

# Beef Quality Assurance for Dairy and Beef Farmers

*A comprehensive herd-health program should be developed in consultation with your veterinarian*

## An Important Concern...

A significant concern of beef retailers is injection site blemishes. Damaged tissue at the site of intramuscular injections results in unappetizing muscle scars and lesions, as well as increased product toughness. The stakes are even higher because of increased public attention on food safety and quality.

## Dairymen Are Beef Producers Too...

It's true, America's dairy farmers are beef producers too. U.S. dairy farmers produce approximately 22% of the nation's beef each year. Dairy farmers are committed to practicing Beef Quality Assurance.



## The Valuable Market Cow...

Today, more of the beef from market cows is processed as higher value whole muscle cuts from the loin, rib, round and "flat" portions of the carcass. Injection site defects cause substantial losses to these higher value cuts – erasing the profit opportunities. By following the 10 steps below, you will assure beef quality, prevent costly losses, build public confidence and enhance the effectiveness of the products you use to maintain the health of your herd.



## Cattlemen have a "STEAK" in the Beef Business

Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) addresses the day to day management practices that influence the safety, quality and wholesomeness of beef and beef products.

The Dairy Beef Quality Assurance Program focuses on these important issues:

1. Encouraging dairymen to move all injections given to cattle to the neck in order to eliminate blemishes to the valuable cuts of beef.
2. Following label recommendations with animal health products to prevent residue and potential antibiotic resistance problems.
3. Early culling to reduce the incidence of disabled or "downed" cattle.
4. Handling cattle humanely during transportation to avoid bruises and injury.

*Beef Quality Assurance begins with farmers*

BEEF

## A Checkerboard for Recommended Guidelines

BEEF

1.

### Always Choose the Correct Injection Site

**DO NOT GIVE INJECTIONS IN THE HINDQUARTERS OR IN THE SHOULDERS!**

**THE CORRECT INJECTION SITE IS IN THE NECK.**

2.

### Stay Away from the Muscle

- Choose products formulated and labeled for injections under the skin. (subcutaneous/Sub-Q)
- Avoid intramuscular injections. (IM).

3.

### Know the Product and Follow the Label

Observe:

- Purpose
- Dose
- Preparation
- Timing
- Safety
- Expiration Date
- Withdrawal Times
- Storage

4.

### Choose the Correct Needle

- 16 or 18 gauge, 1/2" - 3/4" for Sub-Q;
- 1" length for IM.
- Change needles often.
- Discard burred, bent or broken needles.

5.

### Use the Proper Technique

- Remove trapped air by pumping grip before injecting.
- Insert needle at an angle just below the skin surface.
- For subcutaneous delivery, use two-handed "tent" technique by pulling up on loose skin.

6.

### Use Multiple Sites

- Never inject more than 10cc of a product in any one location.
- Keep injection sites at least 4" apart.

7.

### NEVER Combine Products

- Each injectable product has specific label instructions.
  - Do not mix "combinations."
- This causes tissue damage and will reduce or eliminate product effectiveness.

8.

### Mix and Handle Products Correctly

- Mix large dose packages well at first and again during use.
- Vaccines lose effectiveness after an hour.
- Use transfer needles.
- Do not use leftover vaccine.
- Protect from extreme heat and sunlight.

9.

### Keep Equipment Clean

- Clean modified live virus vaccine guns using only hot water.
- Disinfectants can leave residues, which will inactivate MLV vaccines.
- Clean bacterin guns with hot water or mild disinfectant.

10.

### Keep Detailed Records

- What product is used
- When and Why it is used
- In which animal it is used
- Withdrawal times

Consult all records prior to marketing.



- Your herd veterinarian
- Beef & Dairy Producer Organizations
- Pharmaceutical company representatives

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