



**Thousand Hills Lifetime Grazed®
Lifetime Grazing Producer Protocol**

DEAR REGENERATIVE RENEGADE PRODUCER,

Our Lifetime Grazing Producer Protocol must be signed and returned to Thousand Hills every calendar year. Please return via email to: mschablitsky@lifetimegrazed.com OR mail to: Thousand Hills, 12925 Prosperity Ave., Becker, MN 55308

THOUSAND HILLS LIFETIME GRAZED VISION STATEMENT:

Rescue the U.S. food system from collapse by implementing regenerative agriculture practices nationwide.

THOUSAND HILLS LIFETIME GRAZED MISSION STATEMENT:

To nourish soil, plants, cattle, and people by holistically grazing cattle for their lifetime.

MEMORANDUM FROM MATT MAIER, REGENERATIVE RENEGADE/OWNER:

After 20 years of raising and marketing grass fed beef at Thousand Hills, I am so grateful we finally have a language that accurately describes our collective passion: REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE. We desire to do everything in our control to support your efforts/practices to rescue our U.S. land, and thus, our food system. Your long-term view and devotion to these practices are an inspiration to us and our consumers. Thank you for stewarding your land in such a way to leave it better than you found it for future generations!

Research shows the many benefits of regenerative agriculture are optimized 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 the following: confinement feeding (except in extreme, short-term weather situations), GMO plants, grain and/or grain byproducts (dried distiller grains) in our Producer Protocol. These conventional agricultural practices and feeds simply don't have a place in our Lifetime Grazed 100% Grass Fed Beef Protocol, Thousand Hills brand and values. 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 careful stewardship of land, environment and cattle. After you review the contents of this document, if there are any questions, please contact us.

Sincerely,

Matt Maier
Chief Renegade, Owner

Thousand Hills Lifetime Grazed®
100% Grass Fed Beef Program
Regenerative Agriculture
2024 Protocol Requirements

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 when all other options are **exhausted**. Grazing is prohibited in treatment area. Implemented area needs to rest until following grazing season.
- b. Treating non-grazed fence rows when all other options are **exhausted**. Grazing is prohibited in treatment area. Implemented area needs to rest until following grazing season.

B. Prohibited

- a. Glyphosate/Round-up in any situation.
- b. Use of any synthetic chemical pesticides/herbicides during grazing or non-grazing season. With the exception of II.A above.
- c. Use of any kind of insecticide ear tags or diesel fuel on cattle.
- d. Although currently allowed for extreme situations and spot treatment, TH **strongly discourages** the use of synthetic chemical wormers and fly control. Use natural options if at all possible. (See APPENDIX for resources including Holistic Livestock Supply as an option)

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. All diverse pasture grasses (perennial/annual ryegrasses, orchard, timothy, fescues, native warm season grasses, etc.)
 - ii. Legumes/forbs (Non-RR/Non-GMO alfalfa, clovers, chicory, trefoil, dandelion, etc.)
- d. Grazed summer and winter annuals (corn, rye, oats, wheat, 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 supplements or minerals)
- Grains & grain by products (distillers grains, wheat midds, corn gluten food, corn bran, etc.), animal byproducts, fish byproducts, bakery byproducts, candy, potatoes, etc.
 - DDGs (Dried Distiller Grains)
 - GMO and Non-GMO Soy Hulls
 - Mature corn silage
 - 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:
- Proper genetic phenotype - typically found in 100% British breed cattle:
 - Black/Red Angus, Hereford, British White, Highlander, Shorthorn, etc.
 - Moderate frame, short, deep, thick, well-muscled
 - Small, dense cannon bones; small refined knee and hock joints
 - Broad flat back (top line)
 - Soft supple hide; healthy oily hair and skin
 - Functional endocrine system (glandular functionality)
 - Calm disposition/low headset
 - No Brahman (eared) influenced cattle
 - No Pure-Bred French Continental genetics (Simmental, Limousin, Charolais, etc.)
 - Angus X is acceptable
 - No Dairy cattle genetics or influence
 - No Bulls
- B. Cattle age and carcass weights
- Fat Heifers 22 – 30 months, with carcass weight of 525-850 lbs.
 - Fat Steers 22 – 30 months, with a carcass weight of 525-850 lbs.
 - Heiferettes and Cows – over 30 months in specific situations, sorted at plant
- C. Acceptable “finish”
- No ribs showing
 - Tailhead fat
 - Cod fat – steers; udder fat – heifers
 - Distended heavy brisket
 - Minimum backfat of 0.10 inches
- D. Veterinary Treatments
- 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
- 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.
 - Cattle should always be able to naturally graze on the land—either dormant stockpiled during winter months or live forage during growing season.
 - Planned grazing management is required during the growing season.
 - 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 30-50% of the plant to 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 (See APPENDIX for resources).

V. 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 number.
- C. Affidavits **must** accompany the cattle to delivery at the processing plant.

VI. Regionally Sourced

- A. TH sources and processes cattle regionally to build resiliency in our supply chain.

VII. Terms of Sale

- A. Carcasses that fail to meet any of the following criteria will be discounted \$0.45/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 850 lbs.
 - d. Dark cutters and/or sloppy texture, per processor's assessment
- B. Cattle that are delivered without the TH affidavit properly completed will be discounted \$20 per head.
- C. Cattle were born and raised in the USA.
- D. Thousand Hills will provide trucking to the plant for potloads. For smaller loads, TH will reimburse \$/head for producer to truck to the plant. (check for latest rate)
- E. Payment will be made to the producer within 15 days from pickup/drop off date of cattle.

VIII. Third-Party Certifications and Verifications. Thousand Hills producers to become certified and verified across all below (B, C, D) within 12 months of selling initial cattle to Thousand Hills, if not already.

- A. American Grassfed Association (AGA) Certification
 - a. AGA uses the highest standards of animal husbandry in grazing programs to support healthy, humane treatment animal welfare
 - b. Animals graze a lifetime diet of 100% forage following an approved grazing management plan
 - c. Animals were never treated with added hormones or antibiotics
 - d. Animals born and raised on American family farms
 - e. 12 – 15 month recertification cycle
 - f. No confinement feeding, no GMO plants in forage and inputs,
- B. Audubon Conservation Ranching (ACR) Certification
 - a. The Audubon Certified Bird-Friendly Seal is a market differentiator certifying and validating the importance of holistic grazing and thriving ecosystems.

- b. Habitat Management Plan
 - c. Animal Health and Welfare
 - d. Environmental Sustainability
 - e. Annual farm visit and Habitat Management Plan (HMP)
- C. Land to Market Ecological Outcome Verification (EOV)
- a. Properly managed livestock have the potential to improve soil fertility, sequester carbon, restore hydrologic function and increase biodiversity.
 - 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. Ecological Health Index (EHI) score is the sum of the scores for each of the 15 indicators.
 - d. All farms/ranches must show improvement in these outcomes yearly to stay in the program.
 - e. Annual visit to every farm/ranch to collect EHI data on the land.

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.



Thousand Hills Lifetime Grazed®
Lifetime Grazing Producer Protocol

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.

Farm Name

Individual Name

Signature

Date

Phone (Home/Mobile)

Address

City

State

ZIP

APPENDIX

- mRNA Vaccines: many of our consumers are requesting that we provide an update regarding our position on the use of mRNA vaccines for cattle in our supply chain. In the past, Thousand Hills has allowed the producers to determine what vaccines to employ, if any. However, in the case of the COVID or any mRNA vaccine, due to the experimental nature and lack of long-term studies, we are prohibiting their use until further notice for all cattle entering our supply chain until more can be learned of their effectiveness, potential side effects and potential need for such vaccines in managing cattle herd health in general.

RESOURCES

- Holistic Livestock Supply aims to provide farmers with the tools to raise livestock holistically while reducing dependence on pharmaceuticals.
[Landing Page | Holistic Livestock Supply](#)
- Low Stress Cattle Handling School www.stockmanship.com
- American Grassfed Association Protocol: [Our Standards - American Grassfed Association](#)
- Audubon Conservation Ranching: [Conservation Ranching | Audubon](#)
- Land to Market Ecological Outcome Verification: [EOV™ Ecological Outcome Verification | Land to Market](#)