



Virginia  
Regulatory  
Town Hall

## Periodic Review and Retention of Existing Regulations Agency Background Document

<b>Agency Name:</b>	Agriculture and Consumer Services
<b>VAC Chapter Number:</b>	2 VAC 5-280
<b>Regulation Title:</b>	Virginia Grade Standards for Slaughter and Feeder Lambs
<b>Action Title:</b>	Review
<b>Date:</b>	July 7, 2000

This information is required pursuant to the Administrative Process Act § 9-6.14:25, Executive Order Twenty-Five (98), and Executive Order Fifty-Eight (99) which outline procedures for periodic review of regulations of agencies within the executive branch. Each existing regulation is to be reviewed at least once every three years and measured against the specific public health, safety, and welfare goals assigned by agencies during the promulgation process.

This form should be used where the agency is planning to retain an existing regulation.

### Summary

*Please provide a brief summary of the regulation. There is no need to state each provision; instead give a general description of the regulation and alert the reader to its subject matter and intent.*

This regulation establishes official standards by which agency personnel may evaluate the overall quality of slaughter and feeder lambs when requested by Virginia lamb producers.

### Basis

*Please identify the state and/or federal source of legal authority for the regulation. The discussion of this authority should include a description of its scope and the extent to which the authority is mandatory or discretionary. Where applicable, explain where the regulation exceeds the minimum requirements of the state and/or federal mandate.*

The authority for this regulation is contained in § 3.1-338 of the Code of Virginia. That Section of the Code authorizes and empowers the Director of the Division of Marketing of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, with approval of the Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services, to establish and promulgate grades for agricultural products that will indicate quality, condition and other characteristics; and to prescribe and promulgate rules and regulations governing the voluntary use of such grades. There are no federal or state mandates for this regulation.

**Public Comment**

*Please summarize all public comment received as the result of the Notice of Periodic Review published in the Virginia Register and provide the agency response. Where applicable, describe critical issues or particular areas of concern in the regulation. Also please indicate if an informal advisory group was formed for purposes of assisting in the periodic review.*

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One comment was received from a sheep producer and one comment from the operator of a livestock auction market. Both comments were favorable and stated it is important to have these grades and for Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services personnel to be able to apply them in an unbiased third party capacity. No informal advisory group was formed to assist in this periodic review.

**Effectiveness**

*Please provide a description of the specific and measurable goals of the regulation. Detail the effectiveness of the regulation in achieving such goals and the specific reasons the agency has determined that the regulation is essential to protect the health, safety or welfare of citizens. Please assess the regulation's impact on the institution of the family and family stability. In addition, please indicate whether the regulation is clearly written and easily understandable by the individuals and entities affected.*

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The specific and measurable goals of the regulation are:

1. The protection of the public's health, safety, and welfare with the least possible cost and intrusiveness to the citizens and businesses of the Commonwealth.

2. To establish official grade standards for slaughter and feeder lambs by which their potential value to processors and feeders may be determined.

The regulation is effective in achieving the goals. The Virginia Grade Standards for Slaughter and Feeder Lambs have been an effective tool used to determine the value of slaughter and feeder lambs to processors and feeders respectively.

The regulation is essential to protect the welfare of citizens because the raising and marketing of slaughter lambs and feeder lambs makes a significant contribution to the state’s agriculture economy. The practice of marketing lambs through organized, state-graded sales has been in use for decades and continues to serve Virginia’s sheep industry effectively. The regulation provides the needed criteria for quality specifications by which slaughter and feeder lambs may be grouped into marketable lots.

The regulation has no impact on the institution of the family and family stability.

The regulation is clearly written and easily understandable by the individuals and entities affected.

**Alternatives**

*Please describe the specific alternatives for achieving the purpose of the existing regulation that have been considered as a part of the periodic review process. This description should include an explanation of why such alternatives were rejected and this regulation reflects the least burdensome alternative available for achieving the purpose of the regulation.*

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The alternative considered is to use only the USDA standards, but these do not package lambs into acceptable weight categories like the Virginia Standards. The Virginia standards are accepted by industry and applied by un-biased third party officials. The standards established in this regulation are applied when the service is requested by the lamb producer. This regulation reflects the least burdensome alternative available for achieving the purpose of the regulation.

**Recommendation**

*Please state that the agency is recommending that the regulation should stay in effect without change.*

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The agency is recommending that the regulation should stay in effect without change.

**Family Impact Statement**

*Please provide an analysis of the regulation's impact on the institution of the family and family stability including the extent to which it: 1) strengthens or erodes the authority and rights of parents in the education, nurturing, and supervision of their children; 2) encourages or discourages economic self-sufficiency, self-pride, and the assumption of responsibility for oneself, one's spouse, and one's children and/or elderly parents; 3) strengthens or erodes the marital commitment; and 4) increases or decreases disposable family income.*

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This regulation has no impact upon families.