



Western Beef Resource Committee

Cattle Producer's Library

Quality Assurance Section

CL290

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. 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 are identified to augment the materials presented in this section. Each is printed by permission of the referenced companies, universities, agencies, or organizations.

Selected 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/>).

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

NCBA Beef Quality Audits

Executive Summary of the National Non-Fed Beef Quality Audit, December 1994.

Executive Summary—1995, the National Beef Quality Audit, December 1995.

The 1999 National Market Cow and Bull Quality Audit, December 1999.

2005 National Beef Quality Audit, December 2006.

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