

Beef Quality Assurance Is For All Producers

Beef cattle producers should start a Beef Quality Assurance Program on their farm. Beef Quality Assurance involves all those things that can be done when producing cattle that will result in a superior beef product for consumers.

The quality of meat produced by the animals on a producer's farm starts when breeding animals are selected. Producers should select those animals that will produce desirable carcasses when they come out of the feedlot.

The way animals are cared for while on the farm will also have an effect on the quality of meat produced. Producers need to perform those practices that will keep the animals healthy and productive. A good beef cattle handling facility is needed to prevent bruises and to restrain the animal while necessary health practices are performed. Animals should be handled as gently as possible.

Selection of the type of injections and the site of the injections are also very important items in a quality assurance program. All injections should be given in the neck. Injections should be given just under the skin (subcutaneous) instead of the muscle (intramuscular) if the label on the medication will permit. Do not give injections in the rump. Injections given in this area may cause abscesses or lesions. Producers should follow all instructions on medication labels.

Producers can assure that they are producing a quality product by following the recommendations of the beef quality assurance program. For more information on the beef quality assurance program, contact the local Extension office.