



# Cattle Producer's Handbook

Quality Assurance Section

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## Beef Quality Assurance Resources

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Many ranchers have practiced, for years and even generations, the principles of beef quality assurance (BQA) and, therefore, often question the “sudden” resurgence of interest in BQA as being necessary. The continued stability and growth of our industry relies on a confident and satisfied “consumer” that our products are value-based and that we as producers can verify the value of our products.

Beef quality assurance ensures to all consumers of beef, at any level from producer to table, that our products are healthy, wholesome, and safe. The cattle producer's use of good management practices results in compliance with appropriate U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards.

The beef industry, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), state and local cattle associations, and veterinary medical associations have training programs that assist the cattle producer. These resources exist so that producers may assure consumers that beef quality is the major goal of the cattle industry.

The following resources, which are linked to this paper on the Third Edition: Digital that accompanies the *Cattle Producer's Handbook*, are identified to augment the materials presented in this section. Each is printed by permission of the referenced companies, universities, agencies, or organizations.

### Computerized Record Systems

*BeefTrax*, track and evaluate performance of breeding herds and their calf crops, from birth through feeding to the quality of meat at the packing plant, ©Codesmith, Inc., Three Forks, MT.

*CowCalf5*, a comprehensive computerized herd record and analysis record keeping system; enter and analyze individual animal records from conception to consumption; conforms to BIF and SPA standards and compatible with many breed associations, ©University of Nebraska, Great Plains Veterinary Educational Center, Clay Center, NE (<http://www.cowcalf.com/>).

*CowSense*, a complete herd management software for the evaluation of cowherd performance from conception to harvest, which allows for the individual tracking of calf, dam, and sire performance, BQA management, source identification, treatments, EID, import and analysis of feeding and carcass information, and breed association electronic transfer, Lincoln, NE.

### BQA Training Programs and Contacts

Nebraska Beef Quality Assurance Program, Dee Griffin, Great Plains Veterinary Educational Center, Clay Center, NE, phone 402/762-4504 (<http://www.bqa.org/>).

Dollars and Sense: The Value of Beef Quality and Consistency, Scott MacNeil, Texas Beef Council, Austin, TX, phone 512/335-2333.

Wyoming Cattlemen Beef Quality Assurance Program, Wyoming Beef Council, phone 307/777-6399.



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