

Table 1**Comparison of beef cattle husbandry practices for various welfare label programs**

Husbandry Practice	Animal Welfare Approved (Trust for Conservation Innovation)	Certified Humane (Humane Farm Animal Care)	American Humane Certified (American Humane Association)
Dehorning or disbudding	Prohibited: disbudding before 2 months of age ok; tipping horns permitted if no live tissue cut	Permitted: cautery paste if less than 7 days of age, hot iron with pain control at 2 months of age, pain control required after 2 months of age	Permitted: cautery paste if less than 7 days of age, hot iron with local anesthesia if less than 30 days of age, pain control required after 1 month of age
Confinement to feedlots	Prohibited	Permitted but not ideal	Permitted
Use of antibiotics	Permitted: only to treat sick animals	Permitted: only to treat sick animals	Permitted: only to treat sick animals
Access to the outdoors; access to pasture or range	Mandatory	Not required	Not required
Natural daylight	Mandatory	Not required	Not required
Electric prod use	Prohibited	Prohibited with exception: used as last resort if animal or human safety is jeopardized	Permitted: only use on hindquarters of animals over 6 months that are capable of moving
Castration	Permitted: banding before 7 days of age; Burdizzo clamp or surgical castration by competent person before 2 months of age		
NOTE: consent may be requested for immunocastration/chemical castration or to castrate after 2 months of age by an AWA-approved method	Permitted: banding before 7 days of age, before 6 months of age may use Burdizzo clamp, bands, or surgical castration all with pain control, after 6 months of age only surgical castration by a veterinarian under anesthesia/sedation with pain and bleeding control	Permitted: banding before 7 days of age, Burdizzo clamp or surgical castration by veterinarian under anesthesia, after 2 months of age only surgical castration by a veterinarian under anesthesia	
Tail docking	Prohibited	Prohibited	Not mentioned