BGA Guidelines: Review & Summary

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BQA Guidelines / Pre-Harvest Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points

Feedstuffs and Sources

- Record chemical use
- QC feed ingredients

Feed Additives and Medications

- NO Extra Label Drug Use – Administer FDA medicated feed additives according to label and withdrawal directions
- Record medicated rations, two years
- Feed no ruminant derived protein sources

Individual Treatments

- FDA/USDA/EPA guidelines for product selection and use
- Subcutaneous (SQ) if possible
- Administer all products in front of the shoulders
- Avoid tissue damaging products, 10 cc or less per intramuscular (IM) site

Treatment and Product Use Records

- Treatment regimes: label directions unless prescribed by a veterinarian
- Follow prudent antibiotic use guidelines
- Follow Extra Label Drug Use withdrawal as set by veterinarian (valid Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship)
- Group or Mass Treatments – Record identification, medication, dosage, location of administration and withdrawal
- Individual Treatments – Record identification, medication, dosage, location of administration and withdrawal
- Check withdrawal of all cattle shipped and sign release
- Closely check non-performing cattle (i.e. medicated cull cows, etc.) prior to shipment

Record Keeping

- All BQA records are subject to inspection by your cattlemen's association and USDA/FSIS upon request
- A signed summary copy of the BQA records are forwarded
- Backward information flow available

Cattle Care and Husbandry

- Keep equipment clean
- Strive to maintain the environment
- Biosecurity should be evaluated
- Have an appropriate health program

BQA Summary

Purpose

Protect consumer confidence in beef quality and safety.

History

National Cattlemen's Beef Association's (NCBA) and state cattlemen's association BQA Program is designed for our industry, and all cattlemen ... the cattlemen are in charge! The program began in 1980 and has grown to include 47 states. Nebraska began its third revitalization of the BQA program in February of 1997. The development and coordination of the revitalization program has been through the Nebraska Cattlemen, Nebraska Beef Council, Nebraska Veterinary Medical Association and University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension. Other states have started revitalization programs similar to the BQA program.

Differences between state and national BQA programs

State BQA programs follows the guidelines set forth by the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA). No state may have a set of BQA standards weaker than the national guidelines, nor can any state refuse to accept the BQA program from another state if the importing state meets the national BQA guidelines.

Program Objective

Provide education, training, verification and documentation for all beef producers. The program is needed to follow FDA, EPA and USDA-FSIS standards (FOLLOW THE RULES), as well as NCBA's BQA requirements. BQA incorporates into management objectives

and into a producer's job, allowing a quality and responsible attitude to grow. Preventing small mistakes improves production efficiency.

What BQA Is NOT

Presently, it is not possible for BQA to be a food borne pathogen reduction program.

Several states have developed programs that step beyond BQA to include the use of the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP) system used by the United States Department of Agriculture Food Safety Inspection Service (USDA-FSIS). These programs are called Pre-Harvest Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (PH-HACCP) systems. PH-HACCP will allow our industry to work with HACCP-like procedures until it can be applied at the production level. Physical, chemical and microbiologic defects are the three types of hazards are targeted in the HACCP system. The system attempts to reduce, control or eliminate these three types of hazards during the production process. Examples would include identification of broken needles (physical hazards) and residues (chemical hazards) as the two controllable hazards in cattle. There are no methods presently available for controlling bacterial hazards in cattle pre-harvest.

"Build on what you know" has been and continues to be the operative phrase.

The HACCP/PH-HACCP system is the BQA road map. Cattlemen, employees, veterinarians, nutritionists, other specialists must look for what could go wrong, then figure out ways to avoid having things go wrong — build practices that allow checking, verifying and documenting what you are accomplishing what you intended to do. Design all of the everyday working techniques to avoid having anything go wrong.

PH-HACCP: Five Preliminary Steps

- Assemble the PH-HACCP/HACCP team – bring together your resources.
- Describe what you raise and how you distributed it.
- Identify who gets your cattle and how they use them.
- Develop and verify a process flow diagram.
- Meet the requirements for GMP and SOP, including sanitation SOP.

Seven Specific PH-HACCP Steps

- Identify potential hazards: bacterial, chemical, and physical (B-C-P)
- Identify critical management points (CMP)
- Establish Critical Limits for each CMP
- Establish CMP monitoring procedures
- Establish corrective actions
- Establish verification procedures
- Establish record keeping procedures

Who says we can't ... WE HAVE

When BQA started in the early 80's, chemical residues were approximately 1% — they dropped to ZERO in fed cattle for over a decade. Top butt injection site lesions were identified in 1991 as a target and in just 6 years the lesion rate dropped from 22% to 6%. Other targeted defects and production losses as a result of the defects include hide (a $25 average defect cost), bruises (a $4 average defect cost), dark cutters (a $6 average defect cost), injection site damage (a $7 average defect cost). All are manageable defects!

Remember the BQA Basics

- Recruit your BQA team: employees, family, affiliate, specialists, experts
- Take a look at what could go wrong
- What will be done when something goes wrong
- How are problems avoided
- Validate your plan
- Train and educate, re-train and re-educate
- Develop a timed checklist – then use it
- Document and double check

IT IS SIMPLE ECONOMICS ... WE SELL PERFORMANCE ... Animal performance can be optimized only if the people managing the animal and respect the ANIMAL, THEMSELVES, and the PEOPLE THEY WORK WITH. Following Good Management Practices (GMP) improves efficiency.

Consumers buy what they trust: confidence comes from trust ... a trust we have earned. There are few of us left and consumers don't know us as they once did. Changes in demographics, government, media, etc. are making it even tougher and the standards required of us may seem impossible. But this is the life, the job God entrusted to us.

Beef Quality Assurance: it is up to you . . . it will and it has to fit management objectives. Cattle are never to YOUNG or OLD to have a quality defect.

BQA Program Checklist and Personal Contract

Are you willing to answer YES (you agree to do or follow) to the following questions?

1. (YES or NO) A quality feed control program will be maintained for all incoming ingredients. This program will analyze any suspect contami-

nation and eliminate any contaminated products as a result of molds, mycotoxins, or chemicals.

2. (YES or NO) Only FDA approved medicated feed additives will be used in rations and they will be used in accordance with the FDA label, including administration procedure, dosage, and withdrawal time. Extra label drug use of feed additives will not be used at any time or for any reason.
3. (YES or NO) Records will be maintained for at least two years and will contain the batches of feed produced which contain the additive, date run, ration number or name, and amount produced.
4. (YES or NO) All individual treatments will be given in the neck region regardless of whether administered subcutaneously or intramuscularly.
5. (YES or NO) All individual treatments will strictly follow only FDA/USDA/EPA guidelines, and products which cause tissue damage will be avoided.
6. (YES or NO) Products will be administered at the lowest dosage recommended and will be administered in such a manner where there will not be more than 10 cc per IM site administered.
7. (YES or NO) Treatment procedures will comply with either label directions or as prescribed by a veterinarian with a valid Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship.
8. (YES or NO) All treatments administered extra label will be kept to a minimum and when given extra label treatments are given producers will comply with the prescribed extended withdrawal time.
9. (YES or NO) Treatments will either be recorded on a group/pen basis if given to a pen or if given to animals pre-weaning, and on an individual basis if given to an animal post-weaning. Records will consist of date, pen/individual identification, product used, amount given, route and location given, and withdrawal time.
10. (YES or NO) All cattle shipped will be checked to verify withdrawal times have been met and a release slip will be signed, dated, and sent with those cattle verifying this information.
11. (YES or NO) Should there be any question about withdrawal periods being met, veterinarians will evaluate the treatment history against information provided by the Food Animal Residue Avoidance Databank and the animal will be subject to pass a residue screening test.
12. (YES or NO) All records will be kept for two years and transferred with the cattle as they move from one operation to another and will also be available for inspection by your cattlemen's association staff or other named individuals in order to determine compliance.
13. (YES or NO) The operation will strive to prevent bruising during animal handling.
14. (YES or NO) Should a previous owner request performance information of cattle, all information available will be relayed back to them.

Important things to remember:

- **There are NO Most Valuable Players ... BQA is everyone's job.**
- **Where do we go from here? Get involved! Get everyone involved.**
- **BQA ... it is Our Business ... it is Our Future!**