

# What is BQA's purpose?

**To ensure all consumers that all cattle are raised in a responsible manner ensuring safe, wholesome and healthy beef.**

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# What is BQA?

- ▶ **Beef industry's voluntary quality control program**
- ▶ **Collaborative efforts between all beef producers, veterinarians, nutritionists, extension livestock specialists, agronomists, academia, etc.**
- ▶ **Youth Organizations: FFA and 4-H**
- ▶ **Safety, Quality & Wholesomeness of beef**
  - **Regardless of type, breed, age, sex, color - it's BEEF**
  - ▶ **Thoughtful, responsible cattle management producing safe, wholesome and healthy beef**
- ▶ **This program is brought to you by beef producers through the \$1 per head Beef Checkoff Program**

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# Why BQA?

- ▶ **The certified individual accepts responsibility for actions under which cattle on their production unit are produced**
- ▶ **To ensure all consumers that all cattle are raised in a responsible manner ensuring safe, wholesome and healthy beef**
- ▶ **The ranch manager is not the only person who should know about best management practices**

# Pillars of Success - BQA Audit

- ▶ **An industry-wide scorecard provides direction to key decision makers to improve quality and value of beef supply**
- ▶ **Identifying and correcting quality shortfalls will lead to greater profitability through greater demand**
- ▶ **A roadmap to drive all members of the beef industry forward**

# Audit Timeline

## Ranked Quality Challenges & Changes (1991 - 2011)

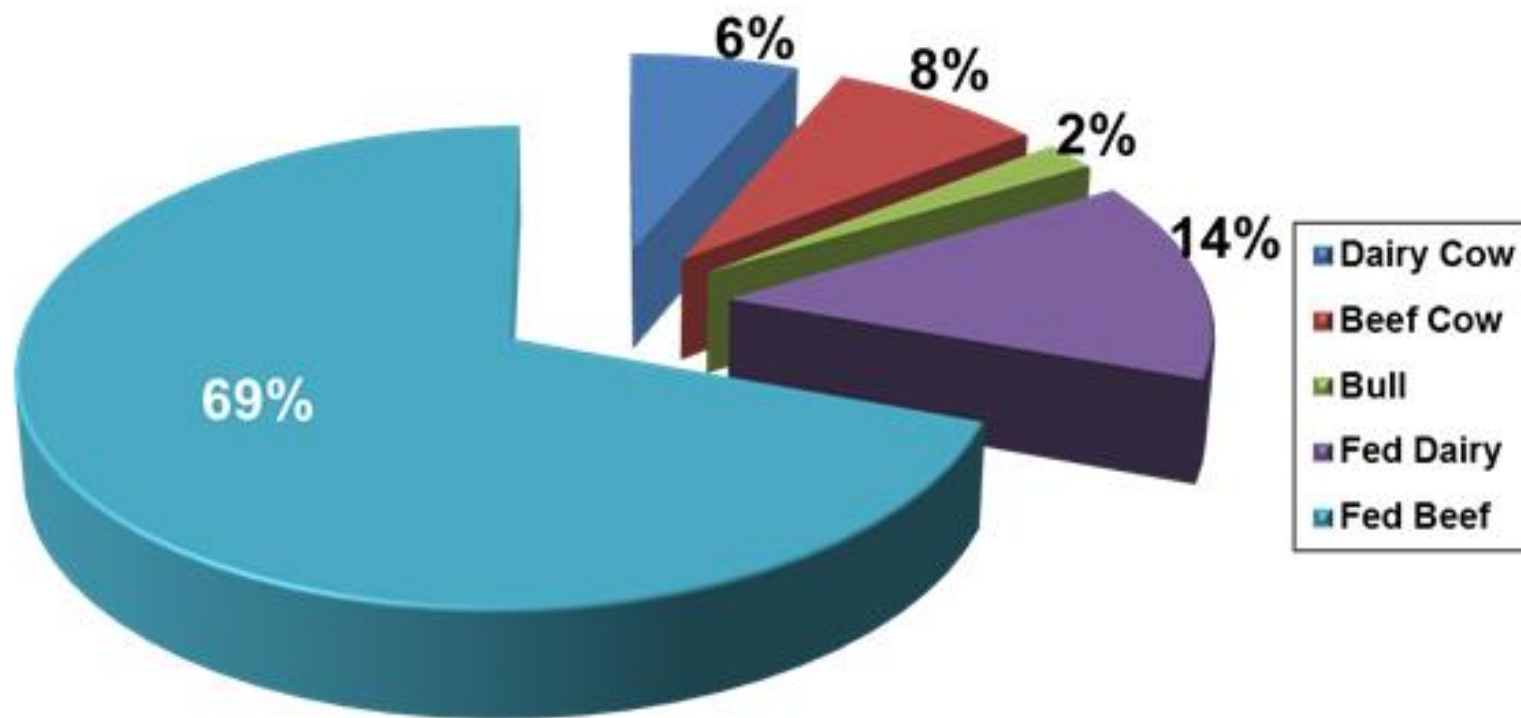
1991	1995	2000	2005	2011
External fat Seam fat Palatability Tenderness Cutability Marbling	Uniformity Palatability Marbling Tenderness External/seam fat Weights	Uniformity Carcass weight Tenderness Marbling Effects of implants External fat	Traceability Uniformity Instrument grading Market signals Segmentation Carcass weight	Food safety Eating satisfaction How and where cattle were raised Lean, fat and bone Weight and size Genetics

# Common Quality Concerns

- ▶ **#1- Food Safety**
- ▶ **#2- Eating satisfaction (tenderness and flavor)**
- ▶ **Others**
  - Cattle welfare
  - Cattle feed
  - Origin of product
  - Hormone and antibiotic use

# U.S. Beef Production Breakdown

2009-2013 Avg



**CattleFax** | THE DECIDING FACTOR

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# Marketing Management

- ▶ **Cows and bulls account for 15-20% of total U.S. beef production**
  - 22% (CattleFax, Spring 2011)
  - **Dairy: 25 - 33% ground beef products** (J of Dairy Science 2004: 87:1558-1564)
  - **Concerns of bruising**
    - ▶ Typically less fat cover & higher incidence of lameness
  - **Risk of non-ambulatory cattle**
    - ▶ Public press: Westland Meat Co., California
    - ▶ Largest beef recall on record, beef demand hurt

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# Marketing Management

- ▶ **'Cull' cow = Market cow**
- ▶ **Ensure ALL marketed animals have cleared withdrawal times**
- ▶ **DO NOT:**
  - **market animals that pose a public health threat or terminal condition**
  - **send 'market' animals to slaughter that are disabled and likely to become non-ambulatory**
  - **'market' animals with advanced eye lesions**
- ▶ **Market animals BEFORE they become severely emaciated**

# Non-Ambulatory Animals

- ▶ **Never use an electric prod**
- ▶ **Never use chains or cables to pick or suspend an animal**
- ▶ **Never let a non-ambulatory animal go without feed, water, and proper shelter**
- ▶ **Never let a non-ambulatory stay in an area where they may get walked on or trampled**
- ▶ **Never send a weak or severely lame animal to an auction market or to slaughter**

# Treatment and Health Maintenance

- ▶ **Prevent disease with best practice management!**
- ▶ **Castrate male calves BEFORE they reach 300 lbs.**
- ▶ **Bent needles**
  - Never straighten and reuse bent needles
  - Replace a bent needle immediately and properly discard
- ▶ **Broken Needles**
  - Follow the proper protocol
    - ▶ Proper restraint of animals
    - ▶ Do not market any animal that contains a broken needle
- ▶ **Dosage**
  - Never administer more than 10 cc per IM/SQ injection site
- ▶ **Syringes**
  - Label when using multiple products
- ▶ **Needle Usage**
  - Replace every 10 head

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# Vaccines Success

- ▶ **Store vaccines so they are cool, but not frozen**
  - \*At all times keep between 35° F and 45° F
- ▶ **Protect vaccines & filled syringes from:**
  - sunlight and heat
- ▶ **Mix only as much vaccine that can be used in 1 hr**
  - Modified-live virus (MLV) must be used and cannot be stored for later
- ▶ **Clean syringes with boiling water (at least 212° F)**
  - Don't use soap or disinfectant
- ▶ **Discard bent or broken needles.**
  - Change needles often (every 10 animals)

# Injections 101

- ▶ Stick to on label use
- ▶ Observe withdrawal dates
- ▶ Intramuscular (IM)
  - Neck region only (Triangle Zone)
- ▶ Subcutaneous (SQ)
  - Neck (*Triangle Zone*)

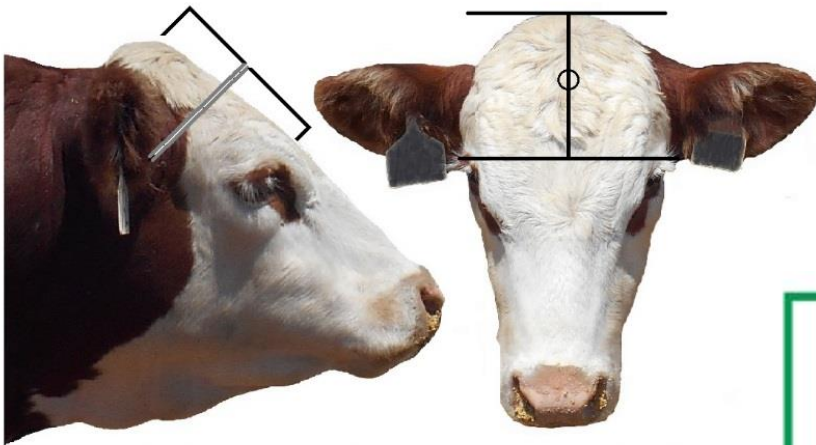


# Reasons for Euthanasia

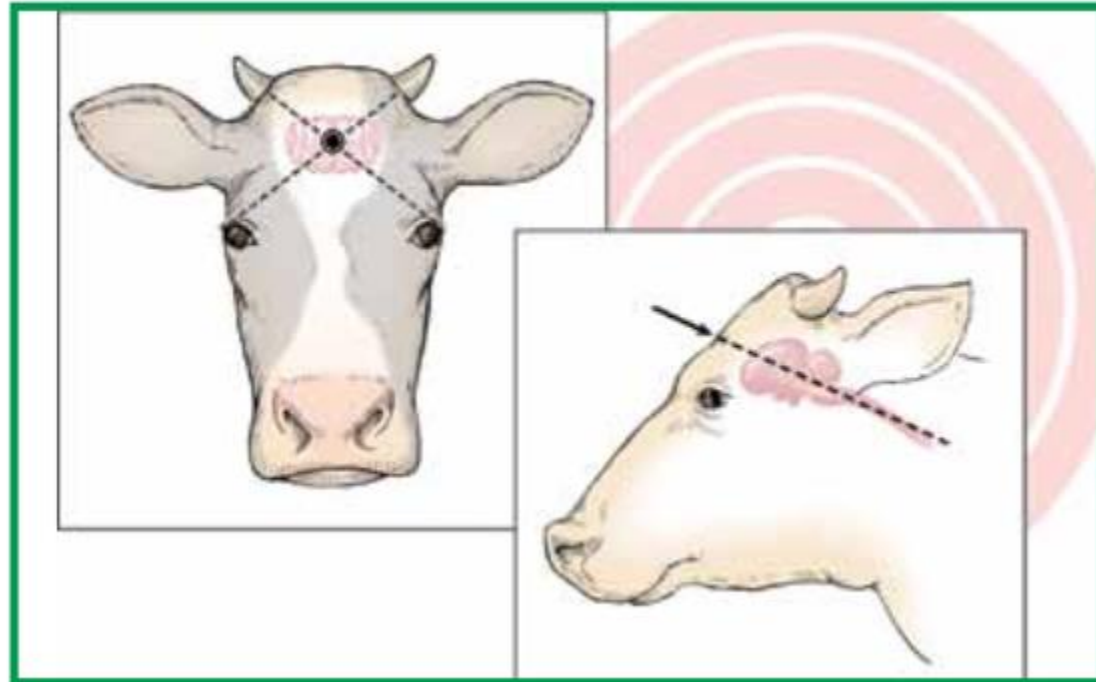
- ▶ **Make a prompt decision to treat**
- ▶ **Segregate sick or injured animals from the herd**
- ▶ **Fractures of the legs, hip or spine that are not repairable and result in immobility or inability to stand**
- ▶ **Emergency medical conditions that result in excruciating pain that cannot be relieved by treatment**
- ▶ **Animals that are too weak to be transported due to debilitation from disease or injury**
- ▶ **Paralysis from traumatic injuries or disease that result in immobility**
- ▶ **Disease conditions where no effective treatment is known, prognosis is terminal, or a significant threat to human health is present.**

# Proper Euthanasia Protocols

Target midline, half the distance between the top of the eyes & the pole



Designed to meet AMI 2014 recommendations



# Record Keeping

- ▶ **Records need to follow cattle through the entire production cycle**
  - **Feedstuffs**
  - **Feed medications and additives**
  - **Received, processed with treatments, shipped, & withdrawal dates**
  - **“Not written down, doesn’t happen!”**

# Biosecurity Practices

- ▶ **Prevent spread of infectious disease from one location to another**
- ▶ **Isolation**
  - Minimize commingling and movement of cattle
  - Separate higher risk groups (feedlot) vs. lower risk groups (breeding herd)
- ▶ **Traffic control**
  - Includes traffic, guests/visitors, and wildlife
  - Contaminated material spread indirectly by tires, farm machinery, equipment, and animals
- ▶ **Sanitation**
  - Clean instruments and equipment after use
  - Sick or unhealthy animals vs. healthy animals
- ▶ **Keep a visitor log**
- ▶ **Communication is essential**

# Transportation

- ▶ **Proper cattle handling - loading/unloading**
  - Cattle flight zone
  - Proper loading rates (**STOCKING RATES**)
    - ▶ Always ensure animal safety & comfort
- ▶ **Checklist for traveling**
  - Predetermined routes
  - Emergency weather preparations
    - ▶ Weather extremes: heat & cold stress
    - ▶ Limiting / increasing air flow

# Conclusion

- ▶ **Cornerstone participants for success**
  - Beef producers, veterinarians, nutritionists, extension livestock specialists, academia, and youth (FFA and 4-H)
- ▶ **Work with veterinarians**
- ▶ **Best Management Practices**
- ▶ **Working together to ensure a safe, wholesome, and healthy beef supply**

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# Question 1

▶ BQA stands for Beef Quality Assurance

**TRUE**

or

**FALSE**

# Question 1

- ▶ The purpose of the BQA Program is to ensure a safe, wholesome product and increase consumer confidence.

**TRUE**

or

**FALSE**

# Question 2

▶ Cattle managed according to BQA principles are less likely to contain:

A.) violative residue(s)

B.) foreign metal such as a broken needle

C.) injection site tissue damage

D.) all of the above

# Question 3

▶ All intramuscular injections should be given:

A.) in the neck

B.) in the elbow region

C.) in the rump or the loin region

D.) all of the above

# Question 4

▶ All subcutaneous injections should be given:

A.) in the neck

B.) in the dewlap

C.) in the elbow pocket

D.) all the above locations are acceptable for  
subcutaneous injections

# Question 5

► It is desirable to use a disinfectant to clean needles between animals when:

A.) using a modified live virus vaccine

B.) using a killed vaccine

C.) neither, using a disinfectant may damage or hinder the efficacy of the vaccine

# Question 6

▶ What practices should be a part of a BQA Program?

A.) preventative herd health program

B.) veterinary client/patient relationship

C.) good nutrition program

D.) all of the above

# Question 7

▶ Disabled and downer cattle are not allowed in the food chain and should be:

A.) marketed directly to a harvest facility

B.) humanely euthanized on the farm under the direction of a veterinarian

C.) transported to a livestock marketing facility

# Question 8

- ▶ If 5 cattle in a group of 50 are treated and cannot be identified individually, the entire group is subject to the withdrawal restrictions for the 5 head treated.

**TRUE**

or

**FALSE**

# Question 9

- ▶ Proper training of those who handle cattle should include with of the following topics:
  - A.) understanding the animal's point of balance and flight zone
  - B.) basic feeding/nutritional management of cattle
  - C.) proper use of handling and restraining devices
  - D.) how to properly diagnose common illnesses and provide proper care
  - E.) all of the above**

# Question 10

- ▶ It is a must to label your syringes to keep them from getting mixed up when administering more than one animal health product.

**TRUE**

or

**FALSE**

# Question 11

▶ Needles used to give injections should be changed:

A.) when they bend

B.) approximately every 10 head

C.) when they get dull

D.) all of the above

# Question 12

▶ Proper vaccine handling includes keeping vaccines cool:

A.) during transport from the supplier

B.) during storage before use

C.) while cattle are being processed

D.) all of the above

# Question 13

- ▶ The first step in avoiding an accident when vaccinating is to read and follow label directions for all products.

**TRUE**

or

**FALSE**

# Question 14

▶ When giving injections what is the maximum number of mL that should be given in 1 injection site?

A.) 20 cc

B.) 60 cc

C.) follow label directions when available

D.) 10 cc if the label does not specify

E.) both c and d

# Question 15

- ▶ **Who can prescribe feed additives, against label instructions?**
- A.) Veterinarian**
- B.) Nutritionist**
- C.) Ranch Manager**
- D.) No one is ever allowed to make off-label prescriptions, not even a veterinarian.**

[www.bqa.org](http://www.bqa.org)

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