

Certified California Lamb – Born and Raised

Standard Operating Procedure

Lamb Identification and Segregation

PURPOSE:

To ensure proper identification and segregation of all Certified California Lamb animals, carcasses and boxed meat products throughout the entire production process.

SCOPE:

This Standard Operating Procedure will apply at all times when Certified California Lambs are being raised, fed, transported, staged, processed, stored, transferred, loaded and transported by all participating parties.

DEFINITIONS:

- *Certified California Lamb*: Lambs that have been born, raised and harvested in California. They must also meet the following quality standards:
 1. A yield grade of 3.9 or numerically lower
 2. Dressed carcass weight not to exceed 85 lbs.
 3. USDA AMS quality grade of Choice or Prime.
 4. Producer is a member of California Wool Growers Association
- *CCL*: Certified California Lamb.

PROCEDURES:

- Sheep producers who raise and sell lambs only from their flocks can ensure that no non-California born or raised lambs are included in their lots.
- These lambs can be identified by CWGA approved ranch tags or paint brands for program qualification.
 - Identification does not need to be program specific, so long as the method of identification can be determined as belonging to that producer.
- Producers must develop and maintain documentation that ensures properly identified lambs were in fact born and raised within California.
- Producers must fill out the related CCL Supplier Affidavit to include the number of head, specific ranch information and verification of program qualifications.
 - This must be on file with CWGA and a master list will be made available to processors and AMS for participating in the CCL program.
- CCL conforming livestock must be kept completely separate from non-California lambs.
- If CCL qualifying lambs and non-CCL qualifying lambs are mixed, the CCL program lambs must be removed. They can re-enter the program so long as the animal identification and related documentation is sufficient to verify that the lamb qualifies for the CCL program.

- When receiving lambs that qualify for the CCL program, suppliers must obtain appropriate paperwork that verifies the lambs' origin. Procurers can have the lamb suppliers fill out the CCL Supplier Affidavit
- Suppliers must fill out the related CCL Supplier Affidavit to include the number of head, specific ranch information and verification of program qualifications.
- If CCL and non-CCL animals are to be transported on the same trailer, producers must provide a trailer diagram to indicate where CCL program lambs are located.

PROCESSING FACILITIES PROCEDURES:

Livestock Pens:

- The CCL animals will be held in designated pens separate from other livestock.
- Each lot of animals will be identified as CCL on appropriate harvest paperwork.

Harvest Floor:

- CCL lots should be harvested separately from other, non-CCL lots.
- Between CCL and non-CCL lots, there will be 5 or more empty chain slots at the start and end of the CCL lot to ensure lot segregation.
- Any CCL lambs railed out for inspection or residue testing will be tagged with the lot number clearly identified so that the carcass can be returned to the CCL lot once released.

Carcass Coolers:

- CCL lots will be grouped together in the coolers.

Carcass Boning/Processing Rooms:

- Processing of CCL product should be done when no other non-qualifying program product is in the room to ensure product segregation and traceability.
- All product will be labeled CCL accordingly.

Product Storage and Distribution:

- CCL product will be tracked through storage and shipping by program specific product codes or CCL logo display.
- If room permits, CCL product will be stacked on separate pallets and identified.
- A CCL logo will be applied to the box end panel or carcass to identify the product as compliant.

RELATED DOCUMENTATION:

CCL Supplier Affidavit

REVISION HISTORY:

1/8/14 – Created.