Willful acts or actions outside of normally accepted practices that intentionally cause pain and suffering to an animal. Any act or condition that results in severe harm to an animal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Acts or actions outside of normally accepted practices that intentionally cause pain and suffering to an animal. ▪ Any acts or conditions that results in severe harm to an animal. <p><u>Examples, not all inclusive:</u> Obvious living or housing conditions that reveal conditions of starvation or extreme dehydration; intentionally applying prod to 'sensitive' areas such as eyes, ears, nose, genitals or rectum; malicious hitting/beating to include forcefully striking animal with closed fist, foot, equipment [e.g. whips, rattle paddle, or other hard/solid devices that can cause pain, bruising, or injury]; driving animals off high ledges, ramps or platforms or steps while moving, loading or unloading, dragging of conscious animals, purposely dropping or throwing animals. Such actions or conditions will not be tolerated.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No acts of willful animal abuse or inhumane treatment or conditions were observed – None Observed. ▪ An incident of willful animal abuse or inhumane treatment or conditions is observed - Unacceptable. 	<p><input type="radio"/> None Observed</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Unacceptable</p>	



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Follow-Up Actions:

1. Animal Welfare Training –
2. Site Assessment & Site Self-Check –
3. Animal Observations –
4. Animal Handling Practices –
5. Acts of Abuse –
Feedyard Manager Comments (optional):

POST-CHECK SIGNATURES [sign below at end of site check]:

Auditor Signature:		Date:	
Site Operator Signature:		Date:	

*Signatures attests only that audit was performed by the auditor above on this date. Signature does not signify agreement or disagreement to any findings or comments of the auditor.
A signed copy of the completed Tyson audit is to be left at the site and/or provided to the site manager immediately after the audit.*