

Missouri Red Angus Association

Fescue Belt Certified Program

The Missouri Red Angus Associations Board of Directors recently approved the “Missouri Red Angus Association Fescue Belt Certified” program as an initiative designed to promote Missouri Red Angus members genetics.



Official MORAA Fescue
Belt Certification Logo

Most of us who live in the “fescue belt” have experienced the problems associated with importing newly purchased cattle into our environment. What we’ve seen is a significant percentage of cattle that have not been raised on fescue struggle to perform after being imported onto this “grass we love to hate”. Some animals eventually overcome this issue, but many will not and will eventually be culled from the herd.

Fescue toxicity results from toxins called ergot alkaloids, which are produced by a fungus called endophyte that grows within the fescue plant. Cattle experiencing fescue toxicosis may exhibit rough hair coats, heat stress, suppressed appetite, poor growth rates, reduced reproductive performance, and in some cases lost tail switches or even hooves. The decreased animal performance seen during the “summer slump” of cool-season pastures is made even worse by these toxic effects of fescue.

Research on the subject of fescue management has been done for years. Several strategies can be used to mitigate the toxic effects of fescue, including removal or suppression of seedheads, overseeding of pastures with legumes or other forages, and good mineral supplementation programs. However, fescue remains a serious challenge. The USDA estimates fescue toxicosis costs the U.S. beef industry an estimated \$600 million to \$1 billion annually in lost revenue because of reduced reproductive and growth rates in cattle herds.

Missouri beef producers recognize the value of selecting cattle that are adapted to fescue. In 2016, University of Missouri Extension Geneticist, Dr. Jared Decker, was awarded a \$3 million grant from the USDA to evaluate genetic differences in cattle among regions. Decker and his colleagues are utilizing DNA markers to study the interactions between cattle DNA and the environment. The study is focused on DNA, hair shedding, and tall fescue forage. When complete, the data will be used to design region-specific EPDs.

The entire state of Missouri is situated within the fescue belt. Since fescue was introduced into our region, Missourians have built their herds retaining only genetics that have proven to be “fescue tolerant.” When looking for Red Angus genetics, look for the MORAA FBC logo & cattle that have “**Bred-in Fescue Tolerance.**”



Program Requirements

Enrollment Submission Process

Registered Cattle & Commercial Females

Animal RAAA registration number(s) or FCCP Tag number(s) should be submitted to the Missouri Red Angus Association (MORAA) via email to info@missouriredangus.com. The subject line should read "Fescue Belt Certification Request". Once a request has been received, the current MORAA FBC Coordinator will research each animal & deem them as being either "Qualified" or "Ineligible". The requestor will be notified by email with comments regarding why any ineligible animal failed to qualify.

Once an animal(s) has been deemed eligible, the MORAA FBC Coordinator will provide & allow placement of the MORAA FBC logo adjacent to its listing in catalogs, promotional materials, etc. Additionally, MORAA FBC Coordinator will provide program information sheet which should be used as a handout or catalog insert suitable to introduce & explain the program to your customers.

Eligibility Requirements – Registered Cattle

To be eligible, the animal's registration certificate must indicate all of the following;

- That the animal is registered with the Red Angus Association of America (RAAA).
- That the "Owner" be a Missouri Red Angus Association member in good standing.
- That the "Owner" operates within the described boundaries of the United States "Fescue Belt".
- That the "Breeder" operates within the described boundaries of the United States "Fescue Belt". See Exception for Embryo Calves below.
- That the "Contemporary Breeder" (if applicable) operates within the described boundaries of the United States "Fescue Belt".
- That the animal's certificate must indicate that it contains at least 50% Red Angus or more.
- No black-hided cattle will be eligible.
- Exception for Embryo Calves
 - If the animal was a purchased embryo, the "Breeder" may operate outside the described boundaries of the United States Fescue Belt.

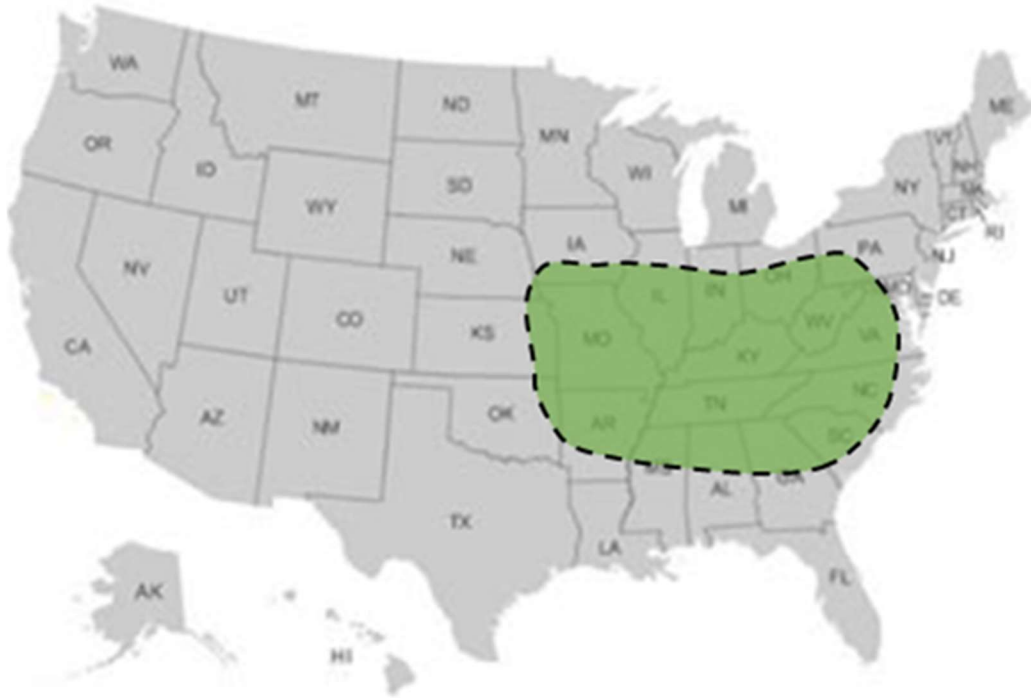
Eligibility Requirements – Commercial Females

- The producer must be a Missouri Red Angus Association member in good standing.
- No black-hided cattle will be eligible.
- The animal(s) must have been successfully enrolled in the Red Angus Association of America's FCCP program and be tagged with the RAAA FCCP tag.
- The animal(s) tag # must be included in the Tag Range Number on a FCCP Certificate of Compliance.
- The certificate must indicate that the Ranch/Customer's stated city and state are within the described boundaries of the United States "Fescue Belt".

Appeals for Program Eligibility

If the "Breeder" and/or "Owner" of record operates outside the described boundaries, the "Owner" and/or "Breeder" may obtain & submit a statement from their area Extension Agent (e.g. Livestock Specialist, Agronomist, or County Agent) stating that the breeder's and/or owner's grazing lands consists predominately of fescue grass. Any such statement needs to be on the submitting agents letter head and provide contact information.

Exhibit A



Detailed Boundaries

Missouri – Entire State
Arkansas – North of US 82
Kansas – East of US 75
Iowa – South of I-80
Oklahoma – East of US 169 & North of US 412
Tennessee – Entire State
Kentucky – Entire State
Illinois – South of I-80
Nebraska – South of I-80 & East of US 77
Mississippi – North of US 82

Indiana – South of I-80
Ohio – South of I-80
Alabama – North of US 82 & I-20
Georgia – North of I-20
South Carolina – West of I-95
North Carolina – West of I-95
Virginia – West of I-95
West Virginia – Entire State
Pennsylvania – South & West of I-70

Exhibit B

FCCP Certificate of Compliance Number: 8087

Red Angus Feeder Calf Certification Program FCCP Certificate of Compliance

This certificate is issued by the Red Angus Association of America's Feeder Calf Certification Program (FCCP). It documents that the cattle identified by the official Red Angus FCCP tag have been successfully enrolled. The Red Angus FCCP is a Process Verified Program (PVP) which is approved and audited by the USDA. Cattle enrolled in this program have been verified to the following Process Verified Points:



- * Traceability to at least 50% Red Angus Bloodlines
- * Source Verified to the Ranch of Origin
- * Group Age Verified

1. A. FCCP Tag Number Range: 2042778-2042841
B. (If applicable) FCCP EID Tag Number Range
2. The Birth Date of the first calf born for the above range of tag numbers: 07/28/2011
3. The 20 month harvest date on the above range of tag numbers: 04/27/2013
4. The 30 month harvest date on the above range of tag numbers: 02/27/2014

This Certificate of Compliance is issued to:

RAAA Customer: 079972

Ranch Name: BACHMAN CATTLE FARMS

Customer Name: BACHMAN CATTLE FARMS

City: CHILLICOTHE State: MO Phone: (888) 247-1112

This Certificate of Compliance is issued on: July 09, 2012

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John T. Smith".

Signature, Red Angus Marketing Programs Representative
16335 E. 103rd Avenue, Suite 202 • Commerce City, CO 80022-3103
(940) 387-3502 • FAX (888) 829-8089

