

Beef Quality Assurance Program Spans Pasture to Processing

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As part of its Beef Quality Assurance Program, K-State's Beef Cattle Institute has expanded to an additional website, "Animal Care Training" (<http://www.animalcaretraining.org>). The Beef Quality Assurance program is a training system for beef producers, handlers, and processors. The program educates managers and workers in all sectors of the beef industry, from the newly hired to the seasoned veteran. The program is entirely self-paced - participants can log in and watch videos as many times as they like, 24 hours a day.

The topics covered in the training modules continue to evolve, as participants return to the site, seeking further training. We've seen an evolution in BQA from 'How do we move our injection sites to the neck?' to 'How do we make sure that we use our animal microbials in a proper manner?' It's not only what the product is, and how wholesome the product is, but now we have to look at how we actually raise these animals, and that's something that may be going on the label of our beef products, as well.

There are about 150 training modules, ranging between five and ten minutes in length. To access the training, a user would visit the Beef Cattle Institute website (<http://beefcattleinstitute.org/>) and select "Animal Care Training" in the lower right corner of the screen. Payment for the modules can be made with a credit card, or an invoice can be mailed to the subscriber.

Each module ends with a short quiz-at least 80 percent of the questions must be answered correctly for a passing grade. The subscriber will then be emailed a certificate with his or her name on it, to document completion of that module. A transcript is kept for each employee or producer that wants to take part in this.

The online modules convey ideas and techniques that books and other printed materials can't adequately demonstrate. The online delivery saves time and money for both the "teacher" and the "students." But perhaps the biggest reason for the online approach? Convenience. Producers can do this at all times during the day.

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association has designated BCI as their national center for online training. While the focus of the BQA program is beef cattle, the site also includes training modules for dairy cattle, and equine care.

Cowley County Extension to host a BQA training meeting

The Kansas Beef Council, The KSU College of Veterinary Medicine/Beef Cattle Institute, and Cowley County Extension will sponsor an Advanced Beef Cattle Care and Health Training. It will be held at the Winfield Livestock Auction on Monday, November 11. It will be held from 6 - 9 p.m. Registration is required but there is no registration fee and the meal is complimentary. The program will include: Advanced Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) Training, Animal Husbandry Best Management Practices, Downed Animal Care and Humane Euthanasia Training, and Stockmanship principles and Low-Stress Cattle-Handling Techniques.

Complete details and the registration forms are available in our office, at the Butler County Extension web site: www.butler.ksu.edu You will find it in the Agriculture Programs and Meetings. Or www.KansasBeef.org/BQARegistrationForm.aspx