

## ADIRONDACK GRAZERS' COOPERATIVE INC.

### PRODUCTION PROTOCOLS

Our Cooperative focuses our production, processing, and marketing on:

- 1) Quality, Taste and Tenderness Product Consistency
  - 2) Source Verification
  - 3) Herd Health Management
  - 4) Humane & Sustainable Practices
- A. Pastured Raised for Quality, Taste, and Tenderness and Consistency
- 1) Calves must not be weaned before six (6) months of age.
  - 2) 100% Grass fed: Market animals will be raised and finished on pasture and forages for sale as pastured, grass finished beef.
  - 3) Pasture Raised, grain finished: a minimum finishing period of sixty (60) days, maximum period of one hundred and twenty (120) days is encouraged.
  - 4) Once animals are weaned, grain finished animal diet may contain any combination of grass, legumes, and forages as well as stored feeds including hay, haylage, corn silage, grains, and grain by products ( distiller grains, wheat middlings, corn gluten feed, corn bran, etc). Products prohibited in this diet are animal by-products, fish by-products, bakery by-products, candy, etc.
  - 5) Carcasses will be graded for quality control by the Cooperative's designated processor and overseen by a designated Cooperative member.
  - 6) Steers and Heifers: Maximum of thirty (30) months of age, without prior authorization.
  - 7) Fat cover must appear visually to be adequately dispersed across the animal as determined by the Cooperative's personnel.
  - 8) Carcasses will be scored by contract meat cutter on marbling, fat cover, ribeye area and confirmation. Producers will receive a report of carcass information.
  - 9) Cattle will be targeted to finish as Choice equivalent with marbling scores to the minimum requirement of Choice as determined by contract meat cutter.
- B. Source Verification:
- 1) Source & ownership verified: Each animal must also have a record sheet listing its breed(s), birth date and weaning date and ID Tag, as shown on attached affidavit form.
  - 2) 12 months of records on Farm if pedigree unknown
  - 3) Market animals will be from New York, Vermont, or Massachusetts – born and raised.
  - 4) Name of farm or producer will be tracked to retail purchaser.
  - 5) Members will be subject to Cooperative certification that will assure that there is a complete ownership record sheet and veterinary treatment records. A member of the Cooperative's staff will periodically visit farms to ensure that farm practices and record keeping conform to the Cooperative Protocols.

C. Herd Health Management:

- 1) No anti-biotic for growth promotion, feed grade antibiotics or growth hormone use is allowed for slaughter animals sold through the Cooperative.
- 2) Appropriate, common sense veterinary treatment, including antibiotics, is required to ensure humane treatment of all animals.
- 3) All veterinary treatments must be documented for each animal and records must be available for inspection by the Cooperative.
- 4) If a sick animal is treated with antibiotics the animal's identification, diagnosis, date, antibiotic and amount administered must be recorded and available for review. Antibiotic withdrawal periods must be a minimum of sixty (60) Days, or the FDA/USDA label requirements, whichever is longer.
- 5) No feed grade fly control agents are permitted.
- 6) No ionophores or beta-agonists are permitted.

D. Humane & Sustainable Practices:

- 1) Humane handling procedures will be used throughout the life of the animal.
- 2) Both the producer and the processor will use humane handling procedures that foster calmness during loading, trucking, and slaughter.
- 3) Slaughter animals are subject to visual inspection for finish by a Cooperative member of employee.
- 4) Grazing will be managed to optimize the health and productivity of the land and the animals.
- 5) Holistic grazing practices are strongly encouraged.
- 6) The Cooperative will engage in a peer inspection program through which members will monitor each other for compliance with our standards.
- 7) Access to/intake of fresh pasture requirement minimum of one hundred and twenty (120) days; minimum of thirty percent (30%) of total annual dry matter intake.

I have read and understand the above. If I am accepted as a member of the Adirondack Grazers Cooperative, Inc., I agree to comply with the follow such protocols as they may exist at such time. I agree to allow Adirondack Grazers Cooperative, Inc. to inspect my farm to judge conformance with the Cooperative's protocols at such time as they may reasonably choose. Failure to allow any inspection can result in termination of membership in the Cooperative.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_, Applicant for Membership