

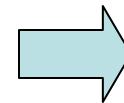
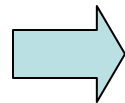
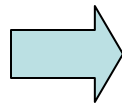
Connecting The Beef and Dairy Livestock Welfare Chain

The national Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) program provides cattle and dairy producers on America's farms and ranches with the principles and tools used every day to ensure animals are given proper care. The Dairy Quality Assurance Program (DQA) describes proper practices for dairy producers to follow. These national programs include guidelines on management practices such as feeding and nutrition, handling and stress reduction. BQA and DQA guidelines can be verified by third parties to ensure compliance.

"Fed cattle" are raised on pasture land for 12-18 months and transported to a feedlot for finishing, where they spend four to six months. In feedlots, they are fed a scientifically formulated ration and have constant access to water. BQA principles are used in the management practices of more than 90 percent of U.S. cattle. Some cattle bypass the feedlot and are sold through auction markets. They benefit from animal handling guidelines, and market manager/staff training certification Programs developed by BQA and the Livestock Marketing Association.

Cattle transporters play a critical role in the health and welfare of cattle by delivering cattle safely to their destination. Transportation Beef Quality Assurance (TBQA) and DQA programs ensure proper cattle handling, loading and unloading of cattle, management of weak or injured cattle and transportation of cattle during hot or cold weather. The American Trucking Association encourages its members to comply with these guidelines. The American Meat Institute will add a transportation offloading audit to its existing audit program in Spring 2008 to ensure compliance.

The American Meat Institute (AMI) Animal Care & Handling Guidelines provide detailed recommendations for handling livestock in a way that works with their natural instincts and minimizes stress at the plant. AMI's audit program, done by both plants and by outside third parties, measures key criteria like how often cattle moo, how often animals slip and fall, how often they are prodded. By measuring regularly, we manage more effectively.



Not only is humane handling of livestock ethically appropriate, it also has distinct economic benefits in the form of higher quality meat products.

On the farm...

BQA: The beef checkoff-funded Beef Quality Assurance Program (BQA) encourages anyone who works regularly with cattle – on the farm, ranch or feedlot – to become BQA certified by one of nearly 100 state coordinators through hands-on, classroom-style and online training. BQA is used in the management practices of more than 90 percent of U.S. cattle. Self-assessments are done regularly.

BQA guidelines are founded on the "Producer Code for Cattle Care," which encourages cattle producers to protect cattle health and well-being, provide facilities that allow safe and humane movement and/or restraint of livestock and, if cattle become sick or injured, to use appropriate methods of euthanasia. The Code is clear about its animal welfare focus by stating: persons who willfully mistreat animals will not be tolerated.

A self-evaluation checklist helps improve production practices. For more information about the BQA program, please visit www.BQA.org and www.DBQA.org.

DQA: The Milk and Dairy Quality Assurance Center (DQA) Caring for Dairy Animals program includes guidelines and a self evaluation. The program covers various aspects of dairy and animal care including employee training, breeding, birth management, the care and handling of sick and injured animals. Compliance with these guidelines is measured through a third party verification audit done by a licensed veterinarian. For more information, visit www.DQACenter.org.

At feedlots and auction markets ...

Feedlots: The Beef Quality Assurance Program also extends to the feedlot, providing guidelines for preventing disease, training employees and handling non-ambulatory cattle.

In addition, a BQA feedyard self-assessment is under development and is expected in Summer 2008.

Auction Markets: Some cattle are sold at auction markets. The Livestock Marketing Association offers a variety of tools to their auction market members on proper livestock handling practices at markets, including handling guidelines, video and other training tools for market operators and their employees, signage and a market assessment/certification program.

On the road....

The Transportation Beef Quality Assurance Program (TBQA) recognizes that cattle transporters play a critical role in the health and welfare of cattle by delivering cattle safely to their destination.

The beef checkoff-funded program emphasizes low-stress handling, frequent cattle checks when on the road and special care when transporting cattle during hot or cold weather conditions. Additionally, the program specifies that moving aids should replace electric prods and sick or weak cattle shouldn't be accepted for transport, including debilitated thin animals, non-ambulatory cattle and animals that show symptoms of sickness. The American Trucking Association encourages its members to comply with these guidelines.

The DQA Center's Caring for Dairy Animals identifies dairy animal well-being requirements during transportation. These include animal handling, restraint equipment, loading and unloading, transportation considerations, vehicles, in-transit care and flight zone.

The American Meat Institute (AMI) will add a transportation offloading audit to its existing audit program in Spring 2008 to ensure compliance with these guidelines.

For more information about the TBQA program, please visit www.TBQA.org. For more information about DQA programs, visit www.DQACenter.org.

At the plant...

The American Meat Institute (AMI) Animal Handling Guidelines and Audit Guide, authored by Dr. Temple Grandin of Colorado State University, recommend plant designs and practices that work with – and not against – animals' natural instincts. Curved chutes, proper lighting, air that flows away from cattle (not at them) and distraction-free walkways all contribute to calm and low-stress animal handling where only minimal driving of livestock is needed.

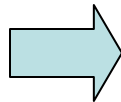
AMI's audit relies on objective criteria to measure animal handling in plants and to encourage continuous improvement. Today, meat plants measure a number of factors, including how often electric prods are used, how often livestock slip and fall, how often they vocalize, which can indicate stress and how effectively they are made insensible to pain.

An annual training conference helps bring the guidelines and audit to life and encourages their use throughout the industry. The "AMI audit" has become so well-accepted that it is required to do business with many major restaurant and retail grocery chains. It is also the basis for certification programs like Certified Humane and American Humane Certified.

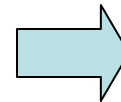
Not only is optimal animal handling "the right thing to do," study after study has shown that calm animals produce higher quality meat. More information and a downloadable version of *AMI's Animal Care & Handling Guidelines* are available on www.animalhandling.org.

Connecting The Swine Welfare Chain

On hog farms, the National Pork Board's Pork Quality Assurance Plus (PQA Plus) Program provides guidelines for proper care of animals to ensure optimal health and welfare. PQA Plus helps pork producers benchmark the care and welfare of their pigs through on-farm assessments. PQA Plus also has a third party verification process to show that care and well-being principles are being implemented.



Transportation is a very important part of the welfare chain. The National Pork Board's Transport Quality Assurance (TQA) guidelines specify how to handle and transport pigs of all ages to ensure that their welfare is maintained. The American Trucking Association encourages its members to comply with these guidelines. The American Meat Institute will add a transportation audit to its existing audit program in Spring 2008 to ensure compliance.



The American Meat Institute Animal Care & Handling Guidelines provide detailed recommendations for handling livestock in a way that works with their natural instincts and minimizes stress. AMI's audit program, done by both plants and by outside third parties, measures key criteria like how often livestock vocalize, how often animals slip and fall and how often they are prodded. By measuring regularly, we manage more effectively.



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On the farm...

On pig farms, the National Pork Board's Pork Quality Assurance Plus (PQA Plus) Program provides guidelines for providing proper care to ensure swine well-being with curriculum that specifically addresses caretaker training, animal observation, emergency back-up support, space allocation, timely euthanasia, facilities, handling and movement, ventilation and air quality and zero tolerance for willful acts of abuse.

PQA Plus is a voluntary, science-based program that was created to integrate industry practices that address food safety and animal welfare and was created by the National Pork Checkoff's pork safety and swine welfare committees with the input of national and international welfare experts. However, most major packers require producers to be PQA-plus certified.

The program has three stages: individual certification through producer education; site status through on-farm site assessment; and opportunity for on-farm verification.

PQA Plus demonstrates the commitment U.S. pork producers make to providing pork that is safe, high quality and responsibly produced. To review the PQA Plus program, visit:
<http://www.pork.org/Producers/PQA/PQAPlus.aspx>

On the road....

The National Pork Board's Transport Quality Assurance program provides guidelines on handling, loading, transport, and unloading of all sizes of pigs. Specifically, these guidelines address basic handling, managing temperature, preventing heat and cold stress, use of driving tools and low-stress loading and unloading.

The TQA program is geared toward on-farm animal handlers, transporters, and those who handle pigs at the destination site. It is a voluntary education/certification program that is required by some packers. To review the TQA program, visit:
<http://www.pork.org/producers/TQA/TQA.aspx>.

The American Trucking Association encourages its members to comply with these guidelines.

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