

# *Grassfed & Grass Pastured Standards--updated August 2011*

## **1 Introduction**

The American Grassfed Association (AGA) standards are intended to incorporate the attributes of open pasture, animal welfare, no antibiotics, no hormones, the production of nutritious and healthy meats, and to be supportive of American family farms. The standard further recognizes that the US is geographically and climatically diverse and that grassfed production without any supplementation may not be feasible in some regions of the country. In developing a grass pastured standard the AGA brings together farms who share the attributes stated above but may differ in their approach or need for supplemental feed on pasture.

These standards apply to all farms and ranches approved by the American Grassfed Association (AGA) for the production of market animals and products destined for certification by AGA. Only farms and ranches certified as following these standards may use AGA's American Grassfed Association logos, Association trademarks, service marks, and/or design marks hereafter referred to as AGA Design Mark.

## **2 Certification**

### **2.1 Statement of Purpose; Applicability**

The American Grassfed Association (AGA) family of logos and design marks was developed by the American Grassfed Association and trademarked to identify food and agriculture products, which meet the standards as set forth in the AGA Grassfed and Grass Pastured Ruminant Standards and certified through a program approved by the AGA. The logos and design marks have been trademarked by the U.S. Trademark and Patent office and may only be used by those who have an approved signed license agreement with the American Grassfed Association. The American Grassfed Association logos and design marks were established to provide a marketing program that adds value to food and agricultural products that meet the requirements set by the AGA membership and

the Board of Directors. The requirements of the AGA Grassfed and Grass Pastured Ruminant Standards are set by the American Grassfed Association members and its Board of Directors and may be amended from time to time.

### **2.2 Statement of Use**

The American Grassfed Association trademark, service mark, and /or design mark may be used on product packaging and promotional materials, including brochures, sales literature, advertising, banners, Web sites, point of purchase material, etc. When used, the logos must comply with the following guidelines. If a company wishes to use the logos in a manner other than described in these guidelines, it must request and receive permission in writing from the American Grassfed Association.

- i. A licensee may display the AGA Design Mark, which is a registered certification mark, on the products licensed.
- ii. Licensee must have an approved signed license agreement with the American Grassfed Association to use the trademark, service mark, and /or design mark on any products.
- iii. Licensee may use the trademark, service mark and /or design mark on company stationery, promotional literature and web sites only if AGA certifies licensee's entire livestock product range. Licensee may only use the service/design mark associated with its audited product, grassfed or grass pastured.

### **2.3 Product Requirements**

These requirements are for raw, processed, and non-processed ruminant products produced using the production requirements set forth in the AGA Grassfed and Grass Pastured Ruminant Standards and certified by such agency as set by the AGA board of directors.

### **2.4 Use of the American Grassfed Association Design Mark**



2.4.1 Applicants must certify on the application that all applicable AGA Grassfed and Grass Pastured Ruminant Standards are met.

2.4.2 Applicants must be current members of the American Grassfed Association with all dues and fees paid while using the AGA design mark.

2.4.3 Applicant's farm or ranch will be audited by the AGA or its approved certifying agency(s) to determine eligibility to use the AGA design mark.

2.4.4 The AGA will determine which of its standards, grassfed or grass pastured, applies to the applicant's farm/ranch and which AGA design mark the applicant will be licensed to use.

2.4.5 The AGA or its approved certifying agency(s) may make unannounced site visits to applicant farms or ranches to verify that all AGA Grassfed and Grass Pastured Ruminant Standards are met.

2.4.6 Except as otherwise provided in this section, all requirements for membership in the American Grassfed Association shall apply to entities and individuals certified under this section.

### **2.5 American Grassfed Design Mark**

2.5.1 The AGA Design Mark must be reproduced from original artwork. Please contact AGA for a copy of the Design Mark.

#### **2.5.2 Grassfed**

- complete and upright
- in one color
- clearly visible
- at least 1/2 inch in diameter
- clear and legible over the whole of a background
- on the main face of the label or packaging

2.5.3 Any use of the logo which is deemed a misrepresentation of the intended use by the

American Grassfed Association may result in the suspension of the license agreement and/or prosecution.

**2.6 Fees**

Applicants shall submit an annual fee as set by the American Grassfed Association board of directors. A per head fee will also be assessed by the board for every animal marketed using the AGA design mark and/or every dairy animal in production.

**3 Grassfed and Grass Pastured Standards**

AGA Grassfed and Grass Pastured Ruminant Standards must be maintained 8 out of 10 years for producers to keep their current status. If standards are not met for 3 years or more out of ten years, grassfed producers will drop to grass pastured status and grass pastured producers will lose their status.

**3.1 Forage Protocol**

3.1.1 All livestock production must be pasture/ grass/forage based.

3.1.2 Grass and forage, shall be the feed source consumed for the lifetime of the ruminant animal, with the exception of milk consumed prior to weaning. The diet shall be derived solely from forage consisting of grass (annual and perennial), forbs (e.g. legumes, Brassicas), browse, or cereal grain crops in the vegetative (pre-grain) state.

3.1.3 Approved supplements may be fed as outlined in section 3.3.

3.1.4 Animals cannot be fed grain.

3.1.5 Animals must have continuous access to pasture and forage appropriate to the species.

3.1.6 Forage is defined as any herbaceous plant material that can be grazed or harvested for feeding, with the exception of grain.

**3.2 Grazing, Confinement and Stockpiled Forages**

3.2.1 All AGA grassfed, grass pastured, and dairy animals must be maintained at all times on range, pasture, or in paddocks with at least 75% forage cover or unbroken ground for their entire lives.

*Note: The provisions of this standard do not preclude commonly used grazing practices such as high-density/low-frequency or strip grazing, when large numbers of animals may graze growing forages in small paddocks for short periods of time.*

3.2.2 Feeding AGA animals in a Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) is prohibited.

3.2.3 AGA animals and dairy animals may only be removed from pasture as defined by 3.2.1 during severe weather or emergencies that may threaten the safety and well-being of the animals.

*Note: This does not preclude commonly used practices such as roundups, sorting, weaning, and transportation*

3.2.4 If AGA animals and dairy animals are removed from pasture and/or housed under conditions set in 3.2.3 their access to pasture must not be restricted for more than 45 days per calendar year.

3.2.5 Sacrifice pastures may be used to protect surrounding pastures from overuse during severe weather or times of slow pasture re-growth (drought). Sacrifice pasture is defined as a pasture where animals are free to move about and express their natural behaviors and where forage can be grown during the growing season.

3.2.6 AGA animals may be fed hay, haylage, balage, silage, forage products, crop residue without grain, and other roughage sources while on pasture.

3.2.7 Dairy calves must receive colostrum within 6 hours of birth and have access to high quality forage and pasture after 7 days of age.

3.2.8 Dairy animals that are to be marketed as AGA certified grassfed beef must be raised to AGA standards.

3.2.9 Approved mineral and vitamin supplements may be provided free choice to adjust the animal's nutrient intake and to correct deficiencies in its total diet.

3.2.10 Incidental consumption of seeds from grain or cereal grain naturally attached to herbage, forage, and browse is only permitted in an un-harvested crop that has not been deliberately managed such that it sets seed before grazing occurs.

3.2.11 Deliberately waiting until grain or cereal grain crop has set seed before grazing or harvesting for stored forage is prohibited.

3.2.12 Grazing vegetative re-growth of harvested grain fields is permitted if 75% of the field is in vegetative re-growth and the average height of the re-growth is 8".

**3.3 Supplementation**

3.3.1 – Grassfed  
AGA grassfed animals may only be fed approved supplements to ensure the animal's well-being during periods of low forage quality or inclement weather. See Appendix B for approved grassfed supplements.

3.3.2 – Grassfed  
When the conditions of 3.3.1 are met, AGA grassfed animals may receive supplementation of approved supplements not to exceed 0.625% of body weight per day (25% total daily intake) and 1% of lifetime intake when calculated on a dry matter basis. See Appendix B for total intake guidelines.

3.3.3 – Grassfed Dairy

AGA grassfed dairy animals may be fed approved grass pastured supplements at a rate of 0.5% of body weight (20% of daily intake) during the growth stage and 0.75% of body weight (30% of daily intake) during lactation. Supplement levels are calculated on a dry matter basis. See Appendix C for approved supplements

3.3.4 – Grass Pastured

AGA grass pastured animals may be fed approved supplements at a rate of 0.5% of body weight (20% of daily intake) during the growth stage for beef animals and 0.75% of body weight (30% of daily intake) during the finishing stage for beef animals when calculated on a dry matter basis. See Appendix C for approved grass pastured supplements.

*Note: For the purpose of this standard the finishing stage is defined as the last 200 pounds gained before harvest.*

3.3.5 Supplements must be approved in advance by AGA's nutritional supplements committee or be listed in the Approved Supplements List: see Appendix B for approved grassfed supplements and Appendix C for approved grass pastured supplements. Approved supplements or total supplement rations may not exceed 30% Non-Fibrous Carbohydrate (NFC).

Note: Supplements that have an adverse effect on the nutritional quality of the meat or milk produced or have negative health benefits on the animals fed will not be permitted.

3.3.6 Receipts, ingredient lists, and/or tear tags must be retained from any supplements provided.

3.3.7 A record of what was given, how much was given, and when it was given must be kept for any supplements whether deliberately provided or to which the AGA grassfed ruminant is inadvertently exposed. If inadvertent exposure to banned feedstuffs occurs the incident must

be recorded, and reported at the time of the next audit.

3.3.8 Non-inadvertent feeding any of the banned feedstuffs listed in Appendix D to AGA grassfed & grass pastured animals is prohibited and will result in the loss of AGA certified status.

3.4 *(intentionally left blank)*

3.5 **Animal Health and Welfare**

3.5.1 *(intentionally left blank)*

3.5.2 The producer must develop and maintain a written record of all vaccines, medications, or other substances used in his/her animal health care program.

3.5.3 AGA Grassfed Ruminant animals must not be fed or injected with antibiotics.

3.5.4 Sick or injured animals must be treated to relieve their symptoms.

3.5.5 If prohibited medications are required for treatment, the animal must be identified and tracked and records kept to demonstrate that it does not enter the AGA Grassfed Ruminant system.

*Note: Provided the identification and tracking are adequate the animal may still be kept with other animals that do qualify for AGA Grassfed Ruminant certification.*

3.5.6 The producer must keep purchase records for any antibiotics. Antibiotic receipts and injection records must be available on demand to the certifying agency.

3.5.7 No hormones of any type may be administered to AGA grassfed or grass pastured animals.

3.5.8 Livestock produced under these standards must not be fed any animal by-products at any time.

3.5.9 No organophosphates may be used.

3.6 **Animal Identification and Trace-Back**

3.6.1 AGA grassfed and grass pastured animals must be traceable by written record throughout their entire lives, from birth to harvest, to the farm or ranch from which they originated.

3.6.2 Each producer must develop and maintain an animal identification system to identify uniquely each animal or batch of animals.

3.6.3 Complete and up to date records must be maintained and specifically identify all animals raised and purchased that are sold, harvested, or used for milk production as part of the AGA grassfed program.

3.6.4 Complete and up to date records must be maintained to show the source of all purchased market and dairy animals brought onto the farm or ranch.

3.6.5 Records must document that the supplier of the purchased market and/or dairy animals raised them in accordance with AGA Grassfed or Grass Pastured Ruminant Standards.

3.6.6 Only market animals one year of age or younger may be brought into the AGA Certified Grassfed program by affidavit. AGA Grassfed Supplier Affidavit (Appendix A) must be used for all purchased animals.

3.6.7 Complete and up to date records must be maintained for all AGA market animals delivered for harvest and all dairy animals used for milk production.

3.6.8 All records are to be maintained for a minimum of 24 months after the animal is sold or harvested.

3.6.9 All required records must be in sufficient detail as to demonstrate compliance with AGA standards to the certifying agency.



**3.7 Program Requirements**

3.7.1 The annual licensing cost for AGA Certified Producer Members will be set by the AGA Board of Directors at regularly scheduled board meetings and will be set to cover the administrative cost to AGA. On-farm inspection cost will be borne by the individual member.

**4 Standards Amendment Procedure**

**4.1 Amendment Procedure**

4.1.1 The AGA recognizes that as new research becomes available on grassfed meat and milk products, changes may be required to the AGA certification program standards and definitions. The following procedure will be followed for reviewing and amending standards and definitions.

4.1.2 The review and amendment procedure shall be accomplished by a Standards/Certification Committee appointed by the AGA board president. Amendments will require a 2/3 majority vote of the entire Standards Committee.

4.1.3 The Standards/Certification Committee will meet at least once per year to review and discuss new grassfed information and research. At this meeting the Committee will vote to send any recommended amendments to the full board for approval.

4.1.4 Amending the AGA certification program standards and definitions shall require a majority vote of the entire Board of Directors.

4.1.5 The Board of Directors will set, on a case by case basis, the amount of time members have to implement any adopted changes to the AGA certification standards and definitions.

**5 Reference Documents**

**5.1 AGA Grassfed Supplier Affidavit**  
See Appendix A.

**5.2 AGA Approved Grassfed Supplements List**  
See Appendix B.

**5.3 AGA Approved Grass Pastured and Grassfed Dairy Supplements List**  
See Appendix C.

**5.4 AGA Banned Feed Stuffs List**  
See Appendix D

**6 AGA Grassfed and Grass Pastured Ruminant Standards Definitions**

Balage or Round Bale Silage: A practice that involves cutting the forage crop with conventional hay harvesting equipment, allowing the forage to wilt to between 30 and 60 percent dry matter, then baling it into tight bales and wrapping them immediately. Bales are wrapped mechanically using bale-wrapping equipment that tightly stretches several layers of plastic around the hay to exclude oxygen and allow proper ensiling. (5)

Boot Stage: The flag leaf is fully expanded, but the awns and grain head are not visible. The grain head can be felt in the flag leaf sheath. (4)

Brassicas: A family of very productive annual forage vegetables used as transition crops between pasture renovations or as a supplemental feed source for extending the grazing season when other forages are less productive i.e., turnips, rape, and kale.

Browse: 1) Leaf and twig growth of shrubs, woody vines, trees, cacti, and other non-herbaceous vegetation available for animal consumption. 2) To browse: the consumption of browse in situ by animals. (6)

Concentrate: All feed, low in fiber and high in total digestible nutrients, that supplies primary nutrients (protein, carbohydrate, and fat); for example, grains, wheat bran. (6)

Crop Residue: Portion of plants remaining after fruit and/or seed harvest, said mainly of grain crops such as corn stover or of small grain straw and stubble. (6)

Diet: The feed regularly offered to or consumed by an animal, see ration. (6)

Dough Stage: The kernel is filled with starch and is well formed. There is no milky fluid, only a rubbery, dough-like substance. (4)

Dormancy: In a state of being dormant when no active growth is occurring. (7)

Ensilage: The same as silage. (2)

Ensiled: Having been subjected to anaerobic fermentation to form silage. (2)

Feedstuff: any of the constituent nutrients of an animal ration. (7)

Fermentation: Chemical changes brought about by enzymes produced by various microorganisms. (2)

Forb: Any herbaceous broadleaf plant that is not a grass and is not grass-like. (6)

Fruit: 1) n. The usually edible reproductive body of a seed plant in particular, one having a sweet pulp associated with the seed. 2) n. A product of fertilization in a plant with its modified envelopes or appendages, specifically the ripened ovary of a seed plant and its contents. (7)

Grain: Seed from cereal plants, caryopsis. Corn, wheat, rye, oats, rice, millet, sorghum, barley, triticale.

Grass: Member of the plant family Poaceae. (6)

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|--|--|---|
| Green chop: Forage harvested and fed in the green, chopped form, generally without seed. (2)   | Meadow: Area covered with grasses and/ or legumes, often native to the area, grown primarily for hay but with secondary grazing potential. (6)   | Prairie: Nearly level or rolling grassland that was originally treeless; usually characterized by fertile soil. (6)   |
| Growing Forage: Forage plants that aren't in the dormant (non-growing) state and thus are actively developing stem, leaf, and/or reproductive tissues for growth. (1)  | Milk Stage: In grain (seed), the stage of development following pollination in which the endosperm appears as whitish liquid that is somewhat like milk. (6)   | Range: Land supporting indigenous vegetation that is grazed or that has the potential to be grazed and is managed as a natural ecosystem. Includes grazeable forestland and rangeland. (6)  |
| Glucose: A hexose monosaccharide obtained upon the hydrolysis of starch and certain other carbohydrates. Also called dextrose. (2)   | Mineral: 1) n. a solid homogeneous crystalline chemical element or compound that results from the inorganic processes of nature. 2) n. Any of the various naturally occurring homogeneous substances obtained usually from the ground. 3) n. a synthetic substance having the chemical composition and crystalline form and properties of a naturally occurring mineral. (7) | Rangeland: land on which the indigenous vegetation (climax or natural potential) is predominantly grasses, grass-like plants, forbs, or shrubs suitable for grazing or browsing use and is managed as a natural ecosystem. If plants are introduced, they are managed as indigenous species. Rangelands include natural grasslands, savannas, shrublands, most deserts, tundra, alpine communities, coastal marshland, and wetland meadows. (6) |
| Hay: The aerial parts of forage crops stored in the dry form for animal feeding. (2)   | Native Pasture: Native vegetation (predominantly herbaceous) used for grazing in untilled areas. The term tame or introduced is used instead of native for pastures that include mainly nonnative species. (6)   | Ration: the total amount of feed (diet) allotted to one animal for a 24-hour period. (6)  |
| Haylage: Haylage is the feed produced by storing in an airtight silo a forage crop which has been dried to a moisture level of about 45-55%. (2)   | Non-fibrous carbohydrate (NFC): The fraction of a feedstuff made of sugars and starch. (8)   | Residue: that which remains of any particular substance. (2)  |
| Herbage: 1.) The biomass of herbaceous plants, other than separated grain, generally above ground but including edible roots and tubers. (6) 2.) n. Green plants especially when used or fit for grazing. (7)  | Paddock: A grazing area that is a subdivision of a grazing management unit and is enclosed and separated from other areas by a fence or barrier. (6)   | Roughage:Anyfeed≥18%incrudefiberand≤ 70% in total digestible nutrients (TDN), on an air- dry basis and are less than 5.5% crude fat.  |
| Hydrolysis: The splitting of a substance into the smaller units by its chemical reaction with water. (2)   | Pasture: 1) n. Forages which are harvested by grazing animals. 2) n. An area of land with 75% forage cover or unbroken land on which livestock may graze at will.  | Seed: 1) n. Ripened mature ovule consisting of an embryo, a seedcoat, and a supply of food that, in some species is stored in the endosperm. 2) v. To sow, as to broadcast or drill small-seeded grasses, legumes, or other crops. (6)  |
| Inflorescence: 1) n. A floral axis with its appendages. 2) n. a flower cluster of which there are at least 9 recognized types. (7)   | Pastureland: Land devoted to the production of indigenous or introduced forage for harvest primarily by grazing. Pastureland generally must be managed to arrest succession processes. (6)   | Seedhead: See inflorescence.  |
| Kernel: A mature ovule of a grass plant that has the ovary wall fused to it. Same as caryopsis.(6)   | Pericarp: The ripened and variously modified walls of a plant ovary, especially those contributing the outer layer in a cereal caryopsis. (6)  | Separated Grain: Grain that is detached from cereal crop plants.  |
| Legumes: members or the Fabaceae plant family (formerly known as the Leguminoseae family). Legumes are dicots (produce two seed leaves), produce seed in a pod, have netted leaf venation, and usually have a taproot type of root system. Most legumes have the ability to interact with bacteria of the genus Rhizobium to fix nitrogen in nodules on their roots. Legumes may have one of four different types of seedheads. These seedhead types are the raceme, the spike, the head or umbel. (5) |  | Silage: “The feed resulting from the storage and fermentation of green or wet crops under anaerobic conditions.’ ‘Normally contains only about 25-35% dry matter (DM). Practically any crop may be made into silage, provided it contains an appropriate level of moisture, adequate amounts of readily fermentable   |

carbohydrates, and adequate levels of other nutrients, and provided it can be sufficiently packed.’ ‘The most commonly used silage crops are: corn, forage and grain sorghum, small grains and hay crop.’ ‘Most crops to be used for silage are permitted to mature or field dry to a moisture level of 65-75% (25-35% DM). For corn this is about the early dent stage of maturity and for grain sorghum the late dough stage at the earliest. This is when the moisture level is about right for good silage formation.” (2)

Starch: A polysaccharide having the formula (C6H10O5)n. Many plants store energy in the form of starch. Starch is a major component of most livestock rations (especially fattening rations) and is highly digestible. Yields glucose upon complete hydrolysis. (2)

Stockpiled Forage: Forage that has been allowed to accumulate on a pasture or paddock for grazing at a later period. Forage is often stockpiled for autumn and winter grazing after or during dormancy or semi-dormancy, but stockpiling may occur at any time during the year as a part of a forage management plan. Stockpiling can be described in terms of deferment and forage accumulation. (6)

Stover: The matured cured stalks of such crops as corn or sorghum from which the grain has been removed. A type of roughage. (6)

Stubble: The basal portion of the stems of herbaceous plants left standing after harvest. (6)

Supplement: A nutritional additive (salt, protein, phosphorus, etc.) intended to improve the nutritional balance and remedy deficiencies of the diet. (6)

Supplemental Feeding: The practice of supplying feedstuffs to correct nutritional deficiencies in an animal’s “natural” diet.

Vegetative: Non-reproductive plant parts, (leaf and stem) in contrast to reproductive plant parts (flower and seed) in developmental stages of

Appendix A: AGA Grassfed Supplier Affidavit

American Grassfed Association

AGA Grassfed/ Pasture Finished Supplier Affidavit

To be filled out by each supplier of animals to farms/ranches that are Certified AGA Grassfed or Pasture Finished.

Supplier

Farm / Ranch

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

AGA Producer Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Tier Rating of Member \_\_\_\_\_

Farm / Ranch name: \_\_\_\_\_

As a supplier of animals to an AGA producer, this letter serves as documentation that all animals provided to the above AGA producer have been raised in accordance to the AGA Grassfed and Pasture Finished Ruminant Program Standards. I acknowledge that I have read and understand the AGA Grassfed and Pasture Finished Ruminant Standards and that these animals listed below comply with said standards. Supplier further confirms that the supplied animals were raised in accordance with the tier rating of the AGA producer.

| Animal Ear Tag #<br>Or Brand | Livestock<br>species | Sex | Breed | Color Description |
|------------------------------|----------------------|-----|-------|-------------------|
|                              |                      |     |       |                   |
|                              |                      |     |       |                   |
|                              |                      |     |       |                   |
|                              |                      |     |       |                   |
|                              |                      |     |       |                   |
|                              |                      |     |       |                   |
|                              |                      |     |       |                   |

Animal Delivery or Transfer Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Animals Delivered or Transferred: \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that all statements made herein are true to the best of my knowledge.

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

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

plant growth. The non-reproductive stage in plant development. (6)

Vegetative State: Stage prior to the appearance of fruiting structures. (6)

Vitamin: 1) n. Any of various organic substances that are essential in minute quantities to the nutrition of most animals and some plants that act especially as coenzymes and precursors of coenzymes in the regulation of metabolic processes

6.1 References

(1). AGA Certified Ruminant Standards Livestock Program, 2006

(2). Feeds and Feeding; Arthur E. Cullison, 1979

(3). Cow-Calf Management Guide, Cattle Producer’s Library; Ag Communications Center, University of Idaho, The Fermentation Process and Silage Troubleshooting, Small Grain Silage for Beef Cattle, Haylage, Corn Silage

(4). A Guide to Cereal Forage for Profitable Dairy Management; RSI, Resource Seeds, Inc. 1998

(5). Ball, D.M., C.S. Hoveland, and G.D. Lacefield. 2002. P. 1-321. Southern Forages, Modern Concepts for Forage Crop Management 3rd. ed. Potash & Phosphate Institute (PPI) Norcross, GA

(6). Barnes, R.F., D.A. Miller, and C.J. Nelson. 1995. Glossary. P.487-501. In R. F. Barnes, D.A. Miller, and C. J. Nelson (ed.) Forages, Vol. I, An Introduction to Grassland Agriculture, 5th. ed. Iowa State University Press, Ames, IA.

(7). Merriam Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary. Tenth Edition is an excellent source for important words, including but not limited to: Browse, cereal, crop, dicot, forage, forb, grain, grass, graze, grassland, herb, herbage, herbaceous, monocot, pasture, range, rangeland, seed, silage, etc.

(8). VanSoest, P.J., 1994. Nutritional Ecology of the Ruminant. Cornell University press. Ithaca, New York. 476 pp.

Appendix B - AGA Approved Grassfed Supplements

AGA Supplement Guidelines:

*Note: AGA Supplement Guidelines only apply to AGA grassfed market animals and do not apply to breeding animals. Calves at side are considered incidental but may not be exposed to banned feed products.*

Consumption of hay, haylage, balage, silage, forage products, crop residue without grain and roughage while on pasture is not restricted by standard, 3.3.2 or 3.3.3 which limits the daily and total intake of approved supplements. Common roughage and forage products are listed below:

Roughage Products:

AGA defines roughage products as feeds that are ≥18% crude fiber (CF) and ≤70% total digestible nutrients (TDN) on an air-dry basis and are less than 5.5% crude fat.

- Almond Hulls or Almond Hull pellets or cubes
- Beet Pulp, Dry
- Corn Cobs
- Cottonseed Hulls or Cottonseed Hull pellets or cubes
- Cotton Gin Trash
- Peanut Hulls or Peanut Hull pellets or cubes
- Soybean Hulls or Soybean Hull pellets or cubes

Forage Products:

AGA defines forage products as those products derived exclusively from forage, see 3.1.2.

- Alfalfa cubes and pellets
- Forage cubes
- Grass cubes or pellets
- Hay from any forage
- Silage from any forage without grain
- 

AGA Approved Supplements and Intake Guidelines:

Feeding of approved AGA supplements must fall within the 1% lifetime total intake standard, 3.3.2, as well and comply with 3.3.1, feeding to ensure animal’s well-being during periods of low forage quality and inclement weather.

When supplements are used it seems logical that these supplements should be looked upon as substitutes or replacements for the pasture that is not available at the time. Thus, the supplements should be nutritionally comparable in the major nutrient content of the forage being replaced. The nutrients considered should be uniformly available (nutritionally speaking) and include; energy, fiber, starch and protein. Since most pasture grasses, legumes and mixtures contain 20% to 30% starch and sugars, it seems axiomatic that supplements should contain levels of starch and sugar along with a high level of highly digestible fiber. This rationale is that the ratio of starch/sugar: fiber content is an acceptable criterion for judging of supplemental feedstuffs. The goal of any supplementation would be to not change the nutrient profile of the product produced (e.g. beef, milk cheese).

The following list of approved supplements is not an exclusive list but lists supplements that have been approved by the AGA to date. The AGA Certification Committee may review and amend this list periodically. Supplements not listed below must be approved in advance by AGA’s supplements committee. Supplements that have an adverse effect on the nutritional quality or have negative health benefits on the animals fed will not be allowed.

Lifetime Intake Guidelines:

These guidelines are provided as an estimate of total intake for an average AGA grassfed steer or heifer.

- Year 1 total intake of 50 lbs. on a dry matter basis
- Year 2 total intake of 80 lbs. on a dry matter basis plus year 1.
- Year 3 to lifetime total intake of 120 lbs. on a dry matter basis plus subsequent years.



**AGA Approved Grassfed Supplements**

- Canola Seed, Canola Meal or Canola Meal pellets or cubes
- Coconut Meal or Coconut Meal pellets or cubes
- Cottonseed Meal or cottonseed pellets or cubes
- Cottonseed whole
- Flax Seed, Flax Seed Meal or Flax Seed pellets or cubes
- Linseed Meal or Linseed Meal pellets or cubes
- Malt Sprouts
- Oat Hulls or Oat Hull Pellets
- Peanut meal or Peanut Meal pellets or cubes
- Rice Hulls Rice Hull Pellets
- Soybean Meal or Soybean Meal pellets or cubes
- Soybeans Extruded or Extruded Soybean pellets or cubes
- Sunflower Seed, Sunflower Meal or Sunflower Meal pellets or cubes

**Molasses Products**

Molasses may be used as a carrier in mineral or vitamin blocks and tubs. It may be used as a binder or ingredient in pellets or cubes. Feeding molasses protein tubs to AGA grassfed market animals is prohibited. Molasses protein tubs may be fed to breeding animals as long as they do not contain any prohibited ingredients. Any tub or block that lists a protein % first on its guaranteed analysis tag is considered to be a protein tub. A mineral block or tub must have at least the first two ingredients on the product label listed as a mineral or source of a mineral and may not be molasses, plant protein or sources of protein, grain or processed grain by-products.

**Manufactured Feeds without Complete Ingredients Lists**

Many manufactured feeds list “Forage Products, Roughage Products, Plant Protein Products, Grain Products and Processed Grain By-Products as ingredients instead of the actual ingredient used. Manufactured feeds listing Grain products are prohibited in AGA grassfed ruminants.

Manufactured feed that lists Forage Products, Roughage Products or Plant Protein Products as an ingredient are allowed. Processed grain by-products may not be listed as the first ingredient and it is up to the producer to verify that the sum of the molasses products and processed grain by-products do not exceed 25% of the total ration.

**Appendix C - AGA Approved Grass Pastured and Grassfed Dairy Supplements**

**Approved Supplements for Grassfed and Grass Pastured Dairy**

The approved Grass Pastured and Grassfed Dairy supplements listed below, in addition to those listed above in Appendix B, must be fed in accordance with 3.3.3 for Dairy and 3.3.4 for Grass Pastured. The supplements below are not approved for AGA Grassfed.

- Brewer’s Grain
- Brewer’s Condensed Sol
- Distiller’s Grain
- Distiller’s Condensed Sol

*NOTE: It is up to the producer to verify that there are no trace antibiotics contained in brewers grain and distillers grain products which are routinely used to control bacteria in the fermentation process.*

**Appendix D – AGA Banned Feedstuffs List**

**American Grassfed Association Banned Feedstuffs List**

The following list of banned feedstuffs is not an exclusive list. The AGA Certification Committee may review and amend this list periodically. Grain Products in any form such as whole, ground, cracked, flaked or toasted. Grain products are defined as “Seed from cereal grain, caryopsis, see Grain:

- Barley

- Corn
- Oats
- Rye
- Rice
- Triticale
- Wheat
- Millet
- Sorghum

Urea and other non-protein nitrogen sources  
Milk replacer containing antibiotics, growth promoters and/or any animal by-products aside from whey and other dairy products.  
Animal by-products, aside from whey and other dairy products.

- Antibiotics
- Hormones