



VPP Beef Niche Market Cull Cow earns a premium BCS #3

# BEEF TRIM



Unworthy of selling into the VPP Beef Niche Market BCS #1

Sponsored by Pfizer Animal Health

Southwest Region

## Condemnation of Carcasses

(This is the first in a series to address the losses suffered by dairy producers from condemnation of whole or part of a carcass)

A common condition for condemnation/ loss of food product in cull dairy animals is Malignant Lymphoma. **Malignant Lymphoma** is caused by a virus known as Bovine Leukemia. This disease causes the lymph nodes to swell and can often be recognized visually.

Internal swelling may not be detected until slaughter. **Who has the "power" to condemn an animal?** A USDA veterinarian is the only person who can condemn an animal at the packing plant. If a carcass is in question it will be pulled from the line but has to be inspected by the USDA veterinarian. The sole reason an animal is condemned is that it is not safe for human consumption. Cull dairy animals need to be of the quality that you would feed it to your family.

**Extent of loss:** If there are signs of the disease the carcass is not safe for human consumption and is condemned.

**How do I know when to cull or when to euthanize a cow?** If the prospective cull animal is healthy she is a candidate for culling to market. If the animal exhibits signs of being sick and is not going to survive then she is at high risk of condemnation. Market animals need to be a good source of safe food.

**How can you prevent condemned cows at the packer?** Sound herd health programs in place can help to prevent diseases. Work with your veterinarian to make sure protocols are followed and that employees are trained to identify or look for

symptoms in cows, (labored breathing, tremors, high or low temperatures, etc.)

### Specific practices to help control Malignant Lymphoma:

The disease is viral and can be transmitted through blood or colostrum, (in vitro; ear tagging; gouge de-horning; surgical instruments; re-using needles; re-using obstetric sleeves). Diagnosis of malignant lymphoma is the detection of antiviral antibodies in the serum.

- \* Cows with the highest persistent lymphocytosis should be culled
- \* Separate new calves from Dams immediately following birth
- \* Needles and obstetric sleeves should not be used on more than one cow
- \* Disinfect all surgical/ blood contaminated tools, instruments
- \* Calve in a clean pen
- \* Feed colostrum from seronegative cows - feed high quality milk replacer
- \* Control, minimize biting insects

If you have any questions please refer to your herd veterinarian for more information and remember, that your veterinarian is very interested in any condemnation reports. These can be used as tool to help improve herd health!

SAMPLE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE  
FIELD OPERATIONS

CERTIFICATE OF ANTI-EMERGENCY OR POST-MORTEM DISPOSITION OF TAGGED ANIMALS  
The history of ownership of animals is generally unknown to this Agency; therefore this document should not be interpreted as a certification of origin of the animal or animals listed below.  
THIS CERTIFICATE IS VOID IF IT CONTAINS ANY ERASURES OR ALTERATIONS. Any space not used may be lined or crossed out by the person completing the form.

MP 4292029 - Ticket Number

AREA	ESTABLISHMENT NAME	EST. NO.	DATE OF DISPOSITION	SPECIES	
PA 1145 TR-13	CAVINASC PACKERS	675	7-6-11	Cattle	
TAD NOS. AND KIND	ADDRESS OR CONDITION	DISPOSITION			
150 553 00 050 US Retail	malignant lymphoma	condemned			
Government Carcass Number (1020)	Tag NUMBER	Hot Weight			
This is to certify that the animals bearing the tags described above were presented at the establishment named and that they were inspected and disposed of as indicated above in accordance with the Federal meat-inspection regulations.		SIGNATURE OF OFFICER IN CHARGE	DATE		
PFIS FORM 9000-13 (2/25/1998)		REPLACES PFIS FORM 9000-13 (7/90), WHICH MAY BE USED UNTIL EXHAUSTED.	7-7-11		

ORIGINAL TO ESTABLISHMENT



Animal Health

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