

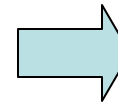
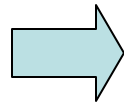
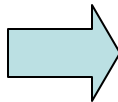
# Connecting The Beef and Dairy Livestock Welfare Chain

The national Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) program provides cattle and dairy producers on America's farms and ranches with the principles and tools used every day to ensure animals are given proper care. The Dairy Quality Assurance Program (DQA) describes proper practices for dairy producers to follow. These national programs include guidelines on management practices such as feeding and nutrition, handling and stress reduction. BQA and DQA guidelines can be verified by third parties to ensure compliance.

"Fed cattle" are raised on pasture land for 12-18 months and transported to a feedlot for finishing, where they spend four to six months. In feedlots, they are fed a scientifically formulated ration and have constant access to water. BQA principles are used in the management practices of more than 90 percent of U.S. cattle. Some cattle bypass the feedlot and are sold through auction markets. They benefit from animal handling guidelines, and market manager/staff training certification Programs developed by BQA and the Livestock Marketing Association.

Cattle transporters play a critical role in the health and welfare of cattle by delivering cattle safely to their destination. Transportation Beef Quality Assurance (TBQA) and DQA programs ensure proper cattle handling, loading and unloading of cattle, management of weak or injured cattle and transportation of cattle during hot or cold weather. The American Trucking Association encourages its members to comply with these guidelines. The American Meat Institute will add a transportation offloading audit to its existing audit program in Spring 2008 to ensure compliance.

The American Meat Institute (AMI) Animal Care & Handling Guidelines provide detailed recommendations for handling livestock in a way that works with their natural instincts and minimizes stress at the plant. AMI's audit program, done by both plants and by outside third parties, measures key criteria like how often cattle moo, how often animals slip and fall, how often they are prodded. By measuring regularly, we manage more effectively.



*Not only is humane handling of livestock ethically appropriate, it also has distinct economic benefits in the form of higher quality meat products.*