



**Dear Regenerative Renegade Producer,**

Our Lifetime Grazing Producer Protocol must be signed and returned to Thousand Hills every calendar year. Please email to: [wkehrer@lifetim grazed.com](mailto:wkehrer@lifetim grazed.com); OR mail to: Thousand Hills, 12925 Prosperity Ave., Becker, MN 55308

2022 Thousand Hills Lifetime Grazed™  
100% Grass Fed Beef Program  
Regenerative Agriculture  
Protocol Requirements

**Thousand Hills Lifetime Grazed Mission Statement:**

To nourish soil, plants, cattle, and people by holistically grazing cattle for their lifetime.  
Regeneratively Raised.™ Lifetime Grazed.™

**Memorandum from Matt Maier, Regenerative Renegade/Owner**

After 17 years of raising and marketing grass fed beef at Thousand Hills, I am grateful we finally have a language that accurately describes our collective passion: REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE. Let's all continue to work and learn to do everything possible to rescue our U.S. land, and thus, our food system.

We believe the many benefits of 'true' grass fed beef are only attained when cattle are on the land grazing on forage/grasslands with properly managed, holistic grazing techniques for their lifetime. This is why we don't allow: confinement feeding (except in extreme, short-term weather situations), GMO plants, grain and/or grain byproducts in our protocol. These conventional agricultural practices and feeds simply don't have a place in our Lifetime Grazed 100% Grass Fed Beef practices. In addition to the many benefits gained by properly managed grazing, we also understand consumers believe they are buying beef from Lifetime Grazed cattle when they purchase a product labeled 100% Grass Fed Beef. We simply want to fulfill that implied promise and certainly don't want to let them down or mislead them. Our hope is that if you've come this far to read this document, your values may align with ours. We are grateful for your land, soil, and cattle stewardship. After you review the contents of this document, if there are any questions please contact our Producer Liaison, Walker Kehrer at 310-699-4237.

Matt Maier

I. Naturally Raised (NEVER, EVER Antibiotics & Hormones)

A. No antibiotics

Use of antibiotics or ionophores, whether sub-therapeutic (low levels mixed in feed on a continual basis), or therapeutic (high levels injected for short duration) are prohibited for the life of the animal

B. No artificial/synthetic hormones or beta-agonists

Use of any growth hormones or implants are prohibited for the life of the animal

II. Pesticides/Herbicides/Insecticides

A. Allowed

- a. Spot treatment of invasive species in pastures (outside of grazing season) when all other options are exhausted.
- b. Treating non-grazed fence rows when all other options are exhausted
- c. Although currently allowed for extreme situations and spot treatment, TH strongly discourages the use of synthetic chemical wormers and fly control; insecticide tags and use of diesel fuel are prohibited. Please use natural options if at all possible. See Grass Farmer Supply for products.

B. Prohibited

- a. Glyphosate/Round-up in any situation
- b. Use of any synthetic chemical pesticides/herbicides during grazing or non-grazing season
- c. Use of any kind of insecticide ear tags or diesel fuel on cattle

III. Cattle Diet Requirements

A. Allowed in diet

- a. Calves must remain on their mother's milk for a minimum of 180 days (strongly prefer calves to stay on cows for 9 – 10 months.)
- b. Raw cow's milk
- c. Pasture forages:
  - i. Grasses (perennial/annual ryegrasses, orchard, timothy, fescues, native warm seasons, etc.)
  - ii. Legumes/forbs (Non-RR/Non-GMO alfalfa, clovers, chicory, trefoil, dandelion, etc.)
- d. Grazed summer and winter annuals (corn, rye, oats, barley, triticale, brassicas, etc.)
  - i. Seeds must not be developed when grazed (vegetative state only)
  - ii. Only non-GMO annuals can be grazed
- e. Non-GMO Molasses (Cane Sugar only - no Beet Molasses)
- f. Apple Cider Vinegar (either dry or wet)
- g. Any combination of the above list can be fed as stored forage (hay, baleage, silage, etc.)

B. Prohibited from diet (in feeds, supplements, or minerals)

- a. Grains & grain by products (distillers grains, wheat midds, corn gluten food, corn bran etc.), animal byproducts, fish byproducts, bakery byproducts, candy etc.
- b. DDGs (Dried Distiller Grains)
- c. GMO and Non-GMO Soy Hulls
- d. Mature corn silage
- e. Any GMO and/or Genetically Engineered plant or ingredient

#### IV. Carcass Quality and Consistency

- A. Visual inspection – all cattle must be personally inspected on the farm by a THLG representative, who will look for the following:
  - a. Proper genetic phenotype - typically found in 100% British breed cattle:
    - i. Black/Red Angus, Hereford, British White, Highlander, Shorthorn, etc.
  - b. Moderate frame, short, deep, thick, well-muscled
  - c. Small, dense cannon bones; small refined knee and hock joints
  - d. Broad flat back (top line)
  - e. Soft supple hide; healthy oily hair and skin
  - f. Functional endocrine system (glandular functionality)
  - g. Calm disposition/low headset
  - h. No Brahman (eared) influenced cattle
  - i. No Pure-Bred French Continental genetics (Simmental, Limousin, Charolais, etc.)
  - j. No Dairy cattle genetics or influence
  - k. No Bulls
- B. Cattle age and carcass weights
  - a. Fat Heifers 16 – 30 months, with carcass weight of 500-799 lbs.
  - b. Fat Steers 16 – 30 months, with a carcass weight of 500-799 lbs.
- C. Acceptable “finish”
  - a. No ribs showing
  - b. Tailhead fat
  - c. Cod fat – steers; udder fat – heifers
  - d. Distended heavy brisket
  - e. Minimum backfat of 0.15 inches
- D. Veterinary Treatments
  - a. All veterinary treatments, including, antibiotics, vaccines, and/or worming treatments must be recorded in a record keeping system, including ear tag numbers. This system must be available for inspection by TH at any time.
- E. Managed Holistic Grazing/Not Confinement Feeding
  - a. Ongoing (more than several weeks) feeding in confinement lots is prohibited. In severe winter weather or very wet weather, cattle can be fed on concrete, but cattle also must always have access to open pasture suitable for the number of head.
  - b. Cattle should always be able to naturally graze on the land—either dormant stockpiled during winter months or live forage during growing season.
  - c. Planned grazing management is required during growing season.
  - d. Always leaving ground cover and allowing proper rest for forages to regrow to previous state or better, depending on climate and weather conditions. Only graze 30-40% of the plant allow vibrant re-growth and photosynthesis.
- F. Low-stress Cattle Handling
  - a. Planned grazing is essential to condition cattle to the high stock density situations they will experience during transportation and at the processor.
  - b. Humane handling procedures in loading, trucking and restraint for slaughter are required.

c. We recommend attending a low-stress handling school ([www.stockmanship.com](http://www.stockmanship.com)).

V. Savory Ecological Outcome Verification Program (EOV)

- A. Annual visit to every farm/ranch to take data on the land
- B. Data that is recorded consists of short term (leading indicators) such as changes in biodiversity, amount of bare ground and organic matter incorporation and long term (lagging indicators) such as species composition, soil sampling and water infiltration.
- C. All farms/ranches must show improvement in these outcomes yearly to stay in the program.

VI. Source Verified

- A. All cattle should be identified with an ID tag, no later than weaning age.
- B. Each load of cattle must include a signed producer affidavit identifying each animal with breed, age, hide color, and ear tag #.
- C. Affidavits must accompany the cattle to delivery at the processing plant.

VII. Regionally Sourced

- A. Quality trumps geography. We would rather source great cattle a longer distance than inferior cattle nearby.

VIII. Terms of Sale

- A. Base price is approximately \$0.40 over the USDA published dressed steer price.
- B. Carcasses that fail to meet any of the following criteria will be discounted \$0.40/lb. HCW from quoted price.
  - a. Grade of Select 30 or higher, per the processor's assessment.
  - b. Minimum ribeye area of 9.6 square inches, per the processor's assessment.
  - c. Maximum carcass weight of 799 lbs.
- C. Cattle that are delivered without the TH affidavit properly completed will be discounted \$20 per head.
- D. Transportation costs are shared by producer and TH to Lorentz Processing, Cannon Falls, MN.
- E. Producer's share of transportation costs varies depending on the number of cattle per load.
- F. Payment will be made to producer within 15 business days.

VIII. Acknowledgement

On this date, I am entering into an agreement for the sale of livestock on credit to Thousand Hills, a packer, and I understand that in doing so I will have no rights under the trust provisions of section 206 of the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921 as amended (U.S.C. 196, Pub L.94-410), with respect to any such credit sale. The written agreement for such selling on credit provides that it will remain in effect until canceled in writing by either party.



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I have read and understand this protocol. I guarantee that all the cattle I supply to Thousand Hills Lifetime Grazed will be raised in accordance with the above terms and conditions. This guarantee will continue in force until I revoke it in writing.

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Farm Name

Individual Name

Signature

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Date

Phone (Home/Mobile)

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Address

City

State

ZIP