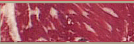




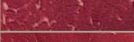


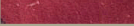


# CANADA/US MARBLING & QUALITY GRADE STANDARDS\*

CANADA	MARBLING SCORE		USA
<b>Canada Prime</b>	Abundant		<b>USDA Prime</b>
	Moderately Abundant		
	<b>Slightly Abundant†</b>		
<b>Canada AAA</b>	Moderate		<b>USDA Choice</b>
	Modest		
	<b>Small†</b>		
<b>Canada AA</b>	<b>Slight†</b>		<b>USDA Select</b>
<b>Canada A</b>	<b>Trace</b>		<b>USDA Standard</b>
	Practically Devoid		

GRADE	Prime	AAA	AA	A
<b>OFFICIAL CANADIAN BEEF GRADE SYMBOL</b>				

Grade	Marbling**	Maturity	Meat Colour	Fat Colour	Muscling	Meat Texture
<b>CANADA</b>						
<b>Prime</b>	Slightly abundant	Youthful	Bright red only	No yellow fat permitted	Good muscling or better	Firm only
<b>AAA</b>	Small	Youthful	Bright red only	No yellow fat permitted	Good muscling or better	Firm only
<b>AA</b>	Slight	Youthful	Bright red only	No yellow fat permitted	Good muscling or better	Firm only
<b>A</b>	Trace	Youthful	Bright red only	No yellow fat permitted	Good muscling or better	Firm only
Grade	Marbling**	Maturity	Meat Colour	Fat Colour	Muscling	Meat Texture
<b>UNITED STATES</b>						
<b>Prime</b>	Slightly abundant	A and B maturity	Light red	Yellow fat permitted	No minimum requirement	Moderately firm
<b>Choice</b>	Small	A and B maturity	Dark cutters permitted	Yellow fat permitted	No minimum requirement	Slightly firm
<b>Select</b>	Slight	A maturity	Dark cutters permitted	Yellow fat permitted	No minimum requirement	Slightly soft
<b>Standard</b>	Practically devoid	A and B maturity	Dark cutters permitted	Yellow fat permitted	No minimum requirement	Soft

\* The Canadian marbling standards were changed in 1996 to mirror the copyrighted marbling standards of the United States. The minimum marbling standards used for USDA Prime (slightly abundant), Choice (small) and Select (slight) are the same minimum standards used in Canada to segregate the youthful quality carcasses into Canada Prime, AAA and AA respectively.

\*\* Minimum marbling permitted for quality grade class.

† The above illustrations are reduced reproductions of the official USDA Marbling photographs prepared for the U.S. Department of Agriculture by and available from the National Cattleman's Beef Association.