

Beef Quality Assurance Requirement

U.S. Premium Beef and National Beef are committed to the highest level of integrity regarding the health and welfare of finished cattle that move through National Beef facilities. As a result, starting on December 31, 2018, the first day of delivery year 2019, all cattle delivered to National Beef’s plants in Liberal and Dodge City, Kansas must come from Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) certified feedlots. At this time, only delivering feedlots are required to be certified, not their customers or suppliers. Although certification can be completed by the feedlot manager or their designee, it is recommended that all feedlot employees complete the coursework for certification.

BQA is not a new program, such programs have been in existence for over 30 years. The programs not only provide beef producers the latest and most innovative production measures, they also assure consumers that beef is produced in a safe, healthy and wholesome manner.

BQA certification is easy and can be completed at no cost to producers. The coursework can be completed online or in-person at a local BQA meeting. To begin the online certification process, visit the BQA certification site at <https://bqa.beeflearningcenter.org>. Upon completion, you will be issued a certification number. All resources for the nationally coordinated and state implemented BQA programs can be found at www.bqa.org.

List of state BQA coordinators who can advise of BQA certification meetings in your area:

State	Name	Position	Phone	Email
CO	Jason Ahola	Colorado State University	970-491-3312	jason.ahola@colostate.edu
CO	Libby Bigler	Colorado State University	970-491-2333	libby.bigler@colostate.edu
IA	Rusty Gibbs	Iowa Beef Industry Council	515-296-2305	rusty@iabeef.org
IL	Travis Meteer	University of Illinois	217-236-4961	wmeteer2@illinois.edu
KS	Clayton Huseman	Kansas Livestock Association	785-273-5115	clayton@kla.org
KS	John Sachse	Kansas Beef Council	785-273-5225	john@kansasbeef.org
MO	Craig A. Payne, DVM, MS	Veterinary Extension, University of Missouri	573-882-8236	payneca@missouri.edu
National	Chase DeCoite	National Cattlemen's Beef Assn.	408-607-2596	cdecoite@beef.org
National	Josh White	National Cattlemen's Beef Assn.	720-476-0023	jwhite@beef.org
National	Grace Webb	National Cattlemen's Beef Assn.	303-694-0305	gwebb@beef.org
National	Jesse Fulton	National Cattlemen's Beef Assn.	303-694-0305	jfulton@beef.org
National	Jeremy Pollard	National Cattlemen's Beef Assn.	303-694-0305	jpollard@beef.org
NE	Rob Eirich	University of Nebraska	308-632-1230	reirich2@unl.edu
NM	John Wenzel, DVM	New Mexico State Univ.	575-646-3019	jwenzel@nmsu.edu
OK	Bob LeValley	Director of Compliance, OK Beef Council	405-840-3777	bvalley@oklabeef.org
OK	Heather Buckmaster	Oklahoma Beef Council	405-840-3777	heather.buckmaster@oklabeef.org
SD	Heidi Carroll	Extension Livestock Field Specialist	605-688-6623	heidi.carroll@sdstate.edu
TX	Ben Weinheimer	TX Cattle Feeders Association	806-358-3681	ben@tcfa.org
TX	Stacy Fox	TX & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Assn.	817-332-7064	sfox@tskra.org
TX	Ron Gill, Ph.D.	Texas A&M AgriLife Extension	254-968-4144	rgill@ag.tamu.edu
TX	Jason Banta	Texas A&M AgriLife Extension	903-834-6191	jpbanta@ag.tamu.edu
TX	Jason Bagley	Texas Beef Council	512-335-2333	jbagley@txbeef.org
WI	John Freitag	Wisconsin Beef Council	608-833-7177	jwf@beeftips.com
WI	Sandy Stuttgen	UW-Extension, Taylor County	715-748-3327	sandy.stuttgen@ces.uwex.edu