

Asotin County Carcass of Merit Requirements (Revised 2017)

- 1 Hot carcass weight between 600 and 950 pounds.
- 2 Meet required rib eye area for carcass weight up to 775 pounds, 13.1 square inches 775 pounds and above.
- 3 Yield grade of 2.99 or lower for Low Choice, 3.49 or lower Average/High Choice, and 3.99 or lower for Prime Quality Grade.
- 4 Quality grade of low choice or higher.
- 5 Carcass free of major defects- Dark Cutter, Excessive Bruising, Etc.

Index Factor

For each Quality Grade above low Choice (CH-) add .8 to Cutability.

For each Quality Grade below low Choice (CH-) subtract .8 from Cutability.

What does all this data mean? Beef Carcass Terms

Hot Carcass Weight	The weight of the carcass immediately after being processed. For most steers, the hot carcass weight will be 60 to 65% of the live weight (Carcass weight divided by live weight). This percentage is often called the dressing percentage.
Dressing Percentage	Hot carcass weight divided by scale live weight
Adjusted Fat Thickness	Fat measured over the rib eye muscle at the 12th rib. May be adjusted upward or downward by the USDA grader.
Rib Eye Area	Area of the longissimus muscle measured in square inches at the 12th rib.
Required Rib Eye Area	The minimum size that the rib eye must be for the weight of the carcass. A 600 pound carcass requires an 11.0 sq. in. rib eye, a 700 pound carcass requires a 12.2 sq. in rib eye, etc For each additional 100 pounds of carcass, an extra 1.2 inches is required.
Percent Kidney, Pelvic & Heart Fat	The percentage of internal carcass fat around the kidney, pelvic cavity & heart.
Yield Grade	Identifies the percentage of boneless, closely trimmed cuts from the round, loin, rib & chuck. From 1.0 (best) to 5.9. Most show steers are yield grade 2's and 3's.
Quality Grade	The USDA grade that subjectively reflects the tenderness, juiciness and flavor of beef. Based on marbling (intramuscular fat) at the 12th rib and maturity. There is usually a premium paid for Low/Average Choice and higher steers. Steers grading Standard are severely penalized for lack of marbling. Standard grade- Traces of marbling (T) Select grade- Slight marbling (SI) Low choice- Small marbling (Sm) Choice- Modest marbling (Mt) High choice- Moderate marbling (Mod) Low Prime- Slightly Abundant (SL Abun.)