

USDA



Verified Operations Registry

Lewis Family Farm

Essex, New York

The above named operation may undertake product certification in accordance with the requirements of the marketing claims, scope, and locations detailed below.

USDA Grass (Forage) Fed

USDA Grass (Forage) Fed Claim for Ruminant
Livestock and the Meat Products Derived from Such Livestock

Scope of Approval

Cattle (Beef)

Location (s) included under the scope

Lewis Family Farm, Essex, New York

Certificate No: VO1243DDA
Issue Date: October 01, 2011
Renewal Date: October 01, 2012

Diana Turnbull for James Riva, Deputy Director
Grading and Verification Division
Livestock and Seed Program
Agricultural Marketing Service

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**Livestock and Seed Program
Audit, Review, and Compliance Branch
Quality System Audit Report**

AUDIT INFORMATION

Applicant Name:	Lewis Family Farm
Est. Number:	N/A
Physical Address:	Whallons Bay Road, Box 145, RR1. Essex, NY 12936
Mailing Address:	Same as above
Contact & Title:	Martina Baillie, Farm Counsel and Administrator Sandy Lewis, Farm Owner Barbara Lewis, Farm Owner
E-mail Address:	Matina@lewisfamilyfarm.com ; sblewis@fastmail.fm Barbara@lewisfamilyfarm.com
Phone Number:	518-963-4206
Auditor(s):	Steve Ross, Lead Auditor; Samantha Simon, Program Manager
Program:	Verified Operations Registry
Audit Date(s):	August 31, 2011
Audit Identifier:	VO1243DDA
Action Required:	Yes
Audit Type:	Initial Audit
Audit Objective:	To verify conformance to the USDA Grass (Forage) Fed Marketing Claim Standard.
Audit Criteria:	<i>United States Standards for Livestock and Meat Marketing Claims, Grass (Forage) Fed Claim for Ruminant Livestock and the Meat Products Derived from Such Livestock (72 FR 58631), dated October 16, 2007, effective November 15, 2007.</i>
Audit Scope:	Observations, interviews, and record reviews of personnel, livestock, feedstock(s), and records in accordance with the USDA Grass (Forage) Fed Marketing Claim Standard.
Location(s) Audited:	Lewis Family Farm in Essex, NY

Lewis Family Farm (LFF) is located in upstate New York and is a rolling hill type farm. The LFF has been certified to the USDA National Organic Program since 2005 by NOFA-NY and is currently in good standing with NOFA-NY and the USDA National Organic Program. LFF is currently certified organic for crops and livestock; and the Organic System Plan was in place and being followed by the employees of the farm.

The farm consists of approximately 1200 acres of crops and pasture along with approximately 141 head of breeding cows and calves. The farm also had approximately 46 head of calves born in 2010 that were grazing on the fields. All livestock are on continuous pasture feeding during the growing season which is usually May – December.



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The crop portion of the farm consists of different blends of grasses and alfalfa with a rotation of winter wheat. The winter wheat is grazed in the fall after emergence and then the wheat is harvested the following summer. The harvested wheat is stored in onsite farm bins until it is sold off the farm. Records showed that all wheat has been sold to off farm clients and not fed to the livestock. Records also showed the amount of baled forages stored on the farm plus off farm sales of excess hay. The only consumables the livestock receive are salt and a mineral mix that does not contain grain(s).

Records are kept either in hard copy and/or entered into the computer. Identification of the livestock is done by EID tags applied to the calf within 72 hours of birth. Records reviewed verified all present and past calves as well as mother cows born on the property. Past records reviewed verified that the 46 head of calves born in 2010 had only consumed grasses during the growing season and baled forages during the non-growing season. The 2011 calf crop has only been on grass since birth, and pasture rotation records verified that the calves had not received any grain(s). The livestock have not received incidental supplementation through either inadvertent exposure or to ensure their well-being.

Interviews with the farm manager and other workers confirmed the farming and feeding techniques used and followed to ensure that the calves are indeed only grass fed. Personnel were familiar with the USDA Grass (Forage) Fed Marketing Claim Standard.

FINDINGS

Observations made, interviews conducted, and records reviewed verified that Lewis Family Farm is in conformance with the USDA Grass (Forage) Fed Marketing Claim Standard except as noted below. One minor non-compliance was identified during the audit.

VO1243DDA.NC1 – Minor The USDA Grass (Forage) Fed Marketing Claim allows for the feeding of hay, haylage, baleage, silage, crop residue without grain, and other roughage sources to be fed. *The LFF records did not show the amount of baled product(s) being fed to the animals during the non-grazing season.*

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the audit findings, the auditor of record recommends that the Lewis Family Farm be approved as meeting the USDA Grass (Forage) Fed Marketing Claim Standard and that LFF be listed on the on the USDA Verified Operations Registry.



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NOTIFICATION OF AUDIT RESULTS

November 2, 2011

The Grading and Verification Division has reviewed the results of the initial audit of the Lewis Family Farm (LFF). As a result of this review, we have determined that the LFF conforms to the USDA Grass (Forage) Fed Marketing Claim Standard, except as outlined in the "Findings" section. Consequently, LFF will be listed on the USDA Verified Operations Registry for one year, effective until August 31, 2012. In addition, LFF may market livestock and the meat products derived from such livestock as "USDA Grass (Forage) Fed".

Congratulations on this important accomplishment! Information regarding LFF's status is posted on the Grading and Verification Division website at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/ARCAudits>.

The approval is conditional based on submission of corrective actions addressing the minor non-conformance identified during the audit. Corrective actions addressing the non-conformance must be taken. The minor non-conformance must be addressed within **30 business days** of today to ensure LFF remains in good standing and continues to be included on the USDA Verified Operations Registry.

Please submit a letter detailing the corrective actions addressing the non-conformance, along with the supporting documentation, to Steve Ross, auditor-of-record, at steve.ross@ams.usda.gov. If corrective actions cannot be implemented within the required timeframe, then LFF must submit a plan detailing the corrective actions that will be taken and the timeframe for implementation.

LFF must remain in good standing with its third-party verifier(s). Significant changes that may affect LFF's status on the USDA Verified Operations Registry must be submitted in writing to the Grading and Verification Division, at ARCBranch@ams.usda.gov. Depending upon the nature and extent of the changes, a complete or partial on-site audit of LFF may be required. Minor changes need not be submitted.

Again, congratulations on this important accomplishment! If you or any other persons have questions, concerns, or comments regarding this audit, please contact me directly.

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