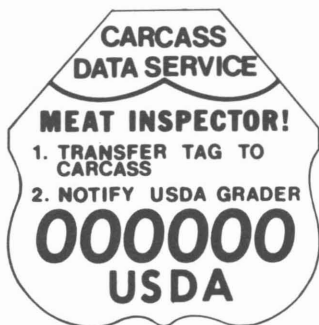


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# Beef Carcass Data Service



TEXAS AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE  
THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM  
John E. Hutchison, Director,  
College Station, Texas

# Beef Carcass Data Service



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Extension Meats Specialist  
The Texas A&M University System

## . . . IS

a joint USDA-beef and cattle industry cooperative effort to help cattle producers and feeders obtain data on important value determining characteristics of the carcasses their cattle produce.

This service, conducted in cooperation with participating cattle producer and feeder associations, agricultural organizations and the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, simplifies USDA's Beef Carcass Evaluation Service and is designed to provide carcass data to persons who may not own the carcass but who were financially interested in the live animal at some point during its development.

## . . . WORKS

simply and conveniently. Specially designed ear-tags used for official identification in this program can be purchased from the office of the Meats Specialist, Texas Agricultural Extension

Service, using the attached order form. Producers and feeders can apply these bright orange, shield-shaped, serially numbered eartags to those cattle on which they want to obtain carcass information.

When eartagged cattle are slaughtered, a meat inspector will remove the tag from the ear, attach it to the carcass, and notify the USDA meat grader assigned to the plant.

After the tagged carcasses have been sufficiently chilled, the meat grader evaluates quality and yield grade factors and records this carcass data together with the eartag serial number and slaughter date on a special carcass data form. The completed data forms are forwarded to the Agricultural Marketing Service's Carcass Data Center in Washington, D.C. The Carcass Data Center will process the data and mail it to the Meats Specialist, Texas Agricultural Extension Service, who, in turn, will send it to the eartag owner. These eartag owners will be billed for each completed data form received.

Persons planning to use the Carcass Data Service should realize that purchase of an eartag does not guarantee that carcass data will be received on every animal identified. Eartags may be lost—either prior to or during the slaughter process—or removed at any time during the production, feeding and marketing processes. When this happens, positive identity from live animal to carcass—the Key to the Carcass Data Service—is lost and data cannot be collected. However, the minimal cost of eartags, plus the fact that the charge for this service is not made until the completed data form is received, makes the financial risk of losing eartags negligible.

Feeder calf producers should keep in mind that most cattle today are slaughtered at 16 to 24 months of age. Thus, the calf producer may not receive the eartag carcass report for several months after he sells the animal. Feedlot operators who tag animals will receive the report in a short period of time after sale of the animal.

### **. . . WILL PROVIDE**

Producers with the following official USDA carcass data:

1. Conformation grade
2. Maturity
3. Degree of marbling
4. Quality grade
5. Fat thickness (tenths of inches)
6. Ribeye area (square inches)
7. Kidney, pelvic, and heart fat (percent)
8. Hot carcass weight
9. Yield grade

### **. . . COSTS**

\$ .50—for each eartag

\$ .75—for a tool for attaching the tag (you need only one)

\$1.50—for each completed carcass data report (payable only when completed report is received)

### **. . . CAN HELP**

by making a substantial contribution toward improving the genetic potential of breeding stock and improving feeding programs and management practices. The detailed carcass data obtained through this program can provide important guidelines in the production of high quality, meat-type cattle—those that combine thick muscling and a minimum of excess fat.

### **. . . CAN BE OBTAINED BY**

using the order blank attached to this publication. By sending a check or money order to the Meats Specialist, Texas Agricultural Extension Service, Room 322, Animal Industries Building, Texas A&M University. Please make checks payable to the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, Account 615.

### **REFERENCE:**

Beef Carcass Data Service Leaflet, Beef Imp. Fed.

*Detach along this line*

**—ORDER FORM—**

**BEEF CARCASS DATA SERVICE TAGS**

Tags are to be sent to: \_\_\_\_\_ Name

\_\_\_\_\_ Address

\_\_\_\_\_ City & Zip

Number

Amount

\_\_\_\_\_ Beef Carcass Data Tags @ \$.50/ea. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Tag applicators @ \$.75/ea. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: Dr. Frank A. Orts  
Extension Meats Specialist  
Room 322, Animal Industries Bldg.  
Texas A&M University  
College Station, Texas 77843

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