

USDA

Verified Operations Registry

United States Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing Service

Livestock, Poultry and Seed Program

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.

MARKETING CLAIM

USDA Grass (Forage) Fed Claim for Ruminant

Livestock and the Meat Products Derived from Such Livestock

SCOPE

Grass Fed Beef Cattle

LOCATIONS

Lew Family Farm, Essex, New York



Lauren Kavanaugh, Accreditation Branch Chief
Grading and Verification Division
Livestock, Poultry, and Seed Program
Agricultural Marketing Service

Certificate No: VO2324DDA
Issue Date: October 1, 2012
Renewal Date: October 1, 2013

This certificate is receivable by all officers of all courts of the United States as prima facie evidence of the truth of the statements therein contained. This certificate does not excuse failure to comply with any of the regulatory laws enforced by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (Rev. 04.05.04). To confirm the validity of this Certificate, please see the USDA Verified Operations Registry at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/ARCAudits>.

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Quality System Audit Report**

AUDIT INFORMATION

Applicant Name:	Lewis Family Farm
Est. Number:	N/A
Physical Address:	1212 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:	Martina@lewisfamilyfarm.com ; sblewis@fastmail.fm ; Barbara@lewisfamilyfarm.com
Phone Number:	518-963-4206
Auditor(s):	Steve Ross
Program:	Verified Operations Registry
Audit Date(s):	November 19, 2012
Audit Identifier:	VO2324DDA
Action Required:	No
Audit Type:	Surveillance Audit
Audit Objective:	To verify continuing conformance to the audit criteria; and to verify the implementation and effectiveness of corrective actions in addressing the previous non-conformance.
Audit Criteria:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>GVD 1050 Procedure, USDA Verified Operations Registry</i>, dated September 23, 2011; and • <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)</i>, dated October 16, 2007, effective November 15, 2007.
Audit Scope:	Lewis Family Farm's facility, storage areas, personnel, processes, procedures, and related records.
Location(s) Audited:	Lewis Family Farm in Essex, NY

Lewis Family Farm (LFF) is located in upstate New York. The LFF is certified to the USDA National Organic Program (NOP) by NOFA-NY and is currently in good standing with NOFA-NY. LFF is currently certified organic for both 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 130 head of breeding cows and 68 calves at side with 25 steers being fed out from last year's crop of calves. All animals are on continuous pasture feeding during the growing season of the pastures which is usually May–December. In the winter months, the animals are all fed baled hay in the “timber” portion of the farm.



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The crop portion of the farm consists of different blends of grasses and alfalfa. LFF currently has approximately 3200 bales of home raised hay and LFF has purchased an additional 500 bales of organic hay for a reserve stock. All animals were observed on the hay/pasture fields and had not been fed any hay as of the audit date. Records reviewed showed the amount of hay harvested from the farm and stored on the farm plus the amount of hay bought this summer/fall. Records showed that all wheat that was remaining on the farm from previous harvests had been sold to another organic producer and the actual grain bins to hold any grains had been sold and removed from the farm. Records reviewed also verified that LFF is keeping the log of hay inventories and also the amount of hay fed to the animals on a weekly basis to show consumption of hay. The only other consumables the livestock receive are salt and a mineral mix that does not contain grain(s).

Records are either kept 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. The 25 steers from the 2011 calf crop and the 68 head of calves from the 2012 crop were verified to have only consumed pasture grasses/hay and baled hay during the past winter.

Interviews with the day to day farm manager confirmed the farming and feeding techniques used and followed to ensure that the calves are indeed only grass fed.

FINDINGS

Observations made, interviews conducted, and records reviewed verified that LFF is in conformance to the requirements of the audit criteria. The corrective actions for the non-conformances identified during the previous audit were verified as being implemented and effective and the past non-conformance is cleared. There were no non-conformances identified during the audit.

VO1243DDA.NC1 – Minor – Cleared

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the audit findings, the auditor recommends that the Lewis Family Farm continue to be approved for meeting the USDA Grass Fed Marketing Claim and that LFF continue to be listed on the USDA Program website for Verified Operations.



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NOTIFICATION OF AUDIT RESULTS

January 14, 2013

The Grading and Verification Division has reviewed the results of the surveillance audit of the Lewis Family Farm Verified Operations Program for the USDA Grass Fed Marketing Claim. As a result of this review, we have determined that the Program is sufficiently maintained and meets the requirements of the USDA Verified Operations (VO) Program. Consequently, we are granting continued approval for one year, effective until October 1, 2013. Information regarding Lewis Family Farm's approval status is posted on the Grading and Verification website at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/ARCAudits> and by selecting the "Official Listing" link in the "I want to" section of the website.

The findings of the audit did not identify any non-conformances. No actions are necessary by Lewis Family Farms at this time. However, please note that any changes to the approved Program that may potentially affect the quality or integrity of the Program or products must be submitted in writing to the Grading and Verification Division, at ARCBranch@ams.usda.gov, and approved prior to implementation. Depending upon the nature and extent of the changes, a complete or partial on-site audit may be required prior to approval.

We look forward to working with Lewis Family Farms to ensure the continued success of the Lewis Family Farms Grass Fed Program. If you or any other persons have questions, concerns, or comments regarding this audit, please contact me directly.

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