

Premium Gold “Natural” Angus Beef

- has NEVER been exposed to antibiotics or ionophores of any type
- has NEVER been fed or implanted with synthetic hormones or synthetic growth promotants
- All qualified cattle have been fed strictly a vegetarian diet (no animal bi-products)
- have met PGA standards for humane handling as outlined in PGA Humane Handling guidelines
- Are verified through random DNA testing to be genetically 50% or higher Black Angus with limited Brahman influence (less than 1/8).

FAQ’S & further definitions of “Natural” beef production for Premium Gold

1. Does “natural” mean the cattle haven’t had any shots?

In order for cattle to qualify as natural for the Premium Gold Angus (PGA) program they have NEVER received any treatment with **antibiotics**, or **ionophores** either administered as a shot or sub therapeutically which means fed in low levels to increase performance, feed efficiency and control production costs. HOWEVER, this does not mean they have never received a shot as part of their regular health protocols and to build natural immunities to bacterial and viral infections that may commonly occur in beef cattle.

In fact, PGA will not accept calves that have not receive proper immunizations and vaccinations as recommended by their local veterinarian, extension personnel or state approved VAC programs pre weaning and post weaning to ensure the health of the calves, which is reflected in our humane handling guidelines.

2. What if I have to give one or more of my animals antibiotics because they are sick. Does this mean all my calves in that group are not eligible for “Natural” status?

Calves qualifying for natural, have never received antibiotic, this does not mean all the calves will not qualify as naturals, providing a record of the individuals that were administered antibiotics was kept, and those animals are removed from the group and will not be harvested through the PGA natural program.

3. What is the difference between an antibiotic and an ionophore?

Ionophores are listed with the Food & Drug Administration as an antibiotic, therefore PGA has chosen to do the same. Commonly fed ionophores include Monensin (Rumensin), Lasalocid (Bovatec) and Laidlomycin (Cattlyst). Other antibiotics commonly used as feed additives include: Chlortetracycline, Oxytetracycline, Bacitracin, Neomycin, Bambermycin (Gainpro) and Viginianmycin (V Max). Our natural beef has been produced without the assistance with these or any other antibiotics or ionophores.

4. Are Coccidiostats allowed?

Providing they do not contain any ionophores or antibiotics as part of their ingredients. Feel free to contact PGA personnel for further clarification.

5. I feed my heifers MGA. Will they qualify as “Natural”?

No. Growth promoting hormones can not be fed or used as implants. Melengestrol Acetate (MGA) is commonly fed and is not allowed, just as other implants such as Synovex C, Synovex S, Synovex H, Synovex Plus, Compudose, Ralgro, Magnum, Finaplex S, Finaplex H, Revalor S, Revalor H and generic compounds of the above, etc. are not allowed. In addition, steroids cannot be used as implants or as therapeutic treatment.