



NEW BRITISH WAGYU ASSURANCE SCHEME
“WBA-Approved British Wagyu”
“Fully WBA Assured British Wagyu”

INTRODUCTION

The British Wagyu Breeders Association (WBA) is establishing a British Wagyu Assurance Scheme from 1st July 2020. It includes a published set of rules for Members to adhere to in order to be able to sell under its auspices. Members fulfilling the criteria may display the WBA Approved British Wagyu / Fully WBA Assured British Wagyu logo (*pictured above*) at their premises, on their marketing materials, product packaging, and will have their animals listed publicly on the British Wagyu website. They will also receive a certificate confirming their membership of the scheme for the year in question.

The scheme will:

- Lead the industry in terms of traceability, animal welfare and consumer trust
- Enhance the integrity and value of premium Wagyu beef
- Be at the forefront of data collection for meat quality, performance efficiency and climate change
- Increase the profile and demand for British Wagyu

Integral to the success of the scheme are data collection and analysis which will underpin the financial return on investment. With a world-leading partner in place to carry out DNA and genomic testing, and with access to carcass and performance data linking back to all sires, producers will quickly have at their fingertips a valuable marketing and breeding tool to maximise efficiency and profitability as well as ticking wider environmental boxes. From the outset, these will include standard carcass information such as days to slaughter, DLWG, carcass weight, killing-out %, and over time will expand to key economic traits like retail yield and feed efficiency. In the short term, important management factors such as calving ease, birthweight, gestation length and (semen) fertility can be incorporated with the longer-term ambition being to add marbling (marble score and fineness), tenderness and taste into the equation.



SCHEME RULES

i) Must be paid-up Member of the British Wagyu Assurance Scheme for the year in question. Membership year runs 1st July-30th June.

Note 1. Full Membership £330+VAT pa for those wishing to register Fullblood animals with our partner the Australian Wagyu Association (AWA)

Note 2. Commercial Membership £115+VAT pa for all those within the supply chain (producers, rearers, growers, finishers, processors and retailers)

ii) All animals to have at least 50% Wagyu content and sired by a DNA-verified and registered Fullblood Wagyu bull. Dams to be either dairy-bred or native breeds
Note, pedigree certificate and DNA profile of sire must be lodged with WBA

iii) All animals to be born in United Kingdom (England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland)

iv) All animals to be tagged with British Wagyu-branded approved Caisley DNA tissue-punch tags incorporating liquid (rather than dessicate) tissue vial.

Note 1. Caisley have produced a leaflet showing all available Wagyu tag combos, prices and how to order. Members to order and pay for tags direct with Caisley. T: 01765-530296, E: sales@caisleytags.co.uk W: www.caisleytags.co.uk. Each new customer receives a free tag applicator and vial storage box with their first order

Note 2. EID tags are not mandatory but it is recommended that Members consider this option in view of the likelihood that this will be compulsory next year

Note 3. You can choose to order an additional BVD tissue tag at the time of order and, if so, you will be asked to specify the BVD testing lab so the appropriate envelope can be sent out with the tag order

v) All animals to be BVD tested virus negative

Note 1. As above, Members can choose to order a BVD tissue tag at the time they order their DNA tag. Alternatively, Members may BVD test their animals separately

vi) All animals to be DNA sire verified

Note 1. Animals born before 1st July 2020 must be DNA sire verified

Note 2. Tissue vials for crossbred calves are to be sent in the envelope provided for DNA testing to the WBA. WBA invoices Member direct



Note 3. Tissue vials for Fullblood calves are to be sent direct to Neogen, Ayr for both sire AND dam verification as required by AWA for Fullblood registration. Neogen/AWA invoices Member direct. Please see separate guide to registering Fullblood calves.

vii) Audit/Red Tractor

Scheme is subject to audit as required by WBA and its appointed agents from time to time. All holdings to be working towards whole-life Red Tractor assured status and WBA to have sight of annual Red Tractor report

viii) Minimum age at slaughter 22 months; no maximum age

Note 1. No animals to be slaughtered before 22 months or as entire males. Where castration of male animals is required, both local anaesthesia and longer-term pain relief (eg non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug) must be used

ix) All non-breeding stock to be dehorned; bull calves castrated

Note 1. Dehorning or disbudding may also be required where there presents a risk of injury to the animal or other animals. When disbudding or dehorning is required, animals must receive both local anaesthesia and longer-term pain relief (eg non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug). And calves must be disbudded before 8 weeks of age

x) Sales costs

Note 1. Use of the British Wagyu Assured logo on product packaging is subject to a royalty fee of £0.02 + VAT per kilo to be invoiced and paid quarterly/annually by arrangement

xi) Marbling & Marble Score Recording

It is stated aim of the scheme to introduce marbling score cards based on the AUS-MEAT 1-10 grading range, and/or MIJ (Meat Image Japan) carcass camera technology at an approved abattoir along with minimum guidelines for marble score