



Wisconsin Beef Council and UW-Extension Working to Provide BQA Training

The Wisconsin Beef Council and the University of Wisconsin-Extension are offering a number of Beef Quality Assurance trainings across the state. Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) is a nationally coordinated, state implemented program that provides systematic information to U.S. beef producers and beef consumers of how common sense husbandry techniques can be coupled with accepted scientific knowledge to raise cattle under optimum management and environmental conditions. BQA guidelines are designed to make certain all beef consumers can take pride in what they purchase – and can trust and have confidence in the entire beef industry.

Wisconsin trainings are being offered to help Wisconsin farmers meet the January 1 deadline where some packers will require the fed cattle they buy come from BQA-certified or FARM 3.0 certified farms. The requirement impacts those selling finished cattle that are predominately beef breeds and will be in effect for all markets and all private treaty transactions. Most dairy farms are FARM certified through their milk processor. Farmers can ask their dairy plant representative for help to get a copy of their completed FARM evaluation, or a letter from them indicating the farm's completion of FARM 3.0 or beyond. The certification requirement by packers is in response to Wendy's, the third largest hamburger chain in the U.S., who recently requested that their beef supply be responsibly produced under BQA guidelines.

For a list of upcoming trainings that are being offered, go to <https://fyi.uwex.edu/wbic/2018/11/14/bqa-certification-workshops-update/>. Farmers can also certify online at www.bqa.org. The online training allows farmers to create an account (using an email address) and selecting the course that best fits their particular operation. Each interactive course takes about 2 hours to complete, and requires an 80% score to pass the final test.

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The Wisconsin Beef Council is a producer-directed not-for-profit organization funded by the \$1.00 per head assessment on all cattle sold in the state of Wisconsin per the Federal Beef Promotion and Research Act & Order. Half of one dollar remains in Wisconsin for local beef promotion, while the other half is forwarded to the Cattlemen's Beef Board. The purpose of the Council is to fund beef promotion, research and consumer education activities supporting Wisconsin's \$2.1 billion beef industry. The WBC operates under the guidance of its Board of Directors. The Board is comprised of representatives from cattle related organizations from around the state.