

FACT SHEET

AUS-MEAT Language Changes 2026

ANGUS BREED RAISING CLAIM CRITERIA



Angus Breed Claim Criteria

The *Angus Breed Claim Criteria* set out the standards that beef products must meet to be marketed, labelled, or traded using Angus trade descriptions. These criteria are established under the *Animal Raising Claims Framework for Beef Production in Australia* and are administered by the *Australian Meat Industry Language and Standards Committee (AMILSC)* and AUS-MEAT, to uphold the integrity, accuracy, and consistency of breed-related trade claims.

They specify the minimum genetic composition, physical (phenotypic) traits, and labelling standards necessary for cattle and beef products to legitimately bear an Angus designation or animal raising claim.

Animal Raising Claims

An Animal Raising Claim refers to a statement included in the Trade Description or export documentation that pertains to specific aspects of the animal or supply chain such as husbandry practices, breed, feeding regime, handling methods, drug treatments and/or geographical origin. The Commonwealth Department oversees the implementation of the *Export Control (Meat & Meat Products) Rules 2021* which assign the responsibility for Trade Description to AUS-MEAT.

The *Animal Raising Claim Framework for Beef Production Systems in Australia* is a dynamic document developed by the AMILSC which is designed to evolve with industry practices, market access and regulatory requirements.



KEY POINTS

- Accurate and unambiguous trade descriptions must be applied to all Angus products.
- The application of trade descriptions for branded products is overseen by AUS-MEAT.
- AMILSC has approved the introduction of an Angus 50 program. This program meets the minimum requirements of major export markets including the USA, with the Angus 50 program consistent with USDA's minimum livestock specification requirements.
- There is no change to the current Angus 75 and Angus 100 programs.
- Livestock producers need to ensure cattle parentage is accurately declared on Vendor Declarations to ensure cattle eligibility criteria for Angus branded beef programs.
- Meat Processors that develop Angus branded programs must continue to develop a Livestock Sourcing Program and seek approval of the program by AUS-MEAT.

Changes to Angus Breed Claim Criteria

AMILSC has updated the *Animal Raising Claims Framework for Beef Production in Australia*, revising the criteria for Angus breed claims on meat products.

The most significant change is the formal adoption of a 50% minimum Angus breed content requirement for meat products packed, labelled and marketed as Angus 50 or Angus F1. This update aligns Australia's standards with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), which also allow Angus claims for cattle with at least 50% Angus genetics, as defined by the American Angus Association's specifications.

Existing programs requiring 75% and 100% Angus content remain unchanged, continuing with the same phenotypic criteria.

Angus Breed Raising Claim categories

There are three (3) approved categories for Angus parentage claims, each defined by a minimum breed content threshold:

- **Angus 50 (F1)** – At least 50% Angus parentage
- **Angus 75 (F2)** – At least 75% Angus parentage
- **Angus 100 (Pure Angus)** – Full (100%) Angus parentage

What does this mean for producers?

Accurate breed identification and documentation remain critical when completing the National Vendor Declaration (NVD). With the introduction of the Angus 50 program, producers must now pay closer attention to recording parentage details to ensure cattle meet the eligibility criteria for branded beef programs, and in turn, maximise the value proposition of beef from the farm gate to market. Maintaining accurate breed records is essential for regulatory compliance, market access and supporting the continued strength of Angus-branded programs both domestically and internationally.



Table 1 outlines example breed descriptions required for eligibility across various Angus programs.

TABLE 1 – Example Angus breed descriptions

ANGUS PROGRAM	BREED DESCRIPTIONS (LPA NVD)
Angus 50	Angus 50, Angus F1, Angus X Hereford, AA X HH, AA X
Angus 75	Angus 75, Angus F2, Angus X Angus*Hereford, AA X AA*HH, AA X AA*
Angus 100	Angus 100, Angus, Purebred Angus, Black Angus

What does this mean for meat processors packing Angus products?

For meat processors, a thorough understanding of the Angus breed requirements is essential when developing branded beef programs. Accurate application of trade descriptions (such as Angus 50, Angus 75, or Angus 100) is crucial to ensure cattle meet the minimum parentage and phenotype standards prescribed by AUS-MEAT. By aligning brand specifications with the approved Angus criteria and consistently applying the correct trade descriptions to each consignment, processors help safeguard the integrity of Angus-branded beef, reinforce consumer trust, and maintain regulatory compliance across domestic and export markets.

WHAT ARE TRADE DESCRIPTIONS?

Trade descriptions are standardised official terms used to describe products presented for sale.

In the meat industry, trade descriptions are applied to meat cartons in the form of product labels, promoting consistency and transparency throughout the supply chain.

Oversight of trade descriptions is provided by AUS-MEAT, with all trade descriptions utilised at AUS-MEAT accredited processing establishments subject to formal review. Compliance is maintained through regular audits, ensuring the integrity and accuracy of product claims in both domestic and international markets.

WHAT TRADE DESCRIPTIONS APPLY TO ANGUS PRODUCTS?

For Angus breed claims the approved Trade Descriptions in **Table 2** are permitted for use on Angus meat products.

TABLE 2 – Approved Angus Trade Descriptions

MINIMUM PARENTAGE	Approved Trade Description (Labelling)								
	Angus Composite	Angus F1	Angus 50	Angus F2	Angus 75	Angus	Pure Angus	Black Angus	Angus 100
Angus 50 (minimum 50% parentage)	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Angus 75 (minimum 75% parentage)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Angus 100 (minimum 100% parentage)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Note: The table reflects that product sourced from higher percentage parentage cattle may be downgraded.

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