

CURRENT UPDATES FOR BEEF QUALITY ASSURANCE

Starting in January 2019, all feedlots delivering to National Beef were required to be Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) certified. This same requirement for livestock transportation carriers became effective on January 1, 2020, when Beef Quality Assurance for Transportation (BQA-T) was instituted.

At this time, customers of feedlots (ranchers and backgrounders) are not yet required to be BQA certified. Becoming certified can easily be accomplished at www.bqa.org. There, you can view a list of state coordinators with information regarding seminars and training in your area.

When individuals and feedlots become BQA certified, they are sent a certificate that is valid for three years and will receive a notification when it is time to renew the certificate.

Since its inception in the late 1970s, the BQA program has provided excellent information on combining well-known husbandry techniques with

new and improved ways of raising cattle, along with an understanding of the latest in scientific data.

Please understand that the BQA certification requirement is to satisfy the demands and expectations of today's beef customers. Many feedlots, regardless of their size, have required new employees to personally become BQA certified. In addition, many seasoned livestock producers have commented on how much they've learned from the training.

Not only does BQA certification confirm with customers that the beef they're purchasing comes from farms, ranches and feedlots that have researched the latest and most innovative production measures, it also assures them that beef is produced in a safe, healthy and wholesome manner.

There are many places to access the latest information on BQA. Producers can contact their state administrator or visit the website (www.bqa.org). Feel free to call USPB if we can be of assistance. ♦

