

## What Is the Missouri Stocker/Feeder Quality Assurance Program?

The Missouri Stocker Feeder Quality Assurance Program is designed to meet the quality improvement and pre-conditioning needs of producers, feeders, and consumers.

This program educates participants in immunology, animal well-being and the economics of disease. Participation in the program increases producer accountability for quality and safety of the product they sell.

## How Does the Program Work?

Veterinarians and producers must be certified. Veterinarians are certified by MVMA MSFQAP Committee members. Producers are certified by their veterinarian. Veterinarians and producers learn how they can influence carcass quality and consumer confidence by monitoring where and when injections are administered. Once certified, the producer may participate in the program at one of three levels (white, red or blue tag). The three-level approach allows all producers the opportunity to match their level of management and facilities to the level of participation.



### Level 1: Show-Me Select (White Tag)

- Participating veterinarians and producers must be certified;
- Calves must be properly identified with an approved ear tag. Tag numbers will be listed on an approved certificate;
- External and internal parasite control is administered;
- Calves will be dehorned and healed. Calves will also be castrated with a knife and healed or verified to be steers;
- Vaccinations: 7-way clostridial, IBR, BVD, PI3, BRSV, Histophilus somni and Mannheimia haemolytica with leukotoxoid;
- Cattle must be born on the producer's farm. A range of birthdates or the birthdate of the oldest calf in the group must be recorded;
- Bull in and out dates will be provided;
- Individual calf treatments will be recorded to include date, product, dosage, route of administration and injection site;
- Vaccinations must be given no younger than four months of age and at least 21 days before sale.

### Level 2: Show-Me Superior (Red Tag)

- Meet Level 1 requirements;
- Weaned 45 days before offering for sale;
- Must receive boosters a minimum of 21 days following initial vaccinations. No Pasteurella booster is required if initial vaccination is labeled as a single dose. Boosters should be given in a timely fashion to optimize response. Modified live vaccines are required for viral vaccines administered at this time.

- Boosters must be given at least seven days prior to sale and be modified live for IBR, PI3, BVD and BRSV.

### Level 3: Show-Me Supreme (Blue Tag)

- Meet Level 1 and Level 2 requirements;
- All cattle must be tested and be negative for persistent BVD infection.
- Genetic information is optional.

## Why Should I Participate In the Program?

The Missouri Stocker/Feeder Quality Assurance Program allows producers to maintain a fair value and a continued share of the market for their calves.

The program provides producers a standardized tool to build the reputation of, and increase the demand for, Missouri feeder cattle. In addition, the program increases the producers' accountability for the product.

Participating producers can be more proactive when dealing with cattle buyers, feeders, packers and ultimately, consumers.



## What Are the Issues?

The beef industry must improve the quality and consistency of its product and become more competitive with alternative protein sources.

Industry leaders believe this can become reality if the various sectors of the industry use the results of the National Beef Quality Audit (NBQA).

## According to the 1995 National Beef Quality Audit...

The top five concerns of packers are:

- Lack of uniformity and predictability of live cattle.
- Frequent defects in hides including problems caused by brands, insects, parasites and mud.
- Too many injection site blemishes.
- Excessive carcass weights.
- Too many bruises.

The Animal Health Committee of the Missouri Veterinary Medical Association has developed the Missouri Stocker/Feeder Quality Assurance Program to address these issues.

## What Additional Programs Are Available?

The Missouri Veterinary Medical Association also offers a program for purchased cattle entitled the "Backgrounder Program".

## For More Information...

For more information on any of these beef quality assurance programs, call the Missouri Veterinary Medical Association at the number listed on the back of this brochure.

## To Learn More...

For additional information visit our website at [www.mvma.us](http://www.mvma.us). An online MSFQAP Producer Manual, newsletter and other materials are available.

To have information sent to you, call 573-636-8612, or email [mvma@mvma.us](mailto:mvma@mvma.us)



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# Improving the Quality of Missouri Beef

