

<p style="text-align: center;">ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>SUBSTANTIVE POLICY STATEMENT</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">ANIMAL SERVICES DIVISION</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Shared Handling Infrastructure, F-Branding and Reporting Requirements for Healthy Sexually Intact Mexican Beef Cattle of Sonoran Origin Less than 18 Months of Age Consigned to a Designated Feedlot A.A.C. R3-2-612(G)(6)</b></p>	<p><b>DIVISION/ PROGRAM</b>      <b>ASD</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>SP24-03</b></p> <hr/> <p><i>Paul E. Brinkley</i></p> <p><b>SIGNATURE</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>October 9, 2024</b></p> <p><b>DATE</b></p>
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This Substantive Policy Statement is advisory only. A Substantive Policy Statement does not include internal procedural documents that only affect the internal procedures of the agency and does not impose additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties or include confidential information or rules made in accordance with the Arizona administrative procedure act. If you believe that this Substantive Policy Statement does impose additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties, you may petition the agency under Arizona Revised Statutes (“A.R.S.”) § 41-1033, for a review of the statement.

1. BACKGROUND

Requirements for tuberculosis testing of healthy, intact Mexican beef cattle (heifers or bulls less than 18 months of age) of Sonoran origin consigned to a Designated Feedlot in the state of Arizona must be conducted in accordance with Title 3, Chapter 2, Article 6 of the Arizona Administrative Code (“A.A.C.”), specifically A.A.C. R3-2-612(G)(6). That rule was adopted on August 19, 1983. The most recent amendment of the rule was effective June 8, 2020.

A.A.C. R3-2-612(G)(6) requires post-entry tuberculosis testing of all healthy, intact Mexican beef cattle imported for breeding purposes, unless consigned to a Designated Feedlot in which case the animals must be handled using separate infrastructure from the unrestricted feedlot population, F branded adjacent the tailhead and movement out of the Designated Feedlot to an official state or federal slaughter establishment must be documented by an accredited veterinarian. There is no public health or welfare necessity for post-entry tuberculosis testing of cattle intended for slaughter-only as there are already mechanisms in place during slaughter inspection for disease screening of carcasses regardless of breed and federal import requirements for brucellosis and tuberculosis testing of these classes of animal have already been satisfied and established that they pose no significant threat to the domestic livestock industry and have satisfied federal requirements for lawful import into the United States of America.

## 2. POLICY

Until further notice, and unless the Arizona Department of Agriculture (“Department”) receives evidence to believe that healthy, Mexican intact beef cattle less than 18 months of age that are imported for feeding/slaughter are being diverted for use as breeding animals, the Department will not enforce the requirement that Mexican sexually intact beef cattle be tuberculosis tested if such cattle are consigned to a licensed, Designated Feedlot feeding over 10,000 head per year with restricted feeding pens approved by the Department and subsequently sent directly for slaughter. Additionally, the designated animal handling infrastructure and F-brand requirements will be waived and monthly movement reporting to the Department will be the responsibility of the person designated in the approved feedlot agreement.

## 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Substantive Policy Statement is effective as of the date indicated above.