



SIMPLE. PRACTICAL. TRUSTED.

SELF-ASSESSMENT FIELD GUIDE

VBP+ PRODUCER
REFERENCE MANUAL



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SELF-ASSESSMENT FIELD GUIDE

One of the fundamental concepts of VBP+ is continual improvement in all aspects of beef cattle production. This field guide lays out every topic that will be assessed during a VBP+ certification, scored on a system of 0 to 3. Self-Assessment questions correspond to the relevant section of the VBP+ Reference Manual (view sections for more details). This guide allows you to be aware of the criteria that will be presented at certification. Completing this self-assessment will show you how you could score prior to your audit or how you can improve your score often through implementation of best management practices or the addition of records.

SELF-ASSESSMENT KEY

As a guide to navigate through VBP+ Certification requirements, all of the Self-Assessment topics have been categorized as being either: **VBP+ Standard** or **VBP+ Required**.

VBP+ STANDARD

VBP+ Standard represents topics that necessitate an understanding of concept and consideration of record-keeping. A score less than 1 will trigger a Corrective Action Request and a timeline for completion.

VBP+ REQUIRED

VBP+ Requirement represents topics that are considered Critical Control Points. These are records required for certification. A score of less than 2 will trigger a Corrective Action Request and a timeline for completion.

As you navigate through this Self-Assessment, place a checkmark beside the score that applies to your operations to gauge your readiness for VBP+ Certification. The minimum score required at audit is highlighted in each box. All the self-assessment sections are categorized as either VBP+ Standard or VBP+ Required

PRODUCTS & EQUIPMENT		
ANIMAL HEALTH PRODUCTS		
VBP+ REQUIRED	0	Little regard for correctness; storage not suitable (i.e. fridge is not working); expired or banned product present.
	1	Most of checklist is addressed; implementation partially achieved.
	2	Adequate across all checklists, storage for empty drug bottles and sharps.
	3	Keeps animal health product inventory exceptionally clean, tidy, and organized; storage for empty drug bottles and needles; written plan for disposal, everything in its place.

02

COMMUNITY, LEADERSHIP & SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

CODE OF ETHICS

VBP+ STANDARD	0	Lack of awareness or interest in developing a Code of Ethics/Conduct.
	1	The operation is aware of the value of a Code of Ethics/Conduct in the workplace.
	2	The operation has an informal, verbal Code of Ethics/Conduct in the workplace.
	3	The operation has a documented Code of Ethics/Conduct and/or Statement of Responsible Production.

INNOVATION, TECHNOLOGY & RESPONSIBLE PRODUCTION

VBP+ STANDARD	0	Lack of awareness or interest in responsible production, innovation or technologies.
	1	Operation shall have animal productivity goals.
	2	Practices to improve production efficiencies are utilized.
	3	Operation monitors and documents cattle performance.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT & VOLUNTEERISM

VBP+ STANDARD	0	No Involvement
	1	Community involvement in 1-3 ways
	2	Community involvement in 4-6 ways
	3	Community involvement in 7+ ways

03

ANIMAL HEALTH

RECORDS

PRESCRIPTIONS AND EXTRA-LABEL DRUG USE (ELDU)

VBP+ REQUIRED	0	No treatment records and protocols kept, lack of understanding of ELDU, prescription requirements or banned products. Treatment records indicate ELDU no prescription, or banned product being used, or no prescription for purchase or proof of purchase in Canada.
	1	Treatment records and protocols are available but do not contain the required information and indicate ELDU, confusion over the sticker in the product as adequate to cover ELDU, awareness of proper use.
	2	Treatments records and protocols are available and complete. Adequate knowledge of prescriptions and ELDU, documents provided, willingness to use products appropriately, stored for 2 years.
	3	Provides detailed written treatment protocols, documented policy and procedures for reducing ELDU, written training and use of prescription requirements (any of these criteria).

TREATMENT RECORD


VBP+ REQUIRED	0	No treatment records are available. Record is inconsistently recorded; date, product, diagnoses, identification, route, withdrawal times, dosage, or obvious ELDU without prescription.
	1	Record is filled out, some small inconsistencies
	2	Records complete.
	3	Records complete. Veterinarian uses records to adjust Herd Health Plan, product selection and other management criteria; biosecurity.

TREATMENT ERRORS & ACCIDENTAL EXPOSURE		
VBP+ REQUIRED	0	Lack of understanding of the implication and significance of a treatment error or unidentified toxin exposure.
	1	Awareness of the implication and significance of a treatment error or unintended toxin exposure.
	2	Aware of the implication and significance of a treatment error or unintended toxin exposure and can respond to the incident and can articulate their response to an incident. Have record of incident if occurred.
	3	Operation has documented protocols and training for a treatment error or unintended toxin exposure, with record of incident if occurred.
BROKEN NEEDLE RECORD		
VBP+ REQUIRED	0	Lack of understanding of broken needle protocol and unable to articulate how to respond in the event of a broken needle. No documentation (SOP or records available on the operation).
	1	Operation understands how to implement broken needle process, however, does not have documentation to support process or records are incomplete.
	2	Operation understands how to implement broken needle process and has documentation in place. Although operation may never had a broken needle in operation, process is in place.
	3	Record in place, incidence investigated, mitigation implement, animal disposed of without entering the food chain (all documented), training records.
CATTLE DEATH RECORD		
VBP+ REQUIRED	0	Operation has no records of deaths and euthanasia.
	1	Operation has limited knowledge of requirement of death records and limited knowledge of animal euthanasia protocol
	2	Operation can articulate animal euthanasia protocol and are aware of possible biosecurity concerns. Death and euthanasia records are kept and available for review.
	3	Operation has written animal euthanasia and deadstock protocol(s). Records are used for analysis and investigation of deaths
SHIPPING RECORD		
VBP+ REQUIRED	0	Lack of understanding or awareness of either the need for a withdrawal check, broken needle check and fitness for transport evaluation or a record to show check has been performed.
	1	Awareness of the need for pre-shipping checks and fitness for transport evaluations but no process for records check; next owners not informed of withdrawal times or possible broken needles.
	2	Shipping records present but inconsistent validation of record checks and/or fitness for transport evaluations performed; potential food safety issues communicated to next owners.
	3	Shipping records complete and consistently validated; withdrawal times respected and next owners consistently made aware of potential food safety issues. Fitness for transport evaluations.

PRODUCTS & EQUIPMENT		
ANIMAL HEALTH PRODUCTS		
VBP+ REQUIRED	0	Little regard for correctness; storage not suitable (i.e. fridge is not working); expired or banned product present.
	1	Most of checklist is addressed; implementation partially achieved.
	2	Adequate across all checklists, storage for empty drug bottles and sharps.
	3	Keeps animal health product inventory exceptionally clean, tidy, and organized; storage for empty drug bottles and needles; written plan for disposal, everything in its place.
ANIMAL HEALTH EQUIPMENT		
VBP+ REQUIRED	0	Lack of understanding of how to use, clean, select and calibrate equipment
	1	Operation is aware of criteria on usage, selection, cleaning and calibration of equipment
	2	Operation has established a protocol for equipment calibration, usage, and cleaning.
	3	Written protocol and documentation of implementation, for equipment calibration, usage, and cleaning with ongoing monitoring
DELIVERY METHODS		
VBP+ REQUIRED	0	Lack of understanding of issues arising from use of products or delivery methods.
	1	Awareness of the potential issues, adapting better practices going forward
	2	Appropriate use, verbal protocols; explained; records complete
	3	Appropriate use indicated, written protocols to assist in training and quality assurance; records complete.
INSPECTION & MONITORING		
COW/CALF - GRASSER / STOCKER		
VBP+ REQUIRED	0	Lack of understanding of the importance of regular monitoring and evaluation
	1	Awareness of monitoring, applied to all aspects of the production cycle, some awareness of reportable disease, intention is to improve on processes or protocols.
	2	Able to articulate and implements plan for monitoring and evaluation of cattle for disease and understanding of reportable diseases
	3	Written protocols/procedures and plans on herd monitoring. Reportable disease protocol and written and documented training records available. Veterinarian consultation/input at all phases of production cycle

Any records, electronic or manual can be used as long as they contain the data required.

[CLICK HERE TO SEE BLANK RECORD TEMPLATES AS WELL AS SAMPLES ON OUR OUR WEBSITE](#)



INTENSIVE LIVESTOCK OPERATION		
VBP+ REQUIRED	0	Lack of understanding of the importance of regular monitoring and evaluation
	1	Must have a plan for monitoring of livestock for early detection of disease, prompt treatment and response to therapy.
	2	Managing all disease conditions using veterinarian developed protocols and management recommendations for prevention and monitoring for effectiveness of therapy.
	3	Manage risk of disease by buying calves of known source, vaccination and health status. On arrival protocols are implemented. Observation and monitoring based on risk profile of cattle and behavior (feeding etc.) Written protocols and plans available and records of implementation. Documented training of staff on protocols, management plans and record keeping requirements

WATER QUALITY AND AVAILABILITY - SNOW		
VBP+ STANDARD	0	Lack of awareness of monitoring system when using snow as a watering source.
	1	Awareness of risks, new to the concept, going slow to avoid trouble
	2	Comprehensive verbal plan addressing the criteria, plan is executed.
	3	Comprehensive written plan addressing the criteria and plan is executed and documented.

04 ANIMAL NUTRITION

GENERAL FEEDING PRACTICES		
FEED QUALITY & AVAILABILITY		
VBP+ STANDARD	0	Unaware of the importance of body condition scoring to assess feed quality and quantity relating to cattle health and nutrition.
	1	Awareness of factors involved in feeding, limited feed testing, has used a nutritionist or veterinarian advice inconsistently; cattle look healthy with good BCS.
	2	Awareness of factors involved in feeding, limited feed testing, has used a nutritionist or veterinarian advice, has a verbal feeding plan, well-articulated knowledge of feeds/feeding; cattle have good BCS and healthy appearance. Uses input from a nutritionist, to provide salt, mineral, and vitamins in diet.
	3	Written feeding protocols, feed testing results, nutritionist reports/recommendations; feedstuffs purchasing; quality parameters, feed sheets, feeding plan, cattle look healthy with good BCS.
WATER QUALITY AND AVAILABILITY		
VBP+ STANDARD	0	Lack of understanding of the importance of water quantity and quality requirements for livestock; no regard for safe access to water supply.
	1	Awareness of requirements and implementing some action(s) to address quality and accessibility issues
	2	Verbal plan(s) of how to meet cattle water requirements and deal with any issues. Good articulation and knowledge of water management.
	3	Written Water Management Plan and/ or Environmental Farm Plan; input from veterinarian and/or nutritionist; mitigation of damage to riparian areas by cattle access.

NON-RUMINANT FEED		
VBP+ REQUIRED	0	Unaware of the importance or implications of cattle fed feed intended for non-ruminant animals.
	1	Awareness and implementation of basic action plan to prevent cattle ingestion of non-ruminant feed.
	2	Comprehensive verbal explanation of actions and protocols to prevent cattle ingestion of non-ruminant feed
	3	Comprehensive written plan to address all risks of cattle ingesting non-ruminant feeds and address non-ruminant feed issues

BY-PRODUCTS, SUPPLEMENTS, UNCONVENTIONAL AND BANNED FEEDS		
VBP+ REQUIRED	0	Unaware of implications and risk of storage of feed intended for non-ruminant species or use of by-products, unconventional or unapproved feed ingredients.
	1	Awareness and knowledge of implications, risk and use and storage of above.
	2	Comprehensive verbal explanation of policy around feed ingredients and storage.
	3	Comprehensive written plan to address feed intended for non-ruminants, feeding of by-products and unconventional feeds.

BEDDING MATERIALS		
VBP+ REQUIRED	0	Unaware of implications and risk of potentially unsafe bedding materials or use of by-products and unconventional and unapproved feed ingredients that could be ingested.
	1	Awareness and knowledge of importance of using safe bedding and feed materials.
	2	Comprehensive verbal explanation for procurement and purchase of safe bedding and feed materials.
	3	Comprehensive written plan for procurement and purchase of safe bedding and feed materials.



Check out the BCRC website for more producers resources including, articles, fact sheets, blogs, e-news, webinars, tools, calculators and more.

www.beefresearch.ca



05 ANIMAL CARE

FORAGE PRODUCTION & PASTURE MANAGEMENT		
FERTILIZER USE		
VBP+ REQUIRED	0	Lack of understanding or awareness of using forage management practices and safe grazing processes, including chemical application.
	1	Awareness of need to utilize forage management practices and safe grazing processes, including safe chemical application to manage risk to food safety, animal care and environment.
	2	Able to articulate a comprehensive forage management plan, including protocols for chemical application. Records present for any chemical application
	3	Written, comprehensive forage management plan, including input from agronomist and written protocols for chemical application. Records present for any chemical application.
MEDICATED FEED & WATER PRACTICES		
CLEANING MEDICATED FEED / WATER DELIVERY EQUIPMENT		
VBP+ REQUIRED	0	Unaware that medicated feed and water ingredients require special records and management practices.
	1	Operation has utilized medicated feed and/or water but has incomplete records, has understanding of procedures if medicated ingredients are utilized.
	2	Operation has utilized feed and/or water ingredients and has records showing usage and prescription.
	3	Comprehensive medicated feeding plan is written with input from veterinarian, feed consultant/nutritionist. Excellent knowledge of procedures/policies/actions, all records are complete, training of staff is provided.
CLEANING MEDICATED FEED / WATER DELIVERY EQUIPMENT		
VBP+ REQUIRED	0	Unaware of importance of equipment calibration, evaluation or flushing/sequencing implications.
	1	Awareness of importance of equipment calibration and maintenance. Awareness of flushing/sequencing protocol and implications of errors. Feed equipment use and protocol used following basic criteria and instruction, planning to implement additional protocols, minimal medical ingredient use, and completion of records.
	2	All records complete; good awareness of the use and handling of medicated ingredients for feed or water, communicated verbally.
	3	Comprehensive medicated feeding plan is written to include specific protocols for cleaning, calibration and continual maintenance of medicated feed delivery equipment. Records are complete, training records are provided. Written records of evaluation of scaled validation is kept.



CANADIAN CATTLE LEARNING CENTER

Want to refresh your VBP+ training or have a look at our new learning modules? Check out the Canadian Cattle Learning Center.

www.canadiancattlelearningcenter.com



HANDLING

VBP+ STANDARD	0	Lack of understanding of methods of restraint or handling important to mitigate risk for unnecessary pain and suffering to animals, human injury or broken needles.
	1	Awareness of the issues and reason for concern with animal care and use of restraint for mitigation of broken needles but not being adopted across the operation with consistency. Code of Practice for Handling of Beef Cattle is available on operation for reference.
	2	Awareness and adoption of policies related to animal care, use of restraint for mitigation of broken needles and requirements of the Code of Practice are understood and adopted. Consistency in execution is a goal for the operation.
	3	Complete development and adoption of policies and protocols related to animal care and use of restraint for mitigation of broken needles with documentation of execution of protocols, training of personnel, records of pain mitigation activities and/or investigations and resolution of non-compliances.

PROCEDURES

RESTRAINT OF CATTLE

VBP+ STANDARD	0	No awareness of the need to restrain and immobilize cattle when working on individual cattle for the safety of people and cattle and to reduce broken needle incidence.
	1	Awareness of the need for proper animal restraint to minimize risk of broken needles, but inconsistent adoption of animal restraint techniques and inspection of delivery equipment.
	2	Animal restraint methods are used and inspection of delivery equipment is consistently used throughout the operation.
	3	Animal restraint methods are used and inspection of delivery equipment is consistently used throughout the operation. Written protocol is in place to mitigate the risk of broken needles; records of investigations and changes in management.

BRANDING

VBP+ STANDARD	0	No awareness that branding procedures should be performed under specific conditions. (dry hide, appropriate size and location of brand, suitable equipment, experience and training).
	1	Branding is performed; no regard for appropriate pain mitigation.
	2	Branding is performed with a focus on minimizing animal pain and distress; pain mitigation used.
	3	Branding is not performed on operation; OR written records for use of pain mitigation and protocol for training competent personnel.

DISBUDDING & DEHORNING		
VBP+ STANDARD	0	Lack of understanding of implications of pain during dehorning.
	1	Awareness of implications of pain during dehorning process. Gaining knowledge of early disbudding procedures or pain mitigation during dehorning.
	2	Able to articulate processes used for early disbudding or use of pain mitigation for dehorning processes or operation has policies to only dehorn for medical purposes (broken or ingrown) using pain mitigation
	3	Written protocols, using veterinarian consultation, around use of pain mitigation for dehorning processes with documentation for validation, or operation uses genetics to eliminate need for disbudding or dehorning.

CASTRATION		
VBP+ STANDARD	0	No understanding or awareness of importance of correct procedure, equipment or pain mitigation..
	1	Awareness of correct procedures and equipment. Investigating use of pain mitigation and protocol with veterinarian.
	2	Able to articulate protocol, including pain mitigation. Has documentation verifying application of protocol.
	3	Written protocols with veterinarian input as well as documentation verifying application and efficacy of protocol.

WEANING		
VBP+ STANDARD	0	Cow-calf: Inadequate feed and water available to newly weaned calves and/or high death loss of calves (proof required to support). Feedlot: No herd health management considerations for freshly weaned calves
	1	Cow-calf: Awareness of ways to improve weaning practices; has a herd health program developed with veterinarian. Feedlot: On-arrival antibiotics used for all calves; awareness of ways to reduce stress and improve outcomes.
	2	Cow-calf: Weaning methods are low stress, introduced to feed while on cow, pre-vaccinated. Feedlot: Purchases calves with minimal comingling; uses a risk-based protocol for calf management.
	3	Cow-calf: Operation preconditions calves based on veterinarian input. Feedlot: Operation prefers to purchase preconditioned, non-commingled calves; avoids any undue stress-related procedures until calves are weaned.

HOUSING AND FACILITIES		
FACILITIES		
VBP+ STANDARD	0	Unaware of the importance of shelter facilities to meet cattle requirements.
	1	Awareness of importance of planning for shelter or facilities that meet cattle requirements. Able to describe shelter needs of cattle in production model.
	2	Able to describe shelter/facility needs of cattle in production model, has records to demonstrate needs of cattle are being met (eg. production or health records).
	3	Protocol for criteria to assess shelter or facility needs for operation's production model. Can produce records to show assessment and validation of criteria of protocol.

PREVENTING HEIFER PREGNANCY & PREGNANT HEIFERS IN THE FEEDLOT		
VBP+ STANDARD	0	Unaware of the importance of shelter facilities to meet cattle requirements.
	1	Awareness of importance of planning for shelter or facilities that meet cattle requirements. Able to describe shelter needs of cattle in production model.
	2	Able to describe shelter/facility needs of cattle in production model, has records to demonstrate needs of cattle are being met (eg. production or health records).
	3	Protocol for criteria to assess shelter or facility needs for operation's production model. Can produce records to show assessment and validation of criteria of protocol.

06 VULNERABLE, DISTRESSED, AND HIGH-RISK CATTLE

IDENTIFICATION OF DISEASES		
ZONOTIC DISEASES		
VBP+ STANDARD	0	No awareness of implications of not monitoring calving livestock or concern for survivability
	1	Production model does not include regular assessment of calving animal, but incorporates a protocol (i.e. low birth weight bulls, warm weather calving season) to mitigate risk of calving difficulties
	2	Articulates plan or protocol for monitoring calving livestock. Has records to verify response.
	3	Written protocol for monitoring calving livestock, including training of personnel. Has records to verify monitoring activities and responses
REPORTABLE DISEASES		
VBP+ STANDARD	0	No awareness or willingness to be educated on reportable diseases.
	1	Awareness and knowledge of potential issues; comprehensive verbal explanation of policy and action plan in place.
	2	Animal restraint methods are used and inspection of delivery equipment is consistently used throughout the operation.
	3	Written protocol and procedures in place that address people, animals and environment; input from veterinarian on planning, excellent knowledge of the issue.
INFECTIOUS DISEASES		
VBP+ STANDARD	0	No awareness of deadstock disposal regulations.
	1	Awareness of the importance of addressing deadstock storage and disposal during an infectious disease event.
	2	Protocols to manage infectious diseases are implemented and monitored. Deadstock disposal is appropriate.
	3	Written herd health protocols, veterinarian input, plan is initiated and monitored. Written deadstock disposal protocol is compliant with appropriate regulations and executed accordingly.

DISEASE MANAGEMENT		
HERD HEALTH PLANS COW-CALF OPERATIONS		
VBP+ STANDARD	0	No concept that herd health programs matter.
	1	Awareness that a herd health plan could be beneficial, implementing in stages.
	2	Partial herd health plan in place; after hours emergency vet service provided.
	3	Herd health management plan in place and updated annually; after hours emergency service provided by veterinarian.
COMMON HEALTH CONDITIONS IN FEEDLOT CATTLE (LAMENESS)		
VBP+ STANDARD	0	Little knowledge of types of lameness; does not treat for lameness.
	1	Awareness of some types of lameness, does not treat for specific type; treatment records show all lameness diagnosed as hoof rot.
	2	Awareness of all types of lameness; verbal protocols in place for diagnosis and treatment
	3	Written protocols for diagnosis and treatment of lameness, input from vet, diagnosis of lameness is shown in records. Non-ambulatory protocol in place.
COMMON HEALTH CONDITIONS IN FEEDLOT CATTLE (METABOLIC DISORDER)		
VBP+ STANDARD	0	Little awareness of repercussions of rapid changes to feed or feeding program
	1	Some awareness of causes of metabolic disorders. Treatments for bloat, founder or poor performance is frequent.
	2	Good awareness, verbal protocols articulated well, has sought out professional advice.
	3	Written protocols for step-up rations, records of bloats and foundered cattle. Professional advice is evident in written protocols.
COMMON HEALTH CONDITIONS IN FEEDLOT CATTLE (BLOAT)		
VBP+ STANDARD	0	No knowledge of how to treat, or manage bloat; no equipment available.
	1	Awareness of how to treat, manage bloat; insufficient appropriate equipment
	2	Awareness, verbal protocol, sufficient equipment, management knowledge, veterinarian input into training.
	3	Written protocols, little evidence of treating bloats, records indicate that cattle are treated successfully, excellent knowledge base.

COMMON HEALTH CONDITIONS IN FEEDLOT CATTLE (BULLER STEER SYNDROME)		
VBP+ STANDARD	0	No knowledge of buller steer syndrome, or how to manage it.
	1	Awareness of buller steer syndrome, but no protocol in place to deal with the situation
	2	Awareness of buller steer syndrome, verbal protocol in place to deal with the situation.
	3	Written protocols in place to deal with buller steer syndrome; records of incidents and investigation of possible causes.
CULLING, EUTHENASIA & DISPOSAL		
METHODS OF ON-FARM EUTHANASIA		
VBP+ STANDARD	0	Unaware of the implications of incorrectly performed euthanasia
	1	Aware of the implications of incorrectly performed euthanasia. Able to describe equipment available
	2	Able to verbally articulate protocol for performing euthanasia, able to produce proper equipment. Able to verbally articulate decision tree for euthanasia decision and confirming insensibility and death.
	3	Written protocols for decision tree, euthanasia and personnel training. Records support implementation of protocols.
SPECIAL TRANSPORT RULES/CONDITIONS		
LAME CATTLE		
VBP+ STANDARD	0	Insufficient awareness of rules and regulations, procedures or requirements surrounding transport of livestock.
	1	Awareness of proper procedures, rules and regulations, not implemented across the operation, working at improving
	2	Good verbal transportation plan, producer is knowledgeable about the rules and special conditions of transport for sick, injured and cull cattle.
	3	Written transportation plan, good facilities, good understanding of requirements, understands all aspects of transportation responsibilities.



Looking for more information on best management practices, records and section specific content? Check out our Reference Manuals, conveniently posted in sections on our website. <https://verifiedbeef.ca/producer-resources/verified-beef-producer-reference-manual/>

07 TRANSPORTATION

SHIPPING PROCESS & RECORDS

VBP+ REQUIRED	0	Lack of awareness or understanding of the implications of not performing a withdrawal and broken needle records check and fitness for transport evaluation.
	1	Awareness of the implications of not performing a withdrawal and broken needle records check and fitness for transport evaluation. May perform checks and evaluation but does not have shipping record validating checks and evaluation.
	2	Performs withdrawal records check and fitness for transport evaluation prior to shipping and has shipping record validating checks and evaluations.
	3	Written procedures for performing withdrawal records checks and fitness for transport evaluations and has shipping record validating checks and evaluations.

TRANSPORTATION REQUIREMENTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

VBP+ STANDARD	0	Lack of understanding or awareness of regulations and procedures for transportation of cattle
	1	Awareness of regulations and procedures for transportation of cattle
	2	Able to articulate transportation plan. Producer is knowledgeable in their area of production. Understands all aspects of transportation responsibilities.
	3	Written transportation plan with good understanding of regulations. Understands all aspects of transportation responsibilities. VBP+ Standard - Score of 1 required.

08 BIOSECURITY

ANIMAL HEALTH PRACTICES FOR BIOSECURITY

UNUSUAL DISEASE SITUATIONS

VBP+ STANDARD	0	Lack of awareness or understanding of the importance of biosecurity measures or plans
	1	Awareness of the importance of having a biosecurity plan or Herd Health Plan, including biosecurity measures, some execution, planning for additional initiatives.
	2	Able to verbally articulate Biosecurity plans and measures, herd health treatments and plans in place.
	3	Written plans and protocols, with veterinarian input, are initiated and updated regularly. Records available showing implementation.

DID YOU KNOW? VBP+ has coordinators in every region. They provide in-person/webinar training, information on provincially-specific programs and regulations as well as producer pre-certification education. Find the coordinator in your region at: <https://verifiedbeef.ca/training-centre/provincial-coordinator-contacts/>

MANAGING ANIMAL MOVEMENT RISK

CO-MINGLING

VBP+ STANDARD	0	Lack of awareness or understanding of importance of risk measures during animal movement events
	1	Awareness of the importance of risk measures during animal movement events, planning to adopt initiatives.
	2	Awareness of the importance of risk measures during animal movement events, planning to adopt initiatives.
	3	Written protocols for risk mitigation during animal movement events. Veterinarian has input into protocols. Records available to show implementation

MINIMIZE CONTACT WITH OTHER SPECIES

09 ENVIRONMENTAL

WATER MANAGEMENT

FEEDLOTS / CONFINED AREAS

VBP+ STANDARD	0	Lack of understanding or awareness of the responsibility to protect, preserve and manage water resources.
	1	Aware of the responsibility to manage water resources, and have a basic plan in place.
	2	Comprehensive verbal water management plan in place with knowledge about protecting water resources and developed with input from professionals.
	3	Comprehensive written water management plan in place, with records that show implementation of proactive practices protecting water sources implemented and developed with input from professionals. A current Environmental Farm Plan (or equivalent) is in place for the operation

MANURE MANAGEMENT

SPREADING & APPLICATIONS

VBP+ STANDARD	0	Lack of understanding or awareness of the risk that manure can pose to the environment and animal health, therefore no practice(s) implemented to manage manure
	1	Awareness of the risk of manure and the need to manage manure output. Have a basic, verbal manure management plan.
	2	Have a comprehensive, verbal manure management plan developed with professional input.
	3	Have a comprehensive written manure management plan developed with professional input, i.e. a current Environmental Farm Plan or equivalent with records showing implementation.

DEADSTOCK MANAGEMENT

VBP+ STANDARD	0	Lack of awareness or understanding of the risk deadstock may have on the environment and animal health.
	1	Basic understanding of the risk of deadstock and a basic plan in place to address potential risks to soil, water and wildlife.
	2	Comprehensive verbal deadstock management plan in place detailing how environmental and biosecurity risks are addressed while incorporating all local regulations.
	3	Comprehensive written deadstock management plan in place detailing how environmental and biosecurity risks are addressed while incorporating all local regulations and having records showing implementation

WILDLIFE

WILDLIFE CONFLICT

VBP+ STANDARD	0	Lack of awareness or understanding of the value, significance and responsibility of maintaining wildlife habitat.
	1	Aware of wildlife species on the operation and practices are in place to maintain a wildlife presence, while addressing pests and predators
	2	An inventory of wildlife, including species at risk and problem species is on record and population monitoring system is developed and implemented.
	3	Habitat improvements and conservation efforts are implemented and recorded; wildlife conflict mitigation efforts implemented.

REDUCE/REUSE/RECYCLE

RECYCLE

VBP+ STANDARD	0	No awareness, understanding or effort made to implement practices that reduce/reuse/recycle inputs to improve resource efficiency and lessen environmental impact
	1	Awareness of various types of agricultural waste and how to reduce it; aware of energy inputs; verbal animal production goals in place.
	2	Active practice of the 3R's (reduce, reuse, recycle); verbal animal production goals in place; implementation of production practices that increase efficiency and improve productivity
	3	Active practice of the 3R's (reduce, reuse, recycle); monitor and document cattle performance against specific goals;

DID YOU KNOW?

The VBP+ certification cycle covers five years.

Year 1 - On-Farm Audit
 Year 2 and 4 - Records Assessments
 Year 3 and 5 - Self-Declarations and repeat!

CHEMICAL USE STORAGE & DISPOSAL

VBP+ STANDARD	0	No awareness, understanding or effort made to implement practices that reduce/reuse/recycle inputs to improve resource efficiency and lessen environmental impact.
	1	Awareness of various types of agricultural waste and how to reduce it; aware of energy inputs; verbal animal production goals in place
	2	Active practice of the 3R's (reduce, reuse, recycle); verbal animal production goals in place; implementation of production practices that increase efficiency and improve productivity.
	3	Active practice of the 3R's (reduce, reuse, recycle); monitor and document cattle performance against specific goals; documented waste reduction and energy efficiency efforts.

LAND & PASTURE MANAGEMENT

VBP+ STANDARD	0	Lack of understanding or awareness of the damage to land and pasture if management practices neglect indicators of forage production and availability, water quality and soil condition.
	1	Basic understanding of land and pasture value by implementing practices that monitor grasslands, pastures and native ecosystems; identify and manage invasive plant species; monitor soil conditions such as erosion, compaction and degradation.
	2	Grazing Operation - Implementation of a verbal grazing and/or soil management plan that minimizes negative impacts from cattle on natural ecosystems. Intensive Livestock Operation - Implementation of a verbal soil or nutrient management plan that minimizes the negative impacts of manure on natural ecosystems
	3	Grazing Operation - Implementation of a written and documented grazing and/or soil management plan that is reviewed regularly and has specific objectives identifying soil health, stocking rates and water quality. Intensive Livestock Operation - Implementation of a written and documented soil or nutrient anagement plan that is regularly reviewed and has specific objectives for soil and water testing, variable nutrient application rates based on test results and crop requirements

AIR QUALITY

VBP+ STANDARD	0	Lack of awareness or understanding of air quality issues that may arise from cattle production.
	1	Aware of air quality issues such as odours and dust and implement practices to improve air quality. (i.e. barn ventilation and odour reduction)
	2	Aware of air quality issues such as odours and dust and implement practices to improve air quality. Measurable quality indicators such as odour and dust are monitored and recorded.
	3	Air quality improvement practices implemented, documented and records are regularly reviewed.

10 EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

DISASTER		
VBP+ STANDARD	0	Lack of understanding or awareness of need for planning for a major emergency
	1	Awareness of need for planning for a major emergency, has rudimentary plans.
	2	Able to articulate plans which address human safety and cattle care in the event of a major emergency
	3	Written protocols that address human safety, cattle care, salvage and humane euthanization for major emergency events.
FACILITY FAILURE		
VBP+ STANDARD	0	Lack of understanding or awareness for emergency management planning
	1	Awareness for the need of an emergency plan
	2	Able to articulate plan for emergency preparedness, contact list or organizational chart can be articulated or is available
	3	Written protocols for implementation of an emergency plan which covers essential requirements. Records of training are available.
CATTLE HEALTH		
VBP+ STANDARD	0	Lack of understanding or awareness of planning for large scale cattle health emergencies
	1	Awareness of the need for planning for large scale cattle health emergencies.
	2	Able to articulate plans for cattle health emergencies.
	3	Written protocols for cattle health emergencies. Records available for training.
HUMAN HEALTH		
VBP+ STANDARD	0	Lack of understanding or awareness of planning for a human health emergency
	1	Awareness of the need for planning for a human health emergency, some plans can be articulated.
	2	Able to articulate planning for a human health emergency, can demonstrate some plans in place.
	3	Written protocols for planning for a human health emergency.

ARE YOU READY FOR CERTIFICATION?
 Contact VBP+ Delivery Services Inc. at auditcoordinator@verifiedbeef.ca or give us a call at 587-328-5980.

11 TRAINING & MENTORING

ORGANIZATIONAL WORKPLACE & CULTURE		
VBP+ STANDARD	0	No occupational health and safety or human resource management initiatives in place
	1	Informal staff safety training and human resource management initiatives; provide a safe, discrimination-free workplace; receptive to employees expressing concerns.
	2	Verbal safety, training, and human resource management plans; provide a safe workplace where employees are included in planning and operational decisions; workers encouraged to report near misses.
	3	Written and regularly updated training programs, health and safety policies, and workplace management document; roles and responsibilities of management and workers clearly articulated, culture and values of the organization defined.

LIST OF RECORDS TO BE REVIEWED AT CERTIFICATION TO MEET VBP+ REQUIRED MINIMUMS

Other records can be presented to meet outcomes for different scoring levels.


































- ✓ Individual Treatment Records
- ✓ Group Treatment/Vaccination Records
- ✓ Extra-Label Drug Use Prescriptions or Herd Health Protocols
- ✓ Shipping Record/Validation (showing records check prior to shipping)
- ✓ Herbicide/Pesticide Records
- ✓ Death/Euthanasia Records
- ✓ Medicated Feed Records (if applicable) including prescriptions, feeding records and calibration records
- ✓ Broken Needle/Treatment Error/Toxin
- ✓ Exposure Record (if applicable)

Contact your Provincial Coordinator for more details:

ANIMAL HEALTH RECORDS AND SAMPLES

Click on the document links below to view templates of common records useful for all aspects of your operation and programs. These are only templates; records can be kept in different formats. For example, beef cattle producers may keep records on paper, in downloadable tables or by using a variety of animal health software programs. The record keeping tool can be what is currently in use on the beef cattle operation - what's important is getting the right information recorded.

Included with each blank template is a filled in example of the record. Samples are included to show generic examples of how the records can be used and also to help producers to create their own templates or identify elements in existing records (for example software) and how they can be used on your beef cattle operation.

BLANK	SAMPLE	RECORD NAME
		VBP+ Simple Shipping Record
		VBP+ Treatment Record - Group
		VBP+ Treatment Record - Individual
		VBP+ Suspect Broken Needle Record
		VBP+ Toxin Exposure Record
		VBP+ Treatment Error Record
		VBP+ Death/Euthanization Record
		VBP+ Sold/Purchased/Died Record
		VBP+ Beef Medications Record
		VBP+ Animal Movement Record
		VBP+ Herbicide/Pesticide Use Record
		VBP+ Herd Health Protocol Template
		VBP+ Transfer of Care Template
		VBP+ Animal Withdrawal Record Transfer Record
		VBP+ Medicated Feed/Water Record
		VBP+ Emergency Contact List
		VBP+ Visitor Log
		VBP+ Extra Drug Label Use (EDLU) Prescription
		VBP+ Animal Health Product Checklist