Certification Requirements of the North Dakota Beef Quality Assurance Program

North Dakota's Beef Quality Assurance Program
It's Every Cattleman's Business

■ General

- Cattle sold as North Dakota Beef Quality Assurance (NDBQA) certified must be processed or treated by NDBQA certified personnel or under the supervision of a person who is NDBQA certified.
- Calves must be uniquely and individually identified, with animal number and operation or ranch identification (ND BQA operation identification number, or ranch brand), at time of treatment or prior to leaving the ranch of origin.
- Individual recertification requirement of 3 years.

■ Injectable Animal Health Products

- All animal health products labeled for subcutaneous (SC) or intramuscular (IM) administration shall be administered in the neck. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**
- If a product is label for both SC and IM routes of administration, SC use is preferable.
- No more than 10 cc of product administered per site, with proper spacing of 3 to 4 inches between sites.

■ Processing and Treatments

- All animals not kept for breeding stock will be dehorned before leaving the ranch of origin.
- All male animals not kept for breeding stock will be castrated before leaving the ranch of origin.
- All animal health products must be used according to label directions.
- Extra-label drug use shall be used only when prescribed by a veterinarian working under a valid Veterinary Client Patient Relationship (VCPR).
- All withdrawal times must be strictly adhered to.

■ Records

Treatment records will be maintained with the following recorded:

- Individual animal or group identification
- Date treated
- Product administered and manufacturer's lot/serial number
- Dosage used
- Route and location of administration
- Withdrawal period and earliest date animal will have cleared the withdrawal period

Medicated or feed additives records will be maintained with the following recorded:

- Individual or group identification
- Date treated
- Manufacturer, ration name, and number
- Additive used
- Withdrawal period and earliest date animal will have cleared the withdrawal period

■ Feedstuffs

- Ruminant-derived protein sources cannot be fed according to FDA regulations.

■ Feed Additives and Medications

- Only FDA approved medicated feed additives will be used in rations.
- Extra-label use of feed additives is illegal and strictly prohibited.
- To avoid violative residues – withdrawal times must be strictly adhered to.
- Complete records must be kept when formulating or feeding medicated feed rations.
- Records are to be kept a minimum of two years.
- Operator will assure that all additives are withdrawn at the proper time to avoid violative residues.

Recommendations of the North Dakota Beef Quality Assurance Program

■ Care and Husbandry Practices

- Cattle will be handled and transported in such a fashion to minimize stress, injury, and/or bruising.
- Strive to keep feed and water handling equipment clean.
- Facilities (fences, corrals, load-outs, etc.) should be inspected regularly to ensure proper care and ease of handling.
- Biosecurity principles should be maintained for the operation and should include:
  - Proper sanitation
  - Isolation and acclimation of new animals
  - Disease testing
  - Vaccination
  - Good record keeping

■ Injectable Animal Health Products

- If possible use less reactive animal health products that will cause less injection site tissue damage.

■ Feedstuffs

- Maintain records of any pesticide/herbicide use on pasture or crops that could potentially lead to violative residues in grazing cattle or feedlot cattle.
- Adequate quality control program(s) are in place for incoming feedstuffs. Program(s) should be designed to eliminate contamination from molds, mycotoxins or chemicals of incoming feed ingredients. Supplier assurance of feed ingredient quality is recommended.
- Suspect feedstuffs should be analyzed prior to use.
- Feeding by-product ingredients should be supported with sound science.

■ Feed Additives and Medications

- Medicated feed additives will be used in accordance with the FDA Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) regulation.
- Follow Judicious Antibiotic Use Guidelines.

■ Processing/Treatment and Records

- Follow all FDA/USDA/EPA guidelines for product(s) utilized.