



Abingdon Feeder Cattle Association

234 West Valley Street, Suite B
Abingdon, VA 24210



"Moving the Beef Industry Forward through Management and Marketing"

Program Guidelines for The Southwest Virginia Beef Builder Initiative

*A partnership among the Virginia Tobacco Indemnification and Revitalization
Commission, the Abingdon Feeder Cattle Association,
and Southwest Virginia Beef Producers.*

BEEF BUILDER INITIATIVE

The Beef Builder Initiative is a cost-share project that will allow producers to make capital improvements to improve production, management and marketing of feeder cattle in tobacco dependent communities. By making further upgrades in genetics and cattle handling facilities, producers will be able improve profits through improved marketing methods and increased production.

PARTICIPATING PRODUCERS will:

1. Follow Beef Quality Assurance Guidelines (BQA):
 - a. Maintaining records of group vaccinations and individual treatments
 - b. Providing medical treatments / vaccinations in accordance with BQA Guidelines (subcutaneous injections located in the approved region of the neck)
 - c. Be more aware of withdrawal times for treated animals before sale or harvest
2. Work toward establishing a breeding season by remove bulls from the cows.
3. Castrate bull calves as soon as possible.
4. Work with their attending veterinarian to reevaluate herd health programs in order to maintain healthy animals.
5. Market a portion of produced calves (20%) through an association sponsored Virginia Quality Assured (VQA) Feeder Cattle Sale in January, August, or November.
 - a. Wean calves for 45 days
 - b. Vaccinate according to VQA Sales Protocol (Clostridials, Modified-Live Viruses, Pasteurella, and Dewormed)
 - c. Feed and water trough broken

General Application Requirements

- 1) Eligibility requirements:
 - Applicant must be a resident or property owner in participating counties.
 - Must have in possession a minimum of 25 breeding age females or 25 stocker calves.
 - Must agree to market feeder calves through an association sponsored value-added program (Virginia Quality Assured Program)
 - All applicants must have a current Beef Quality Assured (BQA) certification number at the time of application.
 - Applications will only be accepted from:
 - i. individuals
 - ii. non-profit groups.

- 2) Information required for completed applications:
 - name, address, home telephone / cell phone number
 - a tax ID or social security number
 - FSA/USDA farm number/tract number
 - FSA aerial map of farm (photocopy)
 - A valid 5 year lease for rented properties.

- 3) Total cost-share dollars that can be received by any participating producer is \$3,000. Producers may allocate funding on multiple practices in order to get the most benefit from funds provided.

- 4) Should a producer fail to utilize funds by the reimbursement deadline, their allocation will be redistributed at the discretion of the Disbursement Oversight Committee.

- 5) Each individual/producer who receives \$600.00 or more shall be provided an IRS Form 1099 by the Abingdon Feeder Cattle Association (referred to as AFCA in the rest of the document).

- 6) Producer is required to supply an original numbered and dated receipt indicating buyer and seller information to be eligible for payment. In the absence of an original numbered and dated receipt, a copy of cancelled check(s) will be accepted at the discretion of the DOC.

A statement regarding the understanding of requirements by the producer will be signed and dated by applicant. If a producer fails to meet the requirements of the agreement, they will be ineligible for any future funding opportunities.

Genetic Improvement / Bull Purchase Program

The following guidelines are considered minimum purchase standards for the cost-share program. All reimbursement funding for bull purchases will be based on the following protocol:

*All bulls purchased must have a *pre-breeding soundness evaluation* (PBE) performed by a veterinarian prior to receiving any cost-share reimbursement. Exam must be performed within 60 days of purchase. The cost of exam may be included in the total cost of the bull purchase. The bull's age at purchase must be between 1-3 years.

Bull Purchasing Standards: All bulls must meet the Yearling Weight (YW) EPD Minimum Standards as specified in the Virginia Quality Assurance feeder calf sire requirements.

Bull Purchase Requirements: Bull(s) will be used for a minimum of three years. The local extension agent or member of the DOC will be notified if a bull must be culled prior to three years of use.

Reimbursement levels shall not exceed:

- **1 bull = \$1,250**
- **2 bulls = \$2,500**

Cattle Handling Facilities and Management Program

General Program Guidelines

- Eligible expenditures for cattle handling facilities may include any or all of the following:
 - A) Handling facilities and equipment for beef cattle
 - B) Pens for weaning calves / bull lots
 - C) Structures to cover head gates / squeeze chutes (1,000 sq. ft. maximum)
 - D) Livestock scales
- All equipment purchased through the Beef Builder Initiative will be new at time of purchase. **USED EQUIPMENT IS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR REIMBURSEMENT.**
- Portable equipment is encouraged.
- Cost-share reimbursement is limited to equipment and construction materials (no labor).
- Cooperative Extension Agents will provide recommendations as needed to assist with the layout and design of handling facilities. Design recommendations can be viewed in the Table below.

***All practices funded through this program shall be maintained for a minimum of 5 years and are subject to inspection for program compliance during the life-span of the practice.

***Maintenance of the practice is the responsibility of the applicant. Applicants who fail to meet these requirements will be notified by mail that repayment of the funds is required.

ELIGIBLE ITEMS:

- | | |
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| ▪ Commercial headgate | Holding chute |
| ▪ Squeeze chute with headgate | Side panels |
| ▪ Curved or offset working chute | Crowding tub and gate |
| ▪ Gates for sorting and holding pens | One-way gates |
| ▪ Blocking gates | Gravel and filter fabric |
| ▪ Livestock Scales (alley scales or box type) | Lumber (treated or sawmill) |
| ▪ Metal roofing and accessories | Concrete |
| ▪ Treated posts | Wire panels |
| ▪ Fencing wire and accessories | Foot trimming chute |

Table 1. Specifications for cattle handling facilities

Facility component	Recommended dimensions		
	Up to 600 lbs	600 to 1,200 lbs	Over 1,200 lbs
<i> Holding pen </i>			
Space per head (ft ²)	14	17	20
Pen fence			
Height (in)	60	60	60
Post spacing (ft)	8	8	8
Post depth in ground (in)	30	30	30
<i> Crowding pen¹ </i>			
Space per head (ft ²)	6	10	12
Post spacing (ft)	4 - 6	4 - 6	4 - 6
Solid wall height (in)	45	50	50 - 60
<i> Working chute² </i>			
Straight side (in)	18	22	28
Fully tapered - width at 32-in height (in)	18	22	28
Fully tapered - width at bottom (in)	15	16	18
Minimum length (ft)	20	20	20
Maximum curve angle (degrees)	15	15	15
Length for 16-foot outside radius (ft)	45	45	45
Solid wall height (in)	45	50	50 - 60
Overall height - top rail (in)	55	60	60 - 72
Chute fence			
Post spacing (ft)	6	6	6
Post depth in ground (in)	36	36	36
<i> Holding chute/squeeze </i>			
Height (in)	45	50	50
Width			
Straight sides (in)	18	22	28
V-shaped sides, width at bottom (in)	6 - 8	8 - 12	14 - 16
Length - with headgate (ft)	5	5 - 8	5 - 8
<i> Loading chute </i>			
Width (in)	26	26	26 - 30
Minimum length (ft)	12	12	12
Maximum rise (in/ft)	3.5	3.5	3.5

**For additional information regarding the Beef Builder Initiative,
please contact your local Virginia Cooperative Extension Office:**

<u>Bland County</u>	Bland County Extension Office	(276) 688-3542
<u>Buchanan County</u>	Buchanan County Extension Office	(276) 935-5093
<u>Dickenson County</u>	Dickenson County Extension Office	(276) 926-4605
<u>Grayson County</u>	Grayson County Extension Office	(276) 773-2491
<u>Lee County</u>	Lee County Extension Office	(276) 346-1522
<u>Russell County</u>	Russell County Extension Office	(276) 889-8056
<u>Scott County</u>	Scott County Extension Office	(276) 452-2772
<u>Smyth County</u>	Smyth County Extension Office	(276) 783-5175
<u>Tazewell County</u>	Tazewell County Extension Office	(276) 988-0405
<u>Washington County</u>	Washington County Extension Office	(276) 676-6309
<u>Wise County</u>	Wise County Extension Office	(276) 328-6194
<u>Wythe County</u>	Wythe County Extension Office	(276) 223-6040