

# **Beef Quality Assurance Program Agreement**

## **Objective:**

To certify that all cattle shipped from this ranch are healthy, wholesome and meet all state and federal standards. This certification program applies to the procedures utilized by the ranch for producing cattle. This program is a cooperative effort between this operator, the ACGA, The University of Arizona, USDA and the Arizona Department of Agriculture.

## **Procedures:**

### Training:

1. To be eligible for the Quality Certification Program, key ranch personnel are required to participate in appropriate training programs.
2. In order to maintain certification, a minimum of 4 hours of continuing education is required every 2 years.

### Feed Sources:

1. Operator will inform suppliers that feedstuffs are periodically sampled and tested for pesticides.

### Feed Additives:

1. Operator will certify that only approved additives are used in the feed and that all additives are withdrawn according to law to avoid violative residues.

### Individual Treatments:

1. Medication of individual animals has followed treatment schedules developed in consultation with a licensed veterinarian or OTC medications are used per label instructions. Medication of each animal has been recorded by showing the individual identification. The record includes the date the medication was administered, the type of medication used, the dosage administered and the administration site.
2. All animals scheduled for slaughter have been checked to assure proper withdrawal times have been met to avoid violative residues.
3. All veterinarians working on the animals will be advised that they must provide an up-to-date, on-site file of written prescriptions for any extra label drug use.
4. USDA randomly samples carcasses at the packing plant to check for potential residues.

### Livestock Pesticides:

1. Operator assures that only state and federally approved pesticides have been used for cattle treatment in accordance with label directions.

### Records:

1. All records of rations fed, feed additives added to specific rations and individual treatments are maintained by the operator for a period of three years.
2. Should illegal residues be found in any cattle shipped, the operator shall make applicable

- records available to FSIS personnel to aid in determining the source and cause of residue.
- 3. These records will be available for use by the University of Arizona research personnel. The cooperators may be asked to supply copies of the records for off-site analysis.
- 2. Compliance reviews will be performed periodically.

**Action Concerning Residues:**

- 1. Any violative residue found by FSIS will be reported by telephone to the operator.
- 2. When a violative residue is found and reported, a joint assessment by the rancher and appropriate agencies will be made on the source and cause of the residue and corrective action will be taken. The University of Arizona will be advised of the availability of data related to the event for their analysis.

This Program is subject to review and modification by the ACGA BQA Task Force

Name:	Phone Number:
Address:	
	Email Address:
City:	Ranch:
State:	Owner or Manager (if different than applicant):
Zip:	

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Applicant Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
U of A Representative Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

*The original document will be maintained by the ranch and a copy in the Livestock Extension office*

**Compliance and Review:**

The Beef Quality Assurance Program requires a periodic review of the ranch’s record keeping system and will require copies of certain records. The review will be performed by University of Arizona personnel.

The data collection review will examine the following:

- 1. Individual treatment records – Reviewer will see if individual animals are being identified, dosages are correct, routes of administration are proper and veterinarian-client-patient relationship exists when required by law.
- 2. Feed medication records – Review will check for proper FDA forms if the ranch mixes their own premix or copies of premix ingredients from a commercial source. Reviewer will also see that proper withdrawal times are observed as necessary.

If the data collector finds significant compliance deficiencies, the Arizona Cattle Growers’ Association will be notified. Corrective action will be taken according to a confidential addendum.