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**Beef Quality Assurance**

Tracey Walsh

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**Beef Quality Assurance**

**Colorado, Nebraska, Wyoming, and South Dakota**

BQA Coordinators

Range Beef Cow Symposium

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**Our Goal:**

Raise consumer confidence through offering proper management techniques and a commitment to quality within every segment of the beef industry.

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**What is Beef Quality Assurance?**

- Beef industry's voluntary “Quality Control” Program
- Best Management Practices
- Addresses “day-to-day” management practices
- Educational tool, not regulatory

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**What is Beef Quality?**

Always have the consumer in mind:

- Safety
- Freedom From Defects
- Tenderness
- Taste
- Eating Experience
- Consistency & Predictability

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**BQA Basics**

- Recruit your BQA Team
- Employees, Family, Suppliers, Specialists
- Take a look at what could go wrong
- Figure out a plan to avoid problems
- Train and educate yourself and your employees and family
- Develop checklists and complete records
- Document and double check what you have implemented

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**Beef Quality Assurance from the Producer’s Gate to the Consumer’s Plate**

This program is brought to you by Beef producers through the $1 per head Beef Checkoff and Extension.
Beef Quality Audit: “Key” shortcomings that must be addressed by the industry?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quality Challenges</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>External Fat</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Overall Uniformity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Color</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Color and Taste</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cut Weight</td>
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<tr>
<td>Source: BQA</td>
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</tbody>
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Producer Feedback Results

- Off-Label Drug Use
  - > 25% producers use medications other than directed on a drug products label without being directed by a veterinarian

- Withdrawal Times
  - < 47% use written records to determine withdrawal dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency of Use</th>
<th>Overall Response</th>
<th>Overall Response</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Always</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>46.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Usually</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>26.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sometimes</td>
<td>17.5</td>
<td>14.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never</td>
<td>74.2</td>
<td>11.7</td>
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