

SPCA CERTIFIED Self-Assessment Checklist Beef Cattle

Farm name & registration #:
Name of on-farm contact:
Telephone number:
Person(s) conducting the self-assessment:
Date:
General Farm Details:
Type of Operation: (check all that apply)
☐ Cow-Calf ☐ Backgrounding ☐ Finishing ☐ Organic
Herd Size: Number of Cows: Number of Bulls:
Number of Steers: Number of Heifers (including replacements):
Total cattle sold annually (# and type if live, meat in kg):
Member Statement
As part of this self-assessment, I have carefully reviewed the SPCA Certified Standards for the Raising and Handling of Beef Cattle, relevant records from my farm and updated the required registration forms to reflect any changes to my operation. All information submitted to the Certification Body is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that additional unannounced visits by representatives of the SPCA Certified Labelling Program may be required, for which I hereby give my permission.
Signature of On-farm Contact: Date:

SELF-ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST: BEEF CATTLE

* Note: Numbers appearing in brackets represent corresponding section in the Standard Cattle are horned: Y \square / N \square \rightarrow If only some are horned, give reason: Feed (2.1) **Response Comments** Type of feeder(s) Feeder space (cm per animal) Frequency of feeding Assess and comment on feed quality, noting concerns/history regarding contamination or infestation. Provision of fibre for rumination] / N [Avian or mammalian protein in feed / N Antibiotics or medications in feed \Box / N Feed records, labels and ingredient lists append feed ingredient / supplements list(s) / N [available, including feed supplements Y N N Pasture dry matter and nutrient analyses / n/a □ are conducted. Water (2.2) Response **Comments** Fresh, clean water available to all animals $Y \square / N \square$ List all water sources (e.g. bowls, troughs, body of water, etc.) Snow is used as a primary/sole water source, when available If yes, list which animals receive snow as a water source Cattle are required to walk long distances $Y \square / N \square$ (> 1.6 km) to reach pasture or water

sources (if yes, estimate distance)	
Water equipment / supply checked daily	Y
Number of waterers and/or length of	
trough space (metres or feet). Create	
table for multiple sites / barns / fields.	
Water supply contains additives /	Y ☐ / N ☐ ☐ append copy of water additives list
supplements	
Water quality test results available	Y 🗌 / N 📗 📗 append copy of water test
Material and a section of the sectio	
Water contamination concerns. List, if	Y 🗌 / N 🔲
any.	
Calves (2.3)	Response Comments
Do calves receive colostrum as per 2.3 b)	Y 🗌 / N 🔲
requirements? (2012 Beef Standard)	
How is it ensured that calves are suckling	
from the dam?	
What process is followed when calves are	
not suckling from the dam?	
At what age are calves provided with daily access to fresh water?	
At what age are calves provided with daily	
access to roughage?	
At what age are calves weaned?	
Describe the weaning method, including	
the duration of weaning	
Environment (3.0)	Response Comments
General (3.1)	
Feed and water is available in all areas	Y
housing animals	
All cattle are housed within sight, sound	Y 🗌 / N 🔲
and smell of other cattle	_ _
Housing provides comfort, health and	Y / N

hygiene. List risk areas, if any.		
Tie stalls are used. If yes, list which	Y 🗌 / N 🗌	
animals are housed in tie stalls.		
Type of flooring in barn and in yards		
(concrete, earth, etc.)		
Floors are maintained to prevent	Y 🗌 / N 🔲	
accumulation of manure		
Floor surfaces have stable footing	Y 🗌 / N 📗	
Farmer has fully slatted or full concrete	Y 🗌 / N 📗	
floors in pens		
Cattle have access to well-maintained	Y 🗌 / N 🗌	
bedded areas in pens		
Space Allowances (3.2)		
		in size or stocking density, or update previous table if already provided.
Pens allow all animals to lie comfortably in	Y 🗌 / N 🗌	
the bedded area simultaneously		
Calculate (list ft ² or m ²) the space provided	to:	
Calves under 225kg (500lb)		
Yearlings		
Cows		
Bred heifers		
Heavy feeders		
Calculate the total space provided in		
maternity pens – list ft ² or m ²		
There is at least 1 maternity pen provided	Y 🗌 / N 📗	
for every 20 cows		
For bull pens, calculate the:		
 Total space provided – list ft² or m² 		
 Bedded space provided (ft² or m²) 		
Maternity Housing / Calving Pens (3.3)		
Calving pens / areas are sheltered from	Y 🗌 / N 🔲	
severe weather		
Describe how dead calves and afterbirths		
are disposed of		
Calving pens are cleaned and re-bedded	Y 🗌 / N 📗	

between occupants		
Lighting (3.5)		☐ N/A – no indoor housing
Lighting allows cattle a normal period of	Y 🗌 / N 🔲	
daylight and darkness (low light) hours		
Natural lighting (i.e. sunlight) used indoors	Y 🗌 / N 📗	
Lighting allows for assessment of herd	Y 🗌 / N 🔲	
and environment in any location during		
daytime hours		
Lighting sources available for use during	Y 🗌 / N 🗌	
night time inspections when needed		
Ventilation and Air Quality (3.6)	V - /N -	☐ N/A – no indoor housing
Air quality meets 3.6a requirements (2012	Y 🗌 / N 🔲	
Beef Standard). If unpleasant, describe		
why (e.g. dust, odour, etc.). Ammonia measurements taken monthly	Y	
Ammonia records available	Y	
	Y	
Indoor housing is drafty	f / IN	
Sanitation & Waste Management (3.7)	Response	Comments
Facilities housing cattle are kept clean	Y 🗌 / N 📗	
and are cleaned between uses (i.e.		
occupants / groups)	V - / N -	
All areas (including sick pens) cleaned	Y 🗌 / N 🔲	
and disinfected before restocking		
Matamitus and alagan allegative and against the	V D / NI D	
Maternity pens cleaned between calvings	Y	
Alleyways are kept clean	Y	
Alleyways are kept clean Describe how carcasses are disposed of	Y	
Alleyways are kept clean Describe how carcasses are disposed of Can cattle or other animals / birds (e.g.		
Alleyways are kept clean Describe how carcasses are disposed of Can cattle or other animals / birds (e.g. carnivores) access dead animals?	Y	
Alleyways are kept clean Describe how carcasses are disposed of Can cattle or other animals / birds (e.g. carnivores) access dead animals? Describe how waste (manure, dirty	Y	
Alleyways are kept clean Describe how carcasses are disposed of Can cattle or other animals / birds (e.g. carnivores) access dead animals? Describe how waste (manure, dirty bedding) is disposed of	Y	
Alleyways are kept clean Describe how carcasses are disposed of Can cattle or other animals / birds (e.g. carnivores) access dead animals? Describe how waste (manure, dirty bedding) is disposed of Wastes are disposed of according to	Y	
Alleyways are kept clean Describe how carcasses are disposed of Can cattle or other animals / birds (e.g. carnivores) access dead animals? Describe how waste (manure, dirty bedding) is disposed of	Y	

Outdoor Access (3.8)	Response	Comments
All cattle spend at least 2/3 of their lives on pasture	Y	
How much time per day are the cattle on		
pasture? (give hours or timeframe)		
How much time per year are the cattle on		
pasture? (list timeframe)		
The outdoor area includes:		
Pasture	Y / N	
 Non-concrete (partially bedded) exercise yard 	Y [] / N []	
Dry lot	Y / N	
 Bedded pack / compost pack 	Y / N	
Other (describe)	Y / N	
Pasture allows access to clean drinking water for all cattle	Y	
Outdoor areas provide enough space to	Y 🗌 / N 🗌	
allow cattle to rise, lie down and rest in		
normal postures		
Pasture provides areas of shade and/or	Y 🗌 / N 🔲	
shelter for cattle. If yes, describe types.		
Fencing is in good repair	Y 🗌 / N 📗	
Describe type of fencing used		
Cattle density on pasture causes	Y 🗌 / N 🔲	
destruction of land or pollution of water		
Pasture is well maintained	Y / N	
List areas of risk to cattle health or safety	none 🗌	
on pasture, if any.		
Health and Biosecurity (4.0)	Response	Comments
Herd health plan on file	Y 🗌 / N 📗	
		If a copy of this plan was not submitted to the Certification Body, please append a copy with your self-assessment documents
Date of last veterinary visit and reason		
Herd is monitored for injury, foot health,	Y 🗌 / N 📗	

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	lameness, overall health (disease,			
	illness), parasites and changes in body			
_	condition.			
	Cattle with body score 1 (emaciated) were	Y 🗌 / N 🔲		
	seen in with the main (healthy) herd			
	Sick or unfit cattle are segregated from	Y 🗌 / N 🔲		
_	the herd for treatment and recovery			
	Antibiotics used for specific treatments	Y 🗌 / N 🔲		
	only (not as prevention)	/ n/a 🗌		
_	Hormone implants are used	Y 🗌 / N 📗		
	Complete and accurate vaccination and	Y / N	append copy of treatment records	
	treatment records are kept on file			
_	Treatment records included lame cattle	Y		
	Lameness rate (cattle per month or year)			
	 calculate from farm records 			
	Complete and accurate production, health	Y 🗌 / N 📗		
	and breeding records are kept on file			
	Monitoring Mortality Rates (4.4)			
	Mortality records kept on file	Y	append copy of mortality records	
	Mortality records indicate cause	Y		
	Mortality records include:			
	 Culls (shipped and euthanized) 	Y 🗌 / N 📗		
	Stillbirths	Y 🗌 / N 🔲		
	 Cattle lost to predation 	Y 🗌 / N 📗		
	Annual predation exceeded 1% of the	Y		
	total herd, or more than 2 animals for			
	herds under 200 head			
	Calf mortality rate (pre-wean) exceeded	Y 🗌 / N 📗		
	5% over the last full calving season			
_	 If yes, was a vet investigation 	Y 🗌 / N 📗 🔠	append copies of any vet reports	
	conducted? Explain:	- — —	••••	
_	Herd mortality (post-wean) exceeded 2%	Y 🗌 / N 📗		
	per year	_ _		
-				
	If yes, was a vet investigation	$Y \square / N \square \square$	append copies of any vet reports	

	conducted? Explain:		
	Suspicious deaths are sent for lab testing	Y	append copy of lab diagnostic records
i			
	Biosecurity (4.5)	Response	Comments
	Biosecurity plan on file	Y 🗌 / N 📗	
			If a copy of this plan was not submitted to the Certification Body, please
		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	append a copy with your self-assessment documents
	Procedures listed in biosecurity plan are	Y 🗌 / N 🗌	
į	followed. Visitor compliance is enforced.		
	Management (5.0)	Response	Comments
	Staff have access to and/or are familiar v		
	Current SPCA Certified Standards for the	Y 🗌 / N 📗	
	Raising and Handling of Beef Cattle		
	(2012)	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
	Canada's current Code of Practice for the	Y 🗌 / N 🗌	
	Care and Handling of Beef Cattle	V 🗆 / N 🗀	
	Beef cattle behaviour, diseases, needs,	Y 🗌 / N 🗌	
	management techniques, handling and common procedures		
	Canada's current Code of Practice for the	Y	
	Care and Handling of Farm Animals –	I / IN	
	Transportation (haulers only)		
•	The Health of Animals Act	Y	
İ	Surgeries – Castration (5.4)	1	N/A − no castration performed on farm
٠	Age of bull at castration		
	Method of restraint (or sedation) used, if	n/a 🗍	
	any	_	
	Method of castration used		
٠	List all pain medications used, if any, and	n/a 🗌	
	whether or not they are used in		
	combination		
	Surgeries – Disbudding and Dehorning (5.5)	N/A – no disbudding / dehorning performed on farm
_	Age at which horns / buds are removed		

Method of restraint (or sedation) used, if	n/a 🗌
any	
Method used to remove horns / buds	
List all pain medications used, if any, and	n/a 🗌
whether or not they are used in	
combination	
Horn regrowth is recorded in the	Y
treatment record	/ n/a 🗌
Horn removal after 8 weeks (2 months) of	Y 🗌 / N 🔲
age is performed by a vet	/ n/a 🗌
 Pain medication is used (list all) 	Y
 Bleeding control is used (list type) 	Y
 Method of restraint (or sedation) 	
used – describe	
Horn trimming / tipping is performed	Y
Surgeries – Other (5.6)	
Teat removal is performed	Y 🗌 / N 🔲
 List age of animal, if applicable 	
 List all pain medications used, if 	
any, and whether or not they are	
used in combination	
Tail docking is performed	Y
Spaying (females) is performed. If yes, list	Y
whether it is performed by a vet.	- -
List any other surgeries performed,	n/a 🗍
including age, methods, pain medications	
and/or bleeding control used, and whether	
the procedure is performed by a vet or by	
farm staff (e.g. C-section, displaced	
abomasum, etc.)	
Handling (5.7)	
Handlers were loud, hit cattle or rushed	Y
cattle when moving or handling them	
Electric prods are used on adult cattle	Y
Electric prods are used on calves that can be moved manually	Y

Restraint facilities for safe handling of any animal are available on site	Y
Tail twisting / jacking and / or broken tails were observed	Y
Herding dogs used (if yes, list number of dogs and breed)	Y
Dogs are well trained in whistle or voice	$Y \square / N \square$
commands and refrained from biting /	/ n/a 🗌
nipping	
Management of Cows and Heifers (5.8), I	Bulls (5.9), and Cull Animals (5.10)
At what age or weight are heifers typically	
bred?	
Describe the type of calving aids available	
to assist with calving, if needed	
How long until cows are rebred post-	
partum (days, weeks, months)?	
Restraining facilities built to handle bulls	Y 🗌 / N 🗍
are available on site	
Age of cull calves at transport	
Calves receive at least one full meal the	Y 🗌 / N 🔲
day of shipping	
Lactating cull cows are milked out prior to	Y 🗌 / N 🔲
shipping	
Weak / non-ambulatory animals are	Y 🗌 / N 🔲
shipped (transported)	
Drug withdrawal times observed before	Y 🗌 / N 🔲
shipping	
Animal Identification (5.11)	
Ear tags used (metal, plastic)	Y 🗌 / N 📗
Electronic microchips used	Y 🗌 / N 🔲
Ear notching, splitting and / or wattling is	Y 🗌 / N 🔲
performed	
Face branding is performed	Y 🗌 / N 🔲
Hot iron branding is performed	Y 🗌 / N 🔲
Freeze branding is performed	Y 🗌 / N 🔲
Temporary paints, dyes and/or wax	Y
	

	markers are used and are non-toxic			
	Other method(s) are also used (describe)	Y 🗌 / N 🔲		
	Equipment and Emergency Preparednes	ss (5.12)		
	Equipment and facilities inspected and	Y 🗌 / N 🔲		
	logged regularly			
	Emergency backup system in place (e.g.	Y 🗌 / N 🗌		
	generator, water supply)			
	Emergency backup plan in place (e.g.	Y 🗌 / N 🗌	append copy of plan if not on file with the SPCA already	
	evacuation plan, feeding plan in case of			
	power failure, etc.)			
	Fire prevention / detection devices and	Y 🗌 / N 🔲		
	plans maintained, tested and up to date			
	Waste storage facility maintained to	Y 🗌 / N 🔲		
	prevent contamination to environment			
	Nuisance Animal Control (5.13)			
	Fly control used. List method(s).	Y 🗌 / N 🔲		
	Predator protection used. List method(s).	Y 🗌 / N 🔲		
	Guardian animals used. If yes, list	Y 🗌 / N 🔲		
	species, breed and number of guardians.			
	Guardian animals appear well cared for	Y 🗌 / N 🗌		
	(e.g. fed, watered, clean, healthy)	/ n/a 🗌		
	Rodent control used indoors. List	Y 🗌 / N 🔲		
	method(s).	/ n/a 🗌		
	Rodent control used outdoors. List	Y 🗌 / N 🔲		
	method(s).			
	Method(s) of control of other nuisance	Y 🗌 / N 🔲		
	animals (e.g. starlings, swallows) used.			
	List.			
!				=
	Feedlot Management (6.0)	Response	Comments	
	N/A – cattle not raised in a feedlot	тоороноо		
	All feedlot animals come from SPCA	Y 🗌 / N 🔲		
	Certified farms		*Refer to section 7.6 for documentation requirements	
	Feedlot cattle are given fibre in their diet.	Y \square / N \square	Teles to obtain 110 for documentation requirements	
	If yes, list type (hay, pellet, etc.)			
	jee, not type (nay, ponot, oto.)			

Feedlot cattle are gradually introduced to grain-based rations. If yes, list time period over which this occurs.	Y 🗌 / N 🗍	
Transport and Handling (7.0)	Response	Comments
Transport / hauling Standard Operating Procedures in place	Y	append copy of SOP if not already on file with the SPCA
Staff have access to and are familiar with	Y 🗌 / N 🔲	
Provincial and Federal Transport		
regulations, the Heath of Animals		
Regulations and the above listed Transporter's SOP		
For how long is feed withdrawn prior to		
loading for transport?		
For how long is water withdrawn prior to		
loading for transport?		
Handlers were loud, hit cattle or rushed	Y 🗌 / N 🔲	
cattle when loading / unloading them	V \square /N \square	
Injuries and deaths occurring during loading and unloading are recorded	Y 🗌 / N 📗	append copy of records
Loading ramp measurements		2)
Loading ramp measurements		a)
Measure at least two of a, b, or c – see		b)
diagram in Appendix A of this checklist;		,
List units used		c)
Loading ramp height is adjustable	Y	
Electric prods are used on adult cattle	Y	
Electric prods are used on calves that can be moved manually	Y 🗌 / N 🗌	
Fitness of Cattle for Transport (7.3)		
Does the farmer ship, euthanize or treat (lis	st which one) th	ne following animal types:
Cattle with body score 2 or lower?	Y / N	10 10 10 William Grant G
Cattle with a lameness score of 4	Y / N	
or 5 (as per scale used in the	/	
, ,		

SPCA Certified beef standard)?		
Any unfit animal?	Y 🗌 / N 📗	
Cattle shipped to slaughter may include	Y 🗌 / N 🔲	
lactating cows		
Lactating cows are milked out	Y 🗌 / N 🗌	
immediately before transport		
Lactating cows are milked out within 12	Y 🗌 / N 🗌	
hours of leaving the farm when		
transferred to another facility under the		
same ownership		
Heavily lactating cows are dried off prior	Y 🗌 / N 🔲	
to shipping for slaughter		
Hauler Qualifications (7.4)		
Hauler has Certified Livestock Transport	Y 🗌 / N 🔲	
or similar training (list which one)		
Transport Conditions (7.5)		
Duration of journey from farm to slaughter		
_plant (list unit: hours, miles, km)		
Duration of journey from farm to auction		
(list unit: hours, miles, km)	\	
Farmer transports own animals	Y [] / N []	
	/ n/a 🗌	
 Size of truck (list units) 		
 Type of truck (describe if unsure) 		
 How many animals are loaded 		
onto the truck? (list size, type, etc.)	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
 Do cattle touch the roof / upper 	Y 🗌 / N 🔲	
deck when standing?	V - / N -	
Farmer contracts out animal transport (list	Y	
transporter / company)	/ n/a 🗌	
Size of truck (list units), if known		
 Type of truck (describe if unsure) 		
How many animals are loaded And the trivial 2 (list airs to me at a)		
onto the truck? (list size, type, etc.)		
Do cattle touch the roof / upper	3/ / k	
deck when standing?	Y 🗌 / N 📗	

Cross gates (partitions) are on truck to segregate bulls and cattle of different sizes	Y
How do transport methods change/differ during hot (> 25°C; 77°F) weather?	
How do transport methods change/differ	
during cold (< 10°C; 50°F) weather?	
How are slips / falls prevented in the	
transport vehicle?	
Injured animals, deads-on-arrival and	Y 🗌 / N 📗 🔲 append copy of records
condemnation records from the	
processing plant and auction were on file	
Purchase and Sale of Animals (7.6)	
Auctions are used to purchase cattle	Y
If yes:	V C /N C
 A signed affidavit from the seller is obtained confirming cattle are 	Y
raised under the SPCA Certified	
standard for beef cattle	
Farm of origin documentation is	Y
kept on file for each animal	
purchased	
 A history of movement and 	Y
transportation records	
documenting previous	
owners/farms is kept on file for	
each animal purchased	
Auctions are used to sell cattle	Y 🗌 / N 🔲
Farmer's previous herds' records	Y
available on file	
Farm records include breed and number	Y 🗌 / N 🔲
of animals	
Stock purchase receipts (from sources	Y
other than auction) are on file	
Stock sales records (to buyers other than	Y
auctions) are on file	

Detailed shipment records (e.g. number,	Y
age, weight of animals, etc.) kept on file	Y \(\ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \
Producer keeps processing facility	T / IN
receipts on farm	V
Product labelled with SPCA Certified label	Y / N
Copies of farm product logo / labels	Y 🗌 / N 🔲 💮 Append copy of product packaging / labels
attached to checklist or report	
Euthanasia and Slaughter (8.0)	Response Comments
	sed (including method of restraint, if used) for:
Calves under 180 kg (400 lb)	n/a 🗌
Yearling cattle	n/a 🗌
Cows	n/a 🗌
Mature bulls	n/a 🗌
What secondary (backup) method is used	
if the first attempt to euthanize fails?	
How is death confirmed after	
administering the kill method?	
Euthanasia devices were kept clean and	Y 🗌 / N 🔲
in working order (e.g. guns, needles)	
Slaughter age (in days or weight)	
Where are cattle slaughtered /	
processed? Provide business name and	
location.	
Processing facility classification (federal,	
provincial, other (specify Class))	
Other Animals On Site (if applicable)	Response Comments
	arm animals raised for their products, but which are not SPCA Certified
Species and Number of Animal(s)	
Reason(s) for keeping the animal(s) – e.g.	
personal use, commercial use, etc.	
Food and water provided to maintain	Y 🗌 / N 🔲
health and vigour	

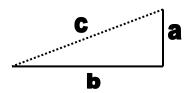
Well-maintained environment	Y 🗌 / N 🔲	
Animal(s) appear healthy	Y	
Other Audits / Inspections		
	nent, have there been any audits / inspections from government or	
	narketing board, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, etc.)?	Y 🗌 / N 🗍
regulatory agencies (e.g. CFIA, provincial fr	larketing board, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, etc.)?	T L / IN L
If yes, list the name of the agency(ies), the	date and the nurnose of the visit:	
if yes, list the name of the agency(les), the	date and the purpose of the visit.	
Other Information	Response Comments	
Information contained in registration forms	Y / N	
was accurate		
Farm map represents an accurate / up-to-	Y / N	
date depiction of the farm		
Since the previous SPCA Certified	Y / N	
Assessment, have non-compliance issues		
been verified as resolved? If not, list		
which remain unresolved.		
Since the previous SPCA Certified	Y 🗌 / N 🔲	
Assessment, have complaints been		
received? If yes, please explain how they		
were rectified, if at all:		

APPENDIX A

Summary of documents to append:

Feed and water ingredients, supplements, additives lists
Water quality tests, if available
Herd health plan, if not on file with the SPCA
Treatment (medicines) records dating back to previous assessment
Mortality, euthanized and cull animal records dating back to previous assessment
Relevant vet or lab reports (e.g. high mortality, post-mortem results for suspicious deaths or
illnesses, etc.)
Biosecurity plan, if not on file with SPCA
Emergency preparedness plan, if not on file with the SPCA
Standard Operating Procedure / Emergency Protocol from transporter (hauler)
Record of injuries / deaths occurring during loading and unloading
Deads-on-arrival and condemnations report from processor
Product packaging / labels
Other relevant or important information

Loading ramp measurements diagram (Section 7.0: Transport and Handling)



Expanded comments, notes and/or changes since last on-farm assessment: