Assuring Quality Care for Animals

Food Animal Quality Assurance

2018
Food Safety and Government Relations

Youth Food Animal Quality Assurance
Curriculum Guide
go.osu.edu/AQCA
Who is Responsible for Food Safety?

- All segments of the production chain
- At the live animal level:
  - Food animal producers including:
    - Youth food animal project members
    - Parents/guardians/family members of youth
Quality Assurance

- Assurance is a pledge or promise
- Quality defined 2 ways -
  - A food product preferred by consumers
  - A safe, wholesome food product
How Can Youth Exhibitors Ensure Food Safety?

- Supply the packer/processor with animals and/or food products free from drug and chemical residues and physical hazards.
- Youth exhibitors must also be aware of withdrawal times.
Ethics and Animal Welfare

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Youth Livestock Exhibitors

• Most public arena of the food animal industry

• Actions of 4-H & FFA members impact:
  – Public perception of food animal industry
  – Food quality and safety
Remember: You are representing your organization, club, county, the industry, your family, and yourself!
Ethical Decisions – ASK YOURSELF…

• Does the practice break FDA, state, or federal laws?
• Does the practice harm the animal?
• Does the practice falsely represent the animal?
• Do you have to lie to cover up the practice?
• Would the public be upset if they knew about the practice?
• Are the food products from this animal marketable?
• Would you eat the food produced from this animal?
Animal Well-Being

- Daily Observation
  - Keep track of observations looking for patterns
  - Ensures prompt reaction to needs
  - Animal production gives us direction!
    - Average Daily Gain (ADG)
    - Feed Efficiency (FE)
    - Physical Evaluation
    - Disease
    - Behavior Abnormalities
Animal Well-Being

Body Condition Scoring (BCS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCORE</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION (Beef cows)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Emaciated with muscle atrophy and no detectable fat. Tail head and ribs project prominently.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Poor condition with muscle atrophy and no detectable fat. Tail head and ribs prominent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Thin condition with slight muscle atrophy and very little detectable fat. All ribs visible.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Borderline condition. Outline of spine slightly visible. Outline of 3 to 5 ribs visible. Some fat over ribs and hips.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Moderate condition and good overall appearance. Outline of spine no longer visible. Outline of 1 to 2 ribs visible. Fat over hips but still visible.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>High moderate condition. Ribs and spine no longer visible. Pressure applied to feel bone structure. Some fat in brisket and flanks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Good, fleshy appearance. Hips slightly visible but ribs and spine not visible. Fat in brisket and flanks with slight udder and tail head fat.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Fat, fleshy, and over-conditioned. Bone structure not visible. Large patchy fat deposits over ribs, around tail head, and brisket.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Extremely fat, wasty, and patchy. Mobility possibly impaired. Bone structure not visible. Extreme fat deposits over ribs, around tail head, and brisket.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Adapted from "Body Condition Scoring Beef Cows" by D.A. Everson, M.F. Browne, J.B. Hall, and R.E. Dietz (Publication 466-793, 2000)

Parker and Coffey, University of Kentucky
Animal Well-Being

• Space
  – Stand up
  – Lie down
  – Turn around
  – When lying, a full lateral recumbency should be achieved
    • Head should be free from resting on feeder
    • Tail should not be in contact with fencing at the same time
Animal Well-Being

- Euthanasia
  - Work with your veterinarian and the VCPR you have established
  - Sometimes this is necessary
  - Timely –
    - If animal shows no improvement as a result of severe condition or illness for more than 2 consecutive days this might be viable option.
  - CONSULT with your VETERINARIAN
Moving Animals

• Be aware of and use the flight zone

• Make sure pathways are clear of obstructions
  – Can cause bruising and injury

• No yelling, poking, hitting, shocking
  – Avoid use of electric prods!
Animal Well-Being

- Willful acts of abuse
  - Unacceptable on any farm or in any show barn!
  - Right versus Wrong!
    - Just because another person is doing it?
    - Just because we know the person doing it?
    - Just because you respect that person?
    - THINK! Then ASK!
  - If you observe willful acts of abuse you should stop the situation
    - If you feel threatened then tell someone confidentially and let them handle the situation