



Newsletter

Issue 3

November 5th, 2001 Implementation Date for Beef Grading Regulatory Amendments

*This issue of the CBGA Newsletter is to announce that the regulatory amendments for beef grading which effect minimum fat cover and minimum muscling requirement on Canada A or higher carcasses will be implemented commencing **November 5, 2001**.*

The changes are to align some of the Canadian regulations with our United States counterpart. These particular revisions to the regulations have been in the works for a long time as noted in our January 2000 newsletter. (see following paragraph)

“Canadian Food Inspection Agency Tackles Regulatory Change For Beef Grading”

As a result of industry consensus on requirements for regulatory change for greater equivalency with the United States, CFIA has started the process to amend the regulations for the following:

- (i) reduce the minimum fat level for the Canada A/Prime series to 2 mm;
- (ii) redefined the minimum muscling level for the Canada A/Prime series to a yet to be defined description;
- (iii) adjust the Canada B1 grade so that the minimum muscling level corresponds with the redefined muscling level for the Canada A/Prime series;
- (iv) adjust the Canada B3 grade so that their maximum muscling level corresponds with the new minimum muscling level for the Canada A/Prime series;
- (v) set a floor yield % for the Canada 3 yield class and establish a Canada 4 yield class.....January 2000

Due to lack of industry support the revision to set a floor yield to Canada 3 and establish a Canada 4 yield class was not made.

In addition to the qualifications for Canada A or higher carcasses wording was also published for:

- 1) the use of technology in grading. Please note, this is a generic wording and means that the Canadian Food Inspection Agency is open to requests for approval of new technologies.
- 2) roller branding will not be mandatory for carcasses when fabrication is completed in house.
- 3) the maximum weight for a graded veal carcass and the minimum weight for a graded beef carcass hide off has been adjusted to 160 kg.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO YOU?

For The Packer:

- You will have to review all information published or distributed on carcass settlement and ensure that it has been updated to show the regulatory changes.
- The changes mean there is increased opportunity for carcasses to fall within the Canada A or higher grades with no effect on quality.
 - a) Carcasses previously graded B1 due to insufficient fat cover may now qualify for one of the Canada A grades if marbling content is sufficient.
 - b) Carcasses previously graded B3 due to poor muscling may now qualify for one of the Canada A grades if muscling meets the new minimum requirement.
- Roller branding of Canada A or higher carcasses becomes optional for carcasses to be fabricated “in house” if quality control is prepared to take responsibility for product integrity.

Essentially it is hoped that these regulatory amendments will provide increased competitiveness for the packing industry. A special note to packers if you opt for optional roller branding, a revision to the protocol must be presented and accepted by CBGA as part of the grading contract.

For The Producer:

- Opportunity exists to reduce the costs of feeding to produce external fat to meet the old Canada A or higher minimum fat requirement.
- It also expands the potential to feed dairy type cattle and not receive grade discounts if they meet the new minimum requirements for Canada A or higher muscling.

Essentially it is hoped that these regulatory amendments will provide increased marketing opportunities and reduced production costs for producers.

For The Consumer:

- Since meat has typically come to the counter or restaurant with standard trim, the revisions to the regulations should be transparent.

Essentially there is the hope that if the producer and packer become more efficient, the consumer will benefit by decreased prices or increased availability.

For The Grader:

- These amendments mean an adjustment to the standard which must be consistent with all graders across Canada.
- The minimum fat measurement is objective and the revised ruler will provide the standard by which to assess each carcass for fat cover and yield. You should receive the revised ruler with the newsletter.
- Please commence using the new ruler on November 5th, 2001 and make sure that the old ruler is destroyed or archived so it will not be used after the implementation date.
- The muscling requirement is far more subjective and it is essential to establish the break point between acceptable and non acceptable muscling.

Essentially the grader must learn and apply the amended regulations. Attached for the graders is a list of the Regional Supervisors. Don't hesitate to contact them and have open discussions if there is a need for clarification.

Access the following website: <http://canada.gc.ca/gazette/part2/pdf/g2-13521.pdf> to review the full details of the amendments in the Canada Gazette Part 2, Vol 135, No. 21, pages 2071-2080. If you do not have internet access please fax or phone our office and we will send out a copy. **Toll free phone in Canada: 1-888-582-2242, toll free fax in Canada: 1-888-582-3888.**

Revisions To Literature And Web Site

The Canadian Beef Grading Agency has produced a second edition of Grading Beef in Canada that incorporates the regulatory amendments. A copy is attached to the newsletter and additional copies can be ordered through our office.

The Beef Carcass Grading Reference required revision to six of its pages to incorporate the regulatory amendment. We have attempted to maintain a mailing list of all people who purchased copies of the reference and will mail the amended pages as soon as they are available. If you have not received the new pages by January 2002, please contact the office.

The website for the Canadian Beef Grading Agency will be amended for the November 5th implementation date. www.telusplanet.net/public/cbga/

In its fifth year of operation the private non profit Canadian Beef Grading Agency's Board of directors and staff are as follows:

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