

# Beef Quality Assurance Through Usage of Critical Control Points

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Since the National Beef Quality Audit in 1994, much progress has been made in reducing targeted defects. In just 6 years, top butt injection site lesions have been reduced from 22 to 6 percent. However, much remains to be done in the education of producers at all levels of the beef production chain. In 1996, the National Animal Health Monitoring Service surveyed beef cattle producers across the nation and found the following: 1) 42.8 percent of the operations reported using the **upper rear leg** as the usual location for intramuscular injections; and 2) 49.8 percent of the operations surveyed indicated the **neck** as the usual location where their veterinarian administered intramuscular injections; **however**, 34.8 percent of the operations surveyed indicated that their veterinarian used the **upper rear leg** as the usual intramuscular injection site. Beyond this information, improper care and administration of biological and pharmaceutical products continue to cost the beef cattle industry in the form of morbidity, mortality, and sub-optimal performance. Because of these issues, and in an effort to enhance efficacy and safety

with bovine animal health products, Fort Dodge Animal Health has developed a program to complement the existing Profit Improvement Program (P.I.P.) used to train and evaluate growth implant administration procedures. Utilizing principles of HACCP (Hazard Analysis at Critical Control Points), Fort Dodge's program, referred to as **QACCP<sup>SM</sup>** (**Quality Assurance Critical Control Points**), is designed to provide a valuable production tool to cattle producers and bovine practitioners. **QACCP<sup>SM</sup>** provides a systematic approach helping to assure that the entire process of administering animal health and performance products will: 1) maximize the potential benefits from those products; and 2) minimize potential quality defects to the beef product produced. Subject areas include cattle handling, care and administration of biologicals and pharmaceuticals, and proper implanting procedures.

**Key Words:** Quality Assurance, Implants, Biologicals, Pharmaceuticals