



Beef Quality Assurance Fact Sheet

Animal Sciences/Forages



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Alabama BQA: In A Nutshell

W. F. "Frank" Owsley, Ph.D, PAS
Extension Animal Scientist

❖ Care and Husbandry Practices

- **Follow a Herd Health Plan that conforms to good veterinary and husbandry practices**
 - Developed by you and your veterinarian
 - Your veterinarian is responsible for the health care of your herd
 - You follow treatment and withdrawal instructions
 - Your veterinarian is familiar with the animals on your farm
 - Your veterinarian is available for follow-up visits
 - Becomes part of your overall heard management plan
 - Includes biosecurity plan
 - Includes routine medical practices
 - Reduces need for emergency care
- **Keep feed and water handling equipment clean**
- **Provide appropriate nutritional and feedstuffs management**
- **Evaluate and enforce biosecurity**
- **Keep records for a minimum of 2 years or longer as required by laws/regulations (ie. 3 years for Restricted Use Pesticides)**
- **Handle/transport all cattle in such a fashion to minimize stress, injury and bruising**

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- Have a plan
- Have enough skilled labor
- Make sure the facilities are ready
- The initial movement determines everything
- Don't get stressed yourself!
- Make sure working facilities work, and are free from obstructions
- Sort calves away from cows
- Eliminate mud holes, drains, step-ups, “zebra” lighting
- REDUCE NOISE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE
- Electric Prods
 - Tool of last resort
 - Accelerators, not brakes
 - Not replacements for patience
 - When used, keep around the tail-head
- **Regularly inspect facilities (fences, corrals, load-outs, stations, freestall areas, alleys, etc.) to help ensure proper care and ease of handling**
- **Maintain an environment appropriate to the production setting**

❖ ***Feedstuffs***

- **Maintain records of any herbicide/pesticide use on pasture or crops and follow label instructions.**
- **A quality control program is in place to help eliminate contamination from molds, mycotoxins or chemicals.**
- **Analyze suspect feedstuffs prior to use.**
- **Do not feed ruminant-derived protein sources per FDA regulations**
- **Support feeding of by-product/co-product ingredients with sound science**
- **Feed Additives and Medications**

- Use only FDA approved products
- Know and follow withdrawal times
- Know the ingredients of the product
- Know the proper method of application of all products used
- Extra-label use of feed additives is illegal

❖ **Processing and Treatment**

- **Follow all label directions for each product**
- **Extra-label drug use shall be kept to a minimum, and used only when prescribed by a veterinarian working under a Veterinary/Client/Patient Relationship (VCPR)**
 - What is extra-label drug use?
 - Using animal health products in a manner not specified on the label
 - Using a product at higher doses
 - Administering in different species than stated on the label
 - A veterinarian's prescription is required for extra-label drug use
- **Strict adherence to extended withdrawal periods (as determined by a veterinarian within the context of a VCPR) shall be employed**
 - Follow required withdrawal times
 - Use antibiotics only when necessary to treat a specific problem
 - Do not inject more than 10cc in any single injection
- **All processing and treatment records should be transferred with the cattle to next production level. Prospective buyers must be informed of any cattle that have not met withdrawal times**

❖ **Cattle Identification**

- **When cattle are treated/processed individually, treatment records will be maintained with the following recorded:**
 - Individual animal identification

- Date treated
 - Product administered and manufacturer's lot/serial number
 - Dosage
 - Route and location of administration
 - Earliest date animal will have cleared the withdrawal period
 - Name of individual administering the treatment
- **When cattle are treated/processed as a group, all cattle within the group shall be identified as such, and the following information recorded:**
- Group or lot identification
 - Date treated
 - Product administered and manufacturer's lot/serial number
 - Dosage
 - Route and location of administration
 - Earliest date animal will have cleared the withdrawal period
 - Name of individual administering the treatment

❖ **Producer Code of Cattle Care: Beef cattle producers take pride in their responsibility to provide proper care to cattle on their farms and ranches. The following are general recommendations for producers to consider in raising and handling cattle:**

- **Provide adequate food, water and care to protect the health and well-being of animals.**
- **Provide disease prevention practices to protect herd health, including access to veterinary care.**
- **Provide facilities that allow safe, humane, and efficient movement and/or restraint of livestock.**
- **Use humane methods to euthanize sick or injured livestock and dispose of them properly.**
- **Provide personnel with training to properly handle, and care for, cattle.**
- **Make timely observations of livestock to ensure basic needs are being met.**

- **Provide transportation that avoids undue stress caused by overcrowding, excess time in transit or improper handling during loading and unloading.**
 - **Keep updated on advancements and changes in the industry to make decisions based on sound production practices and consideration to animal well-being.**
 - **Persons who willfully mistreat animals will not be tolerated.**
- ❖ **Statement of principles:** Cattle producers are united in their commitment to the proper and humane care of animals, and have reaffirmed that commitment through a Statement of Principles adopted by members of the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association. Through their statement, cattle producers declare:
- **I believe in the humane treatment of farm animals and in continued stewardship of all natural resources.**
 - **I believe my cattle will be healthier and more productive when good husbandry practices are used.**
 - **I believe that my and future generations will benefit from my ability to sustain and conserve natural resources.**
 - **I will support research efforts directed toward more efficient production of a wholesome food supply.**
 - **I believe it is my responsibility to produce a safe and wholesome product.**
 - **I believe it is the purpose of food animals to serve mankind, and it is the responsibility of all human beings to care for animals in their charge.**