

Beef Quality Assurance Frequently Asked Questions



2024-25 is the 3-year mark for the majority of Wisconsin farmers certified in the BQA program. In 2018, certain packers announced they would only purchase cattle from farms selling finished cattle that are BQA Certified.

How to certify:

- **Online** by going to <https://www.bqa.org/beef-quality-assurance-certification/online-certifications>. Create an account and choose either the Cow/Calf, Stocker/Backgrounder or Feedyard courses. The website tracks your progress, so you don't need to complete the entire course at one time.
- **In-person:** UW-Madison's Division of Extension and the Wisconsin Beef Council are hosting a limited number of in-person Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) certification meetings. To find meeting dates/locations, go to <https://www.beeftips.com/cattlemens-corner/beef-quality-assurance>.
- **Continuing Education Credits:** - available only to farmers who hold a current BQA certification. Complete three (3) continuing education credits from the options found on BQA.org and your BQA expiration date will be extended by an additional three years. Available courses include BQA Transportation (2 credits), Biosecurity (1 credit), Foundations of Herd Health (1 credit), Principles of Stockmanship (1 credit), and Herd Health Management Practices (1 credit). UW-Madison Division of Extension also offers BQA continuing education credits.



Who needs to be BQA Certified? For a farmer/rancher to fully understand their individual BQA requirement, it is recommended that they visit with their cattle buyers. Auction barns and packing plants in Wisconsin have provided the following guidance:

- **Finished/fat cattle:** Tyson buyers require farmers to be BQA certified; auction markets are required to have proof of BQA certification and will announce farmer status prior to auctioning cattle. JBS requires that producers selling cattle directly to their plants sign an affidavit stating that they are "in compliance with all applicable state or national BQA certification and verification programs."
- **Feeder calves:** At this time, there is no BQA requirement for the sale of feeder cattle.
- **Cull cows/bulls:** JBS requires that producers selling cattle directly to their plants sign an affidavit stating that they are "in compliance with all applicable state or national BQA certification and verification programs."
- **Dairy calves:** At this time, there is no BQA requirement for the sale of dairy calves. However, the U.S. calf-raising sector now has a voluntary program to help ensure optimal calf health and welfare via the *Calf Care & Quality Assurance (CCQA)* program. Details can be found at <https://www.calfcareqa.org/>

Programs equivalent to BQA: The national dairy FARM program can help dairy producers manage their operations in ways that will ensure quality milk and beef. FARM 3.0 evaluations are BQA equivalent.

Further questions about BQA? Contact Wisconsin's BQA coordinators:

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Tammy Vaassen, Wisconsin Beef Council, tvaassen@beeftips.com 608-833-9940 or 1-800-728-2333

Beef Quality Assurance – Wisconsin in-person meeting dates

BQA does more than help beef producers capture more value from their cattle: BQA provides a positive public image and instills consumer confidence in the beef industry. When producers implement the best management practices of a BQA program, they ensure the cattle they sell are the best they can be. Consumer research, conducted by the Beef Checkoff, shows that learning about BQA made consumers more confident in beef safety and animal welfare and improved positive consumer perceptions of how cattle are raised for food.

The in-person BQA certification meeting dates below are current as of this printing. Training begins promptly at the time listed, please arrive 30 minutes before the time listed.



Registration is required one week before each program.

Register at <https://tinyurl.com/2hr5karf> or call the phone number listed. If no phone number is provided, call the Wisconsin Beef Council at 1-800-728-2333 to register.



2024 Dates:

Sept. 24, 6:30 pm: Equity Livestock Sparta, 6089 State Hwy 16, Sparta. 608-637-5276

Sept. 26, 5 pm: Grant County Youth & Ag Building, 916 E. Elm Street, Lancaster. 608-723-2125

Oct. 15, 5:30 pm: Light dinner, Equity Livestock Stratford, 214910 State Hwy 97, Stratford. 715-748-1413

Oct. 22, 12:30 pm: Light lunch, 1 pm program, Bloomington Livestock Exchange, 9663 County Hwy A, Bloomington, WI 53804. 608-723-2125

Oct. 24, 12:30 pm: Light lunch, 1 pm program, Belmont Sale Barn, 26770 Sales Barn Ln, Belmont, WI 53510. 608-723-2125

Nov. 13, 1 pm: Iowa County Extension Office/Health & Human Services Bldg., 303 W. Chapel St., Dodgeville. 608-723-2125

Dec. 6, 9 am: Equity Coop Bonduel, 455 N. Cecil Street, Bonduel. 715-748-1413

Dec. 9, 5 pm: South Central Livestock Exchange, S4340 County Hwy S, Reedsburg. 800-728-2333

Dec. 10, 1 pm: Equity Coop Monroe, N1365 State Road 69, Monroe. 608-723-2125

Dec. 13, 1 pm: Watertown Public Library, 100 S. Water Street, Watertown. 800-728-2333

2025 Dates:

Jan. 7, 5 pm: Multi-Purpose Bldg., 11974 Ames Road, Darlington. 608-723-2125

Jan. 11, 9 am: Ice Age Pavilion, 847 Fayette Avenue, Rib Lake. 715-748-1413

Jan. 13, 6 pm: UW-River Falls Mann Valley Farm, 129 S Glover Road, River Falls. 800-728-2333

Jan 16, 12 pm: Equity Coop Lomira, N11579 Industrial Drive, Lomira. 920-294-4032

Jan. 16, 6 pm: Manchester Rod & Gun Club, W3614 S Gate Road, Markesan. 920-294-4032

Jan. 29, 1 pm: Equity Coop Altoona, 5150 Hwy 53 South, Eau Claire. 715-748-1413

Feb. 10, 5 pm: Richland County Extension Office, 110 US-14, Richland Center. 608-647-6148