

BQA: GUIDANCE FOR TODAY'S BEEF PRODUCER

Since 2019, all U.S. Premium Beef (USPB) finished cattle delivered to National Beef have come from feedlots that have satisfied Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) certification.

Since 2020, BQA Transportation was instituted for any trucking company transporting finished cattle to the plants. We are committed to the highest level of integrity regarding the health and welfare of USPB finished cattle that move through National Beef facilities.

BQA programs not only provide beef producers with the latest and most innovative production measures, but arguably more important assures consumers that beef is produced in a safe, healthy and wholesome manner.

That commitment continues today. When deliverers become BQA certified, the certification is valid for three years. When your certification nears expiration, you will receive a notification from BQA with renewal information.

In the event you have changed your business or email address since you became certified, go to [BQA.org](https://www.bqa.org) to update your contact information. This site contains data and certification information for BQA programs.

BQA programs have been in existence since the late 1980s. What started as beef safety meetings, showing the correct way to administer injectable vaccines, antibiotics, implants, etc., has evolved into today's BQA program.

The biggest percent of BQA programs are funded by the Beef Checkoff. Certification or recertification can be

easily accomplished at BQA meetings in person or during online coursework. There is no cost for the associated course work.

The online course work contains chapters for feedyard, cow/calf, and stocker/background production. For those purchasing calves from calf ranches, there is now a BQA program for these businesses.

Upon completion of in-person or online training, a certification number is issued to you, which is valid for three years. Online certification is available in both English and Spanish.

During these times of high consumer demand, today's BQA programs also provide consumers with information on the high regard in which beef products are brought to market. Latest data from the U.S. Meat Export Federation details the value of export markets for each finished carcass is \$435 per head.

BQA programs are also very involved in helping consumers in other countries understand the way the program enhances beef products exported from the U.S.

Please contact your state's cattlemen's association for further information on local BQA certification meetings. [Click Here](https://www.bqa.org) to access a map on BQA.org, where you can select your state coordinator and learn more about local BQA meetings.

Please call USPB at 866-877-2525 for further assistance. ♦