

**[DA ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 10, S. 2008,
March 04, 2008]**

**GUIDELINES ON THE CERTIFICATION OF GOOD ANIMAL
HUSBANDRY PRACTICES (GAHP)**

The Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Product Standards (BAFPS) created pursuant to Republic Act 8435 or the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act of 1997 (AFMA) is mandated to formulate and enforce standards of quality in the processing, preservation, packaging, labeling, importation, exportation, distribution and advertising of agriculture and fisheries products.

Realizing the need on the liberalization of animal meat and meat products and the incessant need to compete in the international market, it is important that its safety and quality are ensured. The best approach to maintain the wholesomeness nature and safe consumption of the agricultural produce is to systematically identify and establish a management practice that minimizes chances of external and internal contamination from the farm-to-table chain. Consequently, the government has to develop and enforce the Code of Practice for Good Animal Husbandry (GAHP) throughout the country in close collaboration with stakeholders. To assure that agricultural farms are adhering to GAHP, there is an imperative need to provide specific guidelines in GAHP Certification.

1. Objectives of Certification - The certification of agricultural farms is aimed to attain the following:

- 1.1. To increase the market access of animal products both in the local and foreign markets;
- 1.2 To empower farmers to respond to the demands of consumers that specific criteria in the trade of goods to achieve food safety and quality be met;
- 1.3 To facilitate farmer adoption of sustainable agricultural practices;
- 1.4 To uplift GAHP-agricultural farm operators profile as member of the nationally recognized list of animal industry producers who are setting the benchmark for the production of safe and quality meat and meat products;
- 1.5 To enable consumers exercise the option of buying quality meat and products from traceable and certified sources.
- 1.6 To support and facilitate disease control program.

2. Scope of Guidelines - This establishes the rules applied by the Department of Agriculture (DA) for granting, maintaining and withdrawing Good Animal Husbandry Practices (GAHP) Certificate to individual raisers or farm operators in the livestock sector or to their Produce Marketing Organization (PMOs) that market and or trade the Produce.

3. Administrator/Administration

3.1 Composition - The Good Animal Husbandry Practices (GAHP) Certification Committee shall be composed of the Directors of attached agencies of the Department of Agriculture (DA), representatives from the private sector, non-government organization, and academe.

Chairperson:	Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI)
Co-chairperson:	Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Product Standards (BAFPS)
Members:	National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS)
	Livestock Development Council (LDC)
	Philippine Carabao Center (PCC)
	National Dairy Authority (NDA)
	Representative, Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Consumers Desk
	Representative, Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines,
	Representative, League of Cities and Municipalities
	Representative, Private sector
	Representative, NGO/PO
	Representative, Academe

3.2 Tasks. The Committee shall be tasked to:

- 3.2.1 Review and approve applications
- 3.2.2 Endorse to the Secretary a list of qualified applicants to be issued a Good Animal Husbandry Practices (GAHP) Certificate
- 3.2.3 Review and approve any changes in standards and fees
- 3.2.4 Hear Appeals
- 3.2.4 Annually review investigations of complaints about abuses in the production and sale of products that do not adhere to GAHP
- 3.2.5 Determine penalties for abuse of standards or mark
- 3.2.6 Designate qualified National and Regional Inspectors
- 3.2.8 To document best practices through time

3.3. Secretariat - The Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Product Standards (BAFPS) shall act as secretariat of the GAHP Certification Committee.

3.4 Inspectors - The National Inspectors based in the Central Offices shall be composed of identified technical personnel duly designated by the Directors of the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI), National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS), Livestock Development Council (LDC) and Philippine Carabao Center (PCC) and the Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Product Standards (BAFPS). Regional Inspectors replicating the

composition of the National Inspectors duly recommended by their respective Regional Heads, if any, shall be constituted as the need arises.

4. Application

4.1 Nature of applicants - The Department of Agriculture (DA) Certification Scheme shall be based on three (3) categories, depending on the type of party that is requesting certification.

4.1.1. Individual raiser

4.1.2 Produce Marketing Organization (PMO)

4.1.3 A company or corporation

4.2 The applicant shall submit the completed application form to the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture (DA) through the Secretariat.

4.3 Supporting Documents. Accompanying the accomplished form are:

4.3.1 Farm/Organization profile

4.3.2 Company/corporation Certificate of registration

4.3.3 Track record of the farm or company or corporation or PMO

4.3.4 For Produce Marketing Organizations (PMOs). The PMOs must illustrate that it has 100% control of the registered raisers of the group requesting for certification, all individual raisers operate under the same management systems and adhere to the Department of Agriculture (DA) Code of Practice for Good Animal Husbandry (GAHP).

4.3.5 For cooperatives - a registration certification from the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA)

4.4 Fees

4.4.1 The Certification Committee shall establish the guidelines to fix the application fees to cover administrative expenses.

4.4.2 The Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) and the National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS) shall conduct random and periodic tests or analysis and such cost (s) shall be borne by the applicant.

4.4.3 Traveling expenses for evaluation and audit shall be borne by the mother agency of the national/regional inspector.

5. Certification

5.1 Audit/Inspection

5.1.1 After the Certification Committee has evaluated the application, the Committee will notify the farm facility within thirty (30) days on the farm audit date prior to the certification or the renewal of the application

5.1.2 The inspector may take samples of animal tissues and products such as milk (if available without destructive sampling), feeds, water, manure and urine for testing. The quality of air shall also be measured using an equipment for this purpose. A receipt will be given to the producer and the producer shall not charge the GAHP Program for the sample taken. The applicant will receive a copy of the analysis conducted by the government agencies.

5.1.3 Inspectors shall conduct an "entry and exit" interview with the