

## **Cattle Council is in the final stages of finalising the Standards to underpin the marketing of Australian pasturefed beef.**

The following information represents an outline to the Standards in their draft form. Cattle Council encourages your feedback on the following information. Feedback can be directed to Jed Matz, Deputy Director, Cattle Council of Australia at [jmatz@cattlecouncil.com.au](mailto:jmatz@cattlecouncil.com.au).

The Pasturefed Cattle Assurance System (PCAS) is a beef industry owned, self-regulatory quality assurance system that was initiated by the Cattle Council of Australia and is managed by Agrisure.

### **PCAS Objective**

The objective of the PCAS is to maintain a 3<sup>rd</sup> party audited quality assurance system that houses number of standards which can be used by cattle producers to underpin claims associated with how their cattle have been produced.

### **PCAS Mission**

The mission of the PCAS is to assure consumers that Australian beef, marketed in Australia or in Export markets as Grassfed, Pasture Fed, Natural or Free Range (and their derivatives) is:

1. finished on or only fed Pasture<sup>1</sup> and has not been fed grain or grain by-products;
2. eligible to be sold as EQA/MSA beef;
3. has not been confined for the purposes of intensive feeding;
4. is fully traceable for the entire life of the animal; and
5. when advertised, is free from HGP's and antibiotics<sup>2</sup>.

### **Eligibility**

To be eligible to market cattle as accredited under PCAS a producer must:

- Be part of the Agrisure program;
- Have documented procedures in place which meet the requirements of one of the standards within PCAS;
- Maintain records that these procedures have been adhered to for all cattle sold as PCAS cattle; and
- Undergo a third party audit of these procedures, records and facilities on-farm.

### **PCAS DRAFT Standards**

Currently there are two draft standards that producers can choose to use under the PCAS, which are:

- 1. Pasture Finished**
- 2. Life-time Pasture Fed**

#### **Pasture Finished**

The elements for this standard are:

- For 100 days prior to sale cattle are not fed separated grain or grain by-products and have continuous access to graze pasture with the diet. The Diet is derived solely from forage consisting of grass (annual and perennial), forbs (e.g., legumes, Brassica), browse, or cereal grain crops in the vegetative (pre-grain) state for the lifetime of the ruminant animal, with the exception of milk consumed prior to weaning.
- Cattle are individually identified from birth and retain a Lifetime Traceable status.

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<sup>1</sup> PCAS offers multiple standards, one underpins cattle which are finished on pasture, another underpins cattle which have been fed pasture their entire life.

<sup>2</sup> This claim is not part of all standards in PCAS.



- Cattle are not confined for the purpose of intensive feeding for production purposes.
- Cattle are eligible to be accompanied by an Meat Standards Australia (MSA) vendor declaration.



**Life-time Pasture Fed**

The elements for this standard are:

- Cattle have never been fed separated grain or grain by-products and have continuous access to graze pasture with the diet. The Diet is derived solely from forage consisting of grass (annual and perennial), forbs (e.g., legumes, Brassica), browse, or cereal grain crops in the vegetative (pre-grain) state for the lifetime of the ruminant animal, with the exception of milk consumed prior to weaning.
- Cattle have never in their lives been treated with hormonal growth promotants (HGP) or antibiotics (including low-level (sub-therapeutic) or therapeutic level doses, sulphonamides, ionophores, coccidiostats, or any other synthetic antimicrobials).
- Cattle are individually identified from birth and retain a Lifetime Traceable status.
- Cattle are not confined for the purpose of intensive feeding for production purposes.
- Cattle are eligible to be accompanied by an Meat Standards Australia (MSA) vendor declaration.