Ontario Corn Fed Beef Quality Assurance Program

Producer Manual

EDITION TWO

The Ontario Corn Fed Beef Quality Assurance (OCFB QA) Program is an integrated food safety and quality assurance program developed by the Ontario Cattle Feeders' Association. The program was developed to recognize the importance of food safety and quality protocols on the farm and throughout the supply chain.

Producers participating in the program are responsible for implementing and following the National Farm Care Council Code of Practice and regulatory acts put in place by the Government of Ontario.

Producers are also responsible for following all guidelines put in place by the OCFB QA Program.

The OCFB QA Program utilizes the most effective methods and techniques for on-farm food safety, emphasizing animal health, nutrition and welfare, cleanliness, environmental stewardship and record keeping.

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1.0 Ontario Corn Fed Beef Quality Assurance Program

1.1 Program Objectives

Food safety and quality assurance is the responsibility of all partners in the beef supply chain. Consumers, government, food processors, farm suppliers, and producers all have a stake and a role to play.

Following the program outlined in this manual will allow producers to demonstrate that they are doing their part to:

- Market a consistent, high quality product
- Enhance on-farm food safety and quality assurance
- Utilize good production practices and standard operating rocedures related to on-farm management, animal welfare, and environmental stewardship
- Maintain accurate records in accordance with program requirements

1.2 Adopting this Program

Producers achieve certification by:

- Undergoing an initial OCFB QA audit
- Adhering and signing the Ontario Corn Fed Beef Quality Assurance Program Feedlot Operator Commitments form
- Adhering to all guidelines, elements and criteria of the Ontario Corn Fed Beef QA Program
- Allowing random audits done by Ontario Cattle Feeders' staff as well as third-party auditors for subsequent on-farm audits
- Record assessment as required
- Re-certification and adhering to program updates as needed
- Records are to be kept and filed for one year after shipping cattle

1.0 QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAM

1.3 Federal and Provincial Regulations

Producers are required to comply with all Federal and Ontario laws and regulations.

Certification to the OCFB QA Program does not indicate that the producer is in compliance with any laws. It is the producer's sole responsibility to ensure full compliance with all applicable laws.

Including but not limited to:

- Ontario Nutrient Management Act
- Ontario Nutrient Management Act, 2002 Ontario Regulation 106/09 Disposal of Dead Farm Animals
- CFIA transportation laws
- Animal Health Act
- Beef Code of Practices
- **Producer found to be in non-compliance to government laws and regulations can be removed from the program**

All OCFB QA Program producers are responsible for following the Ontario Nutrient Management Act, 2002, S.O. 2002, c. 4. Producers are required to read and adhere to all Government laws and regulations.

1.4 Hold/Removal

Producers who do not comply with OCFB QA Program Standards can/will be removed from the program.

- Producers who do not comply with OCFB QA Program Standards can/will be removed from the program
- Corrective actions to be dealt with immediately by producer. Auditor to assess corrective actions in 60 days - corrective actions not taken results in removal from the program
- Record assessments will be assessed by auditor. Failure to submit records and/or records that do not meet OCFB QA Program Standards will result in the producer being put on hold until all corrective actions are resolved and approved by an auditor
- Once a producer is removed from the program or fails to comply and later wants to re-certify, the producer will start the audit process from the beginning

2.0 TRANSPORTATION OF CATTLE

2.1 Cattle Receiving

A) Receiving Cattle

Receiving Record with any/all treatment given to the cattle on arrival as well as the Cattle Receiving Standard Operating Procedures. All medicated feed must be recorded on group treatment records as well as ration composition records to ensure withdrawal is monitored. If producers do not process their own cattle they must provide their processor with a Cattle Receiving Record to complete and return to the appropriate producer.

B) New Arrival Weigh-Ins

Having your feedlot equipped with scales can be beneficial in several ways. You get assurance that shrink calculations (difference between purchase weight and off truck weight) for payment purposes are accurate. Calculations of shrink can also be used to determine previous handling of cattle (transport and holding) and help you identify groups of cattle at higher risk of disease or in need of health treatments.

Proper weights for incoming animals can provide accurate inventory control, also allows for accurate dosing of medications - food safety and efficacy implications. If you do not have scales, use the auction or selling weight as a base on which to work with the cattle.

C) Lot, Pen Assignment and Sorting

Careful assessment of the condition of incoming cattle can be the most important step in determining short and long-term outcomes.

Cattle are often assigned a lot and pen number on arrival. This must be recorded on the Cattle Receiving Record. At some point after receiving or processing, cattle may be sorted into different lots according to type, weight, etc.

Sorting should be kept to a minimum unless cattle are very uneven when transferring cattle from pens. Always record transfer pen number. On arrival separate bullers as needed.

2.0 TRANSPORTATION OF CATTLE

2.2 Cattle Shipping

A) Shipping Cattle

When animals are ready to leave the feedlot, a pre-shipment plan should be completed to ensure all the necessary information is in order for the person receiving the cattle.

Check animals for illness or injury and treat accordingly. Do not ship until cattle are healthy, and **always** establish that drug withdrawal periods have been followed. Refer to Animal Treatment Record or Group Treatment Record if withdrawal is in question. Always sort cattle as appropriate by weight, type and quality. Cattle unfit for standard transport must be moved following the Animal Health Act guidelines if transported off the property.

B) Handle to Avoid Bruising

Injuries to cattle during the handling and transport process may be as severe as a broken leg, but bruising is a more common concern and should be avoided in cattle destined for processing. Most carcass bruises are caused from impact. The blood vessels rupture around the site and bleed out to surrounding tissue. A bruise can develop quickly and must be trimmed from the carcass. Severe bruises can result in trimmed areas weighing several pounds and are discounted from the carcass sale.

C) Avoiding Dark Cutters

A dark cutter is an animal whose carcass after slaughter displays a dark red colour in the meat (not the desired bright cherry red colour). A dark cutter carcass is discounted considerably and the producer bears the cost. The number of dark cutters can be substantially reduced if we understand the factors contributing to the problem. Although the causes are not known for certain, they may include: mixing different groups of animals, high body temperature or the animal is stressed.

D) Sorting and Loading Procedure

Once the load is accepted and the operator has determined how it is to be divided in the truck or trailer, the cattle can be moved toward the loading chute. Sorting may be necessary at this point if cattle are to be loaded into the doghouse portion of a trailer. Since this compartment may be lower in height, avoid loading large or tall cattle into this section.

The operator's cattle handling knowledge and skills are critical at loading. Using the slow/quiet technique makes movement of cattle into the chute easier. Often the lead animal may stall going into the trailer, a result of a super-clean environment, old bedding or a glaring light placed in the cattle's sight line. A steep or slippery chute or a ramp without solid sides can also cause loading problems or distractions.

E) Broken Needles

All broken needles must be permanently marked on the animal and marked on the Cattle Shipping Record (page 10). Prior to shipping, notify plant and truck driver of any cattle with broken needles and provide Cattle Shipping form. Properly identifying broken needles is a critical component to the program to ensure minimal challenges that broken needles pose to the plant and to food safety.

F) Identification

All cattle are required to have CCIA individual animal identification tags, when receiving, processing, pen checking or shipping cattle. Always ensure cattle have CCIA tags.

2.3 Federal Transportation Regulations

Producers are responsible for determining if their cattle are fit to transport and are being treated humanely. If you are unsure if your cattle are fit to travel contact your consulting vet or the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA).

Unfit to transport

- Withdrawal time is being questioned
- Cannot stand or get up
- Broken a limb
- Is lame on more than one limb
- Is suffering from malnourishment
- Has given birth within the preceding 48 hours or is about to give birth
- Is in shock or dying

Compromised animals intended for slaughter may not travel long distances to slaughter facilities. Instead, they should be killed humanely on site. *Refer to Ontario Emergency Slaughter Regulation 31/05.*

Good Transporting Practices

- Sort by weight, type and quality
- Ensure cattle can load safely and have secure footing
- Ensure low stress handling practices
- Ensure cattle have adequate space for animal to stand comfortably and be able to reposition themselves
- Provide quality feed and water at required intervals as well as your destination
- If prior to shipping it is discovered that withdrawals have not been met, slaughter cattle will be held for the required withdrawal time period
- Ensure proper ventilation

2.4 Cattle Receiving SOP

Standard Operating Procedures

- Record all group/individual animal information on the appropriate forms – Cattle Receiving Record; Animal Treatment Record; Group Treatment Record.
- File accompanying Truck Manifest with Receiving Record(s); processing documentation with Group Treatment Record(s).
- Provide cattle with adequate space and dry bedding.
- Ensure that all cattle have access to feed and clean water.
- Ensure that a designated sick/holding pen is available for animals that need to be segregated.

2.5 Cattle Receiving Record

Farm/Producer Name: _____

_____

Date / Time	Purchased From	# Head	Steer	Heifer	Trucker	Source, Verification, Health History & Management	Barn	Pen	Comments

Cattle Receiving – Standard Operating Procedures

1. Record all group/individual animal information on the appropriate forms – Cattle Receiving Record; Animal Treatment Record; Group Treatment Record.
2. File accompanying Truck Manifest with Receiving Record(s); processing documentation with Group Treatment Record(s).
3. Provide cattle with adequate space and dry bedding.
4. Ensure that all cattle have access to feed and clean water.
5. Ensure that a designated sick/holding pen is available for animals that need to be segregated.

Signature: _____

Date : _____

2.6 Cattle Shipping Record

Producer will receive Cattle Shipping Record upon final certification to the OCFB QA Program.

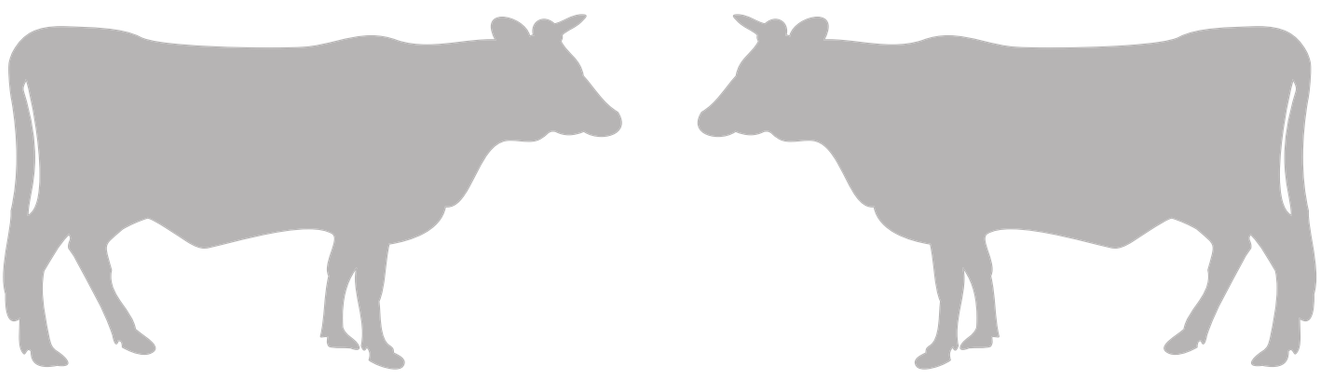
Suspect Broken Needles

Animal Identification: _____

Animal Identification: _____

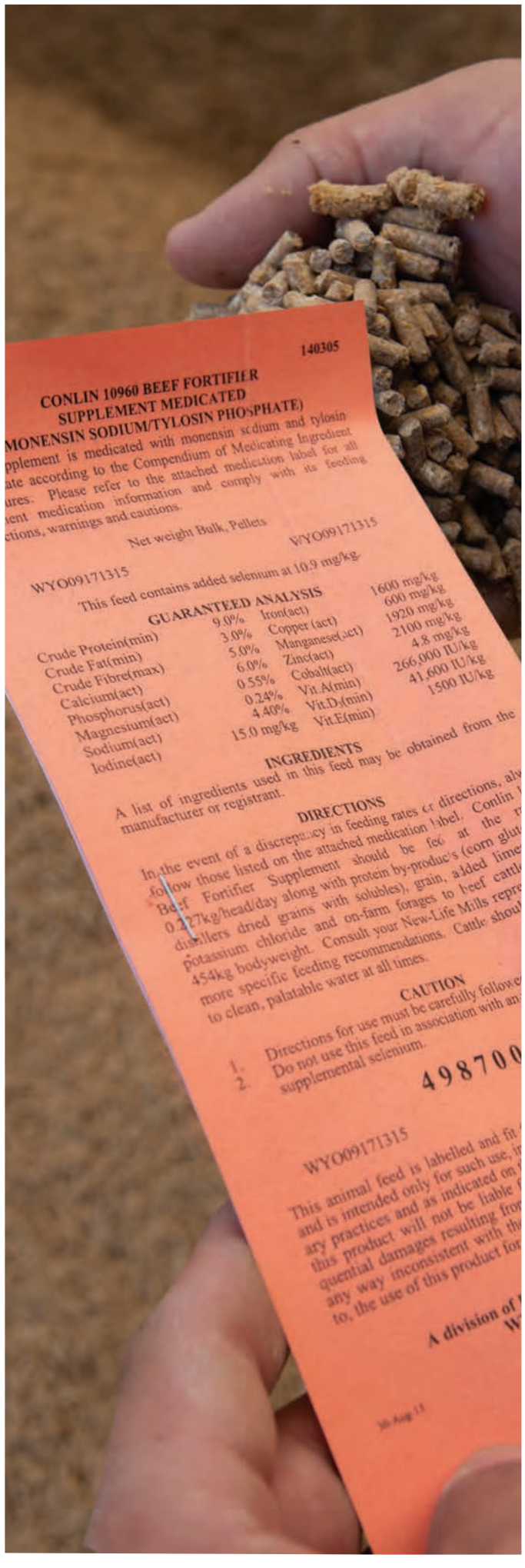
Animal Identification: _____

Location of broken needle fragment (mark with X)



Producer has confirmed all cattle have CCIA identification tags ☐

Producer has confirmed all cattle are clear of withdrawal times ☐



3.0 Feed and Nutrient Management

3.1 Registered Feeds

All feeds and animal health products registered for use in Canada, except those that contain animal by-products, are acceptable for inclusion into the OCFB QA Program - providing producers follow the conditions specified on the product registration.

3.2 Using Medicated Feed

The use of feed as a carrier for drugs has been shown to be an economical and easy way to deliver medication for the prevention and treatment of certain animal diseases and for improving animal productivity or the quality of animal products. Worldwide attention has been drawn to the use of antimicrobial feed additives. Some European countries have banned their use. Proper attention is necessary if producers wish to use this economical and easy delivery system for medications. *Refer to Ontario Emergency Slaughter Regulation 31/05.*

The term “medicated feed” includes all medicated feed products intended to be a substantial source of nutrients in the diet of the animal. The term includes products commonly referred to as supplements, concentrates, premix feeds and base mixes, and is not limited to complete feeds. Medicated feeds must contain the proper drug level and be fed at appropriate levels.

The same principles apply to this method of drug administration as to other means of therapy and include the following points:

- An accurate diagnosis is essential so maximum benefit is obtained from drug use
- Recommended dosages must be followed in order to obtain maximum efficacy without endangering animal or human health/safety
- Management factors, including sanitation, must be included in the treatment regime
- Only drugs known to be compatible should be used in combination for treatment by any method of administration
- Medicated feed MUST be recorded on Group Treatment and Ration Composition Records

The Compendium of Medicating Ingredient Brochure (CMIB) is a document listing those medicating ingredients permitted in Canada which can be added to livestock feed. The CMIB outlines the species of livestock, the level of medication, the directions for feeding and the purpose for which each medicating ingredient may legally be used, as well as the brand of each medicating ingredient that is approved for use in Canada. All medicated feed manufactured, used, or sold in Canada must be prepared in such a way as to adhere to the specifications of the CMIB, in order to comply with the Feeds Regulations. The exception is feed prepared according to a veterinarian's prescription.

Feed mills may manufacture and sell medicated feeds providing they adhere to the specific recommendations of the CMIB. The proper mixing of medicated feeds is important for safe and effective use. This helps reduce the risk of drug residues.

3.3 On-Farm Mixing of Medications

To ensure the proper use and storage of all medicated feed, producers must work with their feed representative.

- Recalibrate when using new sources of feed ingredients. Check mixer parts for wear. Regularly clean the mill, mixer, mill area, bulk bins, augers and feeders
- Mixing feed in a sequence is one method to help ensure antibiotics won't accidentally contaminate finishing feeds. Flushing the mixer after mixing medicated feeds is another method to protect finishing feeds and is especially important with stationary mixers. Flushing means preparing non-medicated feed to "flush" through your system, helping to clean out residual medicated feed. Since this feed will contain medication, it should be added to the previously prepared medicated feed
- The type of feed delivery system and the type of feeders you use will influence where cross-contamination may occur, if medicated feed is left in the distribution system. For example, 20 pounds of feed containing 100 grams of sulfamethazine/ton can contaminate a ton of finishing feed, and two pounds of medicated feed is enough to contaminate the next 200 pounds of finishing ration
- Store feed additives in a clean manner and in their original packages if possible. Ensure there is proper labeling on all additives, ingredients and feed bins
- ***Your veterinarian may prescribe a certain feed medication for your operation. Your feed mill will manufacture the feed according to this written prescription. Veterinarians may prescribe levels or combinations of drugs different from those approved and set out in the CMIB This is a form of extra label drug use. The veterinarian assumes full responsibility for the use of medication***
- Always clean equipment thoroughly after using medicated feed

3.4 Using Water Medications

Delivery of vitamins, minerals, electrolytes, antimicrobials, etc. can be easily managed through mixing with an animal or group of animal's drinking water. Since sick animals may not readily eat, but will usually continue to drink, medicating the water is a convenient way to administer drug therapy. Healthy animals drink approximately 10% of their body weight daily. Remember water requirements will increase in warm weather or if the animal is suffering from diarrhea or fever.

Equipment used for medicated feed or water is cleaned, flushed or a system of sequencing is used to avoid cross-contamination of non-medicated feed. (this includes portable water troughs, which are to be cleaned or removed when usage is complete).

3.5 Medicated Feed/Water Mixing Error Handling Procedures

A system shall be put in place to avoid delivery of medicated feed/water to unintended cattle. Staff and/or family members must understand mixing and feeding procedures for medicated feed/water and what to do if an error occurs. If a mixing error was to occur the following actions must be followed:

- If feed/water is mixed with the incorrect amount of medication or wrong product, record the incidence including the date, specific details of mixing error and pen number if fed to cattle, and consult a veterinarian for advice on next steps.
- If the incorrectly medicated feed/water is fed to cattle or if properly medicated feed/water is fed to the wrong cattle, ensure the medication error is also recorded in the group treatment and animal treatment records with the withdrawal time and date recorded for shipping reference purposes.
- If the incorrectly mixed feed has not yet been fed to cattle and the veterinarian advises to dispose of the incorrectly mixed medicated feed/water, then it must be disposed of by moving it into a manure storage and covered with manure so it will not be reused or consumed by other animals including birds.
- Record all actions taken and keep on file for one year.

3.6 Animal/Group Treatment

Standard Operating Procedures

- Farm team must include a veterinary professional. Contact information must be readily available
- Veterinarian guidance and written instructions for product extra label usage must be filed and kept on-farm until product has expired or been disposed of
- Monitor proper withdrawal times to ensure appropriate shipping dates (note on Animal/Group Treatment Record)
- Record all group/individual animal treatment on the appropriate forms – *Animal Treatment Record; Group Treatment Record*

3.7 On-Farm Feed Mixing SOP

Standard Operating Procedures

- Record all information on the appropriate forms/files. Ration Composition Record, Group Treatment Record. Medicated Feed must be recorded
- Consult with your feed company sales representative/nutritionist to ensure planned ration is balanced to meet the requirements of cattle being fed
- Follow feed Ration Composition Record information at time of mixing
- Retain feed tags
- Weigh and/or measure feed ingredients
- Monitor cattle for feed-related problems
- Consult with your veterinarian

3.8 Feeding Guidelines

It is not the intention of the OCFB QA Program to unduly restrict or interfere with the ongoing relationship that producers have with their feed companies and input suppliers. This section outlines the principles that the feeding program is built on. It is expected that producers would continue to work with feeding consultants from their feed supplier and private consultants to formulate and monitor feeding programs. In the interest of providing consistency however, producers involved are required to adhere to the guidelines and restrictions of the program.

3.9 Diet Specifications

The ration must be at least 80% corn or corn derivative on a dry matter basis and must be fed for a minimum of the last 100 days prior to harvest of the cattle. All rations must be balanced to provide sufficient nutrients and energy to meet the requirements of the cattle being fed. If the producer wishes to change their ration, you must contact your certified feed representative to verify changes or contact an OCFB QA Program staff member. Normal additions to the ration such as coccidiostats, MGA, antibiotics and ionophores are endorsed provided correct levels of administration and withdrawals are adhered to.

3.10 Co-Product Feeds

Because of the need to establish, enhance and maintain a positive image and provide consistency, the use of many co-products of human food production and industrial processes are restricted, in some cases, and disallowed in others. It would seem reasonable, however, to favour those products that are derived from corn that are high quality and reasonably consistent. Co-products including corn distillers, corn gluten feed, and corn hominy are considered to be corn for the purposes of ration makeup.

Corn silage has approximately 50% grain corn content on a dry matter basis when grown in most parts of Ontario under normal conditions. The amount of corn silage inclusion in the OCFB QA Program finisher ration can be credited as 50% grain corn content, based on the dry matter of the corn silage.

Co-products such as molasses, corn steep liquor, condensed distillers solubles, and oat hull pellets are allowed to comprise up to 5% of the total ration dry matter.

3.11 Other Grain

Grains such as wheat, barley, oats, mixed grain, soybeans as well as field peas, potatoes - whole or processed (ingredient analysis required), bakery meal (ingredient analysis required) and pressed beet pulp are allowed to a maximum level of 15% of the total ration dry matter.

3.12 Urea

1% of the total ration dry matter.

3.13 Ration Composition Table

Classification of protein and energy feed stuffs acceptable in the Ontario Corn Fed Beef Quality Assurance Program

Corn or Corn Derivative feeds - 80% of Dry Matter	Restricted to 15% of Dry Matter	Restricted to 5% of Dry Matter	Unacceptable – 0%
Corn Grain	Wheat	Canola Meal	Restaurant Food Waste
Cob Meal	Barley	Corn Steep Liquor	Manure of any type
High Moisture Corn	Mixed Grain	Oat Hull Pellets	Poultry By-Products
Corn Gluten Feed	Field Peas	Brewers Grains	Animal Fat
Corn Distillers	Soy Beans	Molasses	Feather Meal
Corn Hominy	Oats	Navy Beans	Blood Meal
Corn Screening	Potatoes- whole or processed- ingredient analysis required	Condensed Distillers Solubles	Bone Meal
	Bakery meal- ingredient analysis required		Meat Meal
	Pressed Beet Pulp		

Corn silage at 50% corn equivalent

Feed Not Allowed

All other human foods and food production co-products including restaurant waste, candies, fruits, dairy products and manure are not acceptable in this program. Co-products of animal processing are not allowed in the diets of animals being fed for the OCFB QA Program.

3.14 Group Treatment Record

Producer Name: _____

Including medicated and prescription feed and water treatments

Date	Pen #	# Head	Product	Dosage	Withdrawal
Comments					
Comments					
Comments					

Group Treatment – Standard Operating Procedures

1. Farm team must include a veterinary professional Contact information must be readily available
2. Veterinarian guidance and written instructions for product extra label usage must be filed and kept on-farm until product has expired or been disposed of
3. Monitor proper withdrawal times to ensure appropriate shipping dates (note on Animal/Group Treatment Record)
4. Record all group/individual animal treatment on the appropriate forms – Animal Treatment Record; Group Treatment Record
5. Retain Feed tags for all medicated feed being added to ration

Signature: _____

Date : _____

3.15 Animal Treatment Record

Producer Name: _____

Date	Animal #	Temp	Product	Dosage	Withdrawal Time / Days	Comments

Animal Treatment – Standard Operating Procedures

1. Farm team must include a veterinary professional Contact information must be readily available
2. Veterinarian guidance and written instructions for product extra label usage must be filed and kept on-farm until product has expired or been disposed of
3. Monitor proper withdrawal times to ensure appropriate shipping dates (note on Animal/Group Treatment Record)
4. Record all group/individual animal treatment on the appropriate forms – Animal Treatment Record; Group Treatment Record

Signature: _____

Date : _____

3.16 Ration Composition Record

Producer Name:

Including medicated and prescription feed and water treatments

Ration ID:	#	Ingredient	Amount	Unit	#	Ingredient	Amount	Unit
Date:	1				7			
Barn / Pen:	2				8			
Medicated: Y / N	3				9			
Mixing Frequency:	4				10			
Comments:	5				11			
	6				12			

Ration ID:	#	Ingredient	Amount	Unit	#	Ingredient	Amount	Unit
Date:	1				7			
Barn / Pen:	2				8			
Medicated: Y / N	3				9			
Mixing Frequency:	4				10			
Comments:	5				11			
	6				12			

Ration ID:	#	Ingredient	Amount	Unit	#	Ingredient	Amount	Unit
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Medicated: Y / N	3				9			
Mixing Frequency:	4				10			
Comments:	5				11			
	6				12			

On-Farm Feed Mixing – Standard Operating Procedures

1. Record all information on the appropriate forms/files. Ration composition record; Group treatment record. Medicated feed MUST be recorded.
2. Consult with your feed company sales representative/nutritionist to ensure planned ration is balanced to meet the requirements of cattle being fed
3. Follow feed Ration Composition Record information at time of mixing
4. Retain feed tags
5. Weigh and/or measure feed ingredients
6. Monitor cattle for feed-related problems
7. Consult with your veterinarian

3.17 OCFB QA Program Requirements

Cattle are to be fed a finisher ration for a minimum of 100 days prior to harvest of the cattle. Finisher ration must be composed of 80% corn product on a dry matter basis.

3.18 Feed Representative Certification

Producer Name: _____

Address: _____

_____

_____

Feed Company: _____

_____

Contact Number: _____

Feed Representatives Name: _____

_____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

I certify that all feed/feed ingredients provided by our company adhere to all regulations of the Ontario Corn Fed Beef Quality Assurance Program.

4.0 Animal Care and Feeding Environment

4.1 Animal Care

OCFB QA Program producers will treat their animals with the utmost care and respect. Animal care is very important to our program and is set as a top priority throughout the audit process. Producers must assess the following on a constant basis while cattle are being raised:

- Low Stress Environments
- Feed Bunk Conditions
- Water Quality
- Feed Quality
- Bedding Conditions
- Feeding Conditions
- Animal Housing Conditions
- Overall Health of Cattle

4.0 ANIMAL CARE AND FEEDING ENVIRONMENT

4.2 Low–Stress Cattle Handling

Well-designed facilities for cattle which consider their instincts and behaviors can reduce the risk of stress during handling, bruising and ensure animals are healthier and more productive. Cattle will flow easily through facilities that have been designed with cattle instinct and behaviors in mind. New pens and facilities are stressful, let cattle get used to new surroundings. Curved working chutes prevent the animal from seeing the truck, squeeze, and people until it is almost in the truck or squeeze chute. Curved chutes also take advantage of the animal's natural circling behavior. As you enter the pens, the animals will form a circle around you and face you. As you move through the pen, they will circle around you.

Make single file chutes at least 20 feet long and don't force an animal in a single file chute unless it has a place to go. Blocking gates should be "see-through" so cattle can see the animals ahead. Dead ends will cause balking. Handle small groups in crowded pens, 8 to 10 instead of 20. Cattle need room to turn. Use cattle following behavior to fill up the chute. Wait until the chute is empty before refilling. Gates should swing freely and not need to be pushed against the ground surface to open them.

A crowd gate is used to follow cattle, not to shove against them. If a lone animal refuses to move, release it and bring it in with another group. An animal left alone in a crowding pen will become agitated and may attempt to jump the fence to rejoin the herd.

Wary of predators, cattle avoid shadows, so a good facility will employ uniform lighting. Any time the cattle flow is halted due to a glitch in the facilities, the stress level in the animals and handlers will rise. The result may be injury to either party.

Animal handlers must be familiar with cattle behavior (through training, experience or mentorship) and use quiet handling techniques.

Prods must only be used to assist movement of cattle when animal or human safety is at risk or as a last resort when all other humane alternatives have failed and only when cattle have a clear path to move.

Do not use prods repeatedly on the same animal.

Do not use prods on the genitals, face, udder or anal areas.

Do not use prods on calves less than three months of age that can be moved manually.

Willful mistreatment or intentional harm of cattle is unacceptable. This includes but is not limited to: beating an animal; slamming gates on animals; allowing herd dogs to continue pushing cattle with nowhere to move; dragging or pushing cattle with machinery (unless to protect animal or human safety).

Source: National Farm Animal Care Council:
https://www.nfacc.ca/beef-cattlecode#section4

4.3 Pen Checking and Assessment

Pen checking in feedlot cattle is a way of monitoring animals for sickness and also provides a means to identify the condition and overall health of the cattle. Pen checking can help keep treatment, chronic and death rates within reasonable levels. A daily routine of checking pens is a good practice to put in place with staff.

Pens must be monitored and maintained regularly to ensure cattle are comfortable, do not have a buildup of tag and are not attracting a significant number of flies. Pens are also to be monitored daily to ensure no slip, trip or fall hazards are occurring, this could be because of excessive mud, rain or snow. Consider wood chips in mud conditions and straw in cold weather.

Animal Husbandry guidelines for producers incorporating Good Management Practices would suggest that 20 to 27 square feet/ animal for slatted floor facilities and 27 to 40 square feet/animal for bedding pack barns as typical minimum stocking density formulas.
Bunk space would typically be recommended at 6 to 8 inches/animal for finishing rations and a range of 10 to 22 inches/animal on grower/ step-up rations, dependant upon single or multiple feed deliveries per day.

4.4 Feed Bunk Management

Develop a bunk score reading system to help manage the amount of TMR delivered to the feed bunk each day. Daily bunk score readings requiring increases or decreases of feed delivery amounts, should be adjusted gradually, spread over 2 or 3 days with a maximum 5 to 10 % change.

Watch for aggressive or non-aggressive behaviour of the cattle approaching the feed bunk as an indication for assisting in determining the bunk score.

4.5 Water Quality

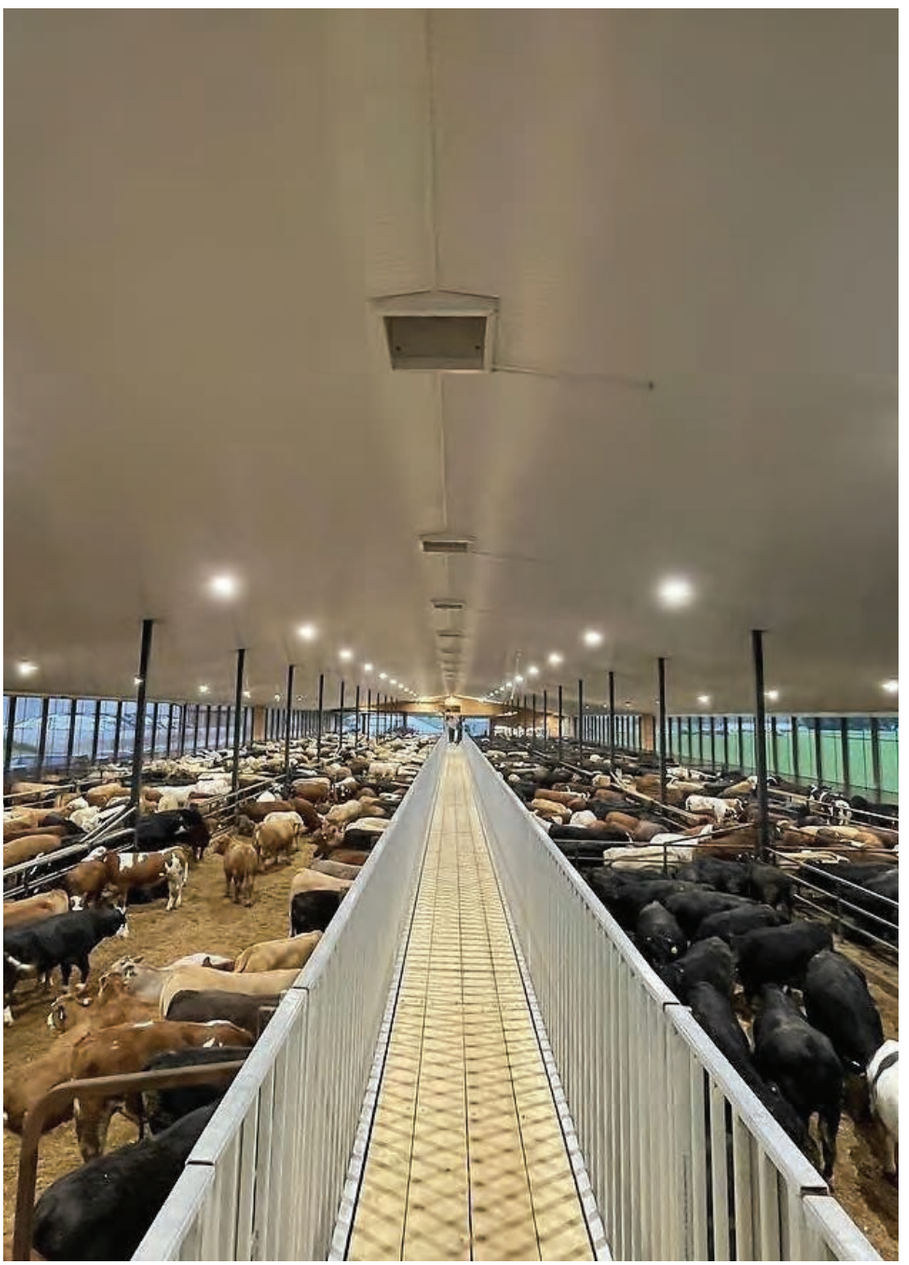
Water trough must be cleaned with a brush and flushed regularly, check water flow and pressure regularly to ensure cattle get enough water. If you do not have an automatic water system, ensure water is changed/dumped daily.

Water testing must be done on a regular basis and one test submitted to OCFB QA Program for record keeping purposes.

4.6 Animal Care and Feeding Environment SOP

Standard Operating Procedures

- Ensure pen conditions provide cattle with appropriate feeding, watering, living and bedding conditions
- Pens, yards, wintering sites and manure storage areas are designed and maintained to reduce tag build-up
- Protection from extreme weather conditions such as high temperatures, humidity and extreme cold. Providing cattle with shelter is critical



5.0 Animal Health

5.1 Responsibility for the Use of Veterinary Medicines

Producers are to work closely with their veterinarian and should help develop preventative action programs. Plans should be written out and posted in the treatment area. If a disease does occur, there must be an accurate diagnosis before rational treatment can begin, monitor changes in herds and make changes as necessary. Diagnosis comes from an examination of the animal and an inspection of feeding, housing, and other management practices.

The efficient use of livestock medicines for treatment involve working with your veterinarian to ensure all medicine is purchased from a licensed supplier that supplies approved products with DIN numbers. Ensure accurate diagnosis and work with your veterinarian to determine the most effective treatment and follow withdrawal times for marketing.

Anyone handling livestock medicines has a responsibility to ensure that the product is used properly, that excessive residues are avoided, and to ensure the safety of both humans and animals. Always have your veterinarian's contact information posted.

Producers and handlers must use drugs according to veterinarians directions or label directions to treat their animals. If animals are treated with the wrong product or dosage, identify the animal, record the incidence, contact a veterinarian, and record actions taken.

5.0 ANIMAL HEALTH

5.2 Producers Must

- Establish good management practices that prevent disease, reduce the use of medications, and reduce the risk of excessive residue s
- File, sign and date all OCFB QA Program records
- Follow label instructions
- Identify treated animals
- Ensure proper storage
- Keep current on herd management practices
- Report adverse reactions to their veterinarian or supplier of the drug
- Record all withdrawal times and file for one year after slaughter
- Must work with veterinarian and have a signed Declaration of Vet-Client-Patient Relationship

5.3 Purchasing Medicines

- Medicines must have Drug Identification Number (DIN)
- Medicines must only be purchased through a veterinarian
- Check expiry date and method of storage before purchasing
- Purchase products recommended by your veterinarian
- Store and transport medicines according to label directions
- Purchase only enough product that can be used in a reasonable period of time
- Keep only reasonable amounts of medicine on hand based on storage capacity and numbers of incoming cattle
- Purchase vaccines in dosage/volume sizes to accommodate the size and numbers of groups to be immunized within one hour for live vaccines or within one day for killed vaccines
- Use SQ or IM route of administration if indicated on label directions
- Be aware of expiry dates on medicines and discard outdated products
- All Medically Important Antimicrobials (MIAs) for veterinary use will be sold by prescription only

5.4 Storage of Medicines

- Establish a designated area for storage of all drugs and keep a record
- Use an operating refrigerator that maintains a temperature of 4° Celsius (locked or in a secure area) or a clean, dust-free, dry, cool, dark cabinet
- Check product label for instructions on storage
- Consider light (amber bottle means light sensitive) temperature and humidity
- Always store opened containers according to label instructions
- Use transfer needles to download from larger container
- Don't use the same needle to inject an animal then withdraw more drug from the container
- Use caution when cleaning bottle tops (alcohol can cause problems with antibiotics and modified live vaccines)
- Don't store bottles with needle in rubber stopper
- Ensure that expiry dates are recorded. Remember the expiry date refers to shelf life prior to opening product. Discard all expired product (see disposal section)
- Record the date the product was opened (preferably on product)
- Check the shelf life of reconstituted products (vaccines)
- Mix only enough vaccine to treat small groups of cattle at a time. The effectiveness of live vaccines mixed beyond one hour is questionable
- Assign and train one employee to be responsible for following protocol for receiving, inventory control, storage, and handling of medicines
- Do not expose live vaccines to heat, disinfectants or sunlight
- Use caution when handling medicines. Products are often packaged in glass bottles that can break and cause the contents to come in contact with the handler
- Be knowledgeable of product label instructions. Create a reference binder or file of labels and package inserts for all products used

5.5 Medicine Inventory

Review inventory with your veterinarian (be sure you know how to use the products you have in inventory – follow protocols provided by your veterinarian).

- Keep an inventory of all medicines stored on-farm
- Inventories help determine how much product you have on hand vs. how much you need based on the number of incoming animals
- Inventories can help determine when products are likely to become outdated and disposal is required
- Inventories are needed for accurate invoicing information and shrinkage calculations
- Inventories may be needed as a defense in a legal liability case or as a trace back mechanism if there is a problem (anaphylactic reactions or drug residues)

Disposal of bio-medical waste

Producer is responsible for proper disposal and storage of bio-medical waste

- Return to place of purchase – discuss protocols with your veterinarian
- Take to local Hazardous Waste Depot - check with your municipality for details
- Hire a commercial disposal company.

Sharps must be disposed of in a safe manner, in a container that cannot be punctured.

5.6 Antimicrobial Drugs on Animals

Antimicrobials have been important tools in the control of infectious diseases for many years. Their use in veterinary medicine has improved the health and productivity in livestock production. The use of antimicrobials has contributed to the production of meat, milk, and eggs that are safe for both the consumer and individuals involved in food production.

Prudent Use of Antimicrobial Drugs on Animals

The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association recognizes the emerging implications of antimicrobial use on human health. The continued use of antimicrobials in veterinary medicine depends upon the profession's ability to use these products wisely and finding the balance between maximizing animal welfare and conserving antimicrobial efficacy.

General Principles:

- Veterinarians, animal owners, and animal caretakers all share responsibility for minimizing the use of antimicrobial drugs to conserve drug efficacy
- Antimicrobial treatment procedures should be designed to maximize therapeutic efficacy while minimizing bacterial resistance
- Antimicrobials used in animals must only be used within the confines of a valid Vet-Client-Patient Relationship (VCPR)
- All users of antimicrobials must be educated in the proper use of antimicrobials including administration, handling, storage, disposal, and record keeping
- Veterinarians have a responsibility to educate staff, clients, and other animal handlers on the prudent use of antimicrobials and ensure such training occurs

Specific Principles:

- All antimicrobials, even those not purchased directly through, but rather on a prescription from a veterinarian, should be should be used within the confines of a valid Vet-Client-Patient Relationship (VCPR)
- Animal owners and caretakers should be instructed in and encouraged to implement management, immunization, housing, and nutritional programs that prevent the incidence of disease and therefore antimicrobial use
- Antimicrobials should only be used therapeutically if a pathogen is demonstrated or anticipated to be present, based on clinical signs, history, necropsy examinations, laboratory data (including resistance testing), and if the pathogen is expected to respond to treatment
- The need for antimicrobials provided to prevent an anticipated disease outbreak should be regularly assessed. Antimicrobials should only be used when an animal(s) is determined to be at risk and evidence indicates that such usage reduces morbidity and/or mortality. Surgical protocols should emphasize strict aseptic technique instead of prophylactic antibiotics
- Antimicrobial selection should be based on the known or suspected target organisms, their knowledge of the drug, and other factors such as host immunocompetence. Antimicrobials that specifically target the pathogen should be selected over systemic therapy when appropriate
- Antimicrobials with unique mechanisms of action or novel resistance profiles in human medicine should not be used in veterinary medicine, particularly food animals, unless the antimicrobials by use or sensitivity testing have been shown to be ineffective and use of the antimicrobial is considered to be life-saving to the animal
- Antimicrobials approved for the treatment of the diagnosed condition must be followed whenever possible
- Antimicrobials should be used for the shortest time period required to reliably achieve a cure. This minimizes exposure of other bacterial populations to the antimicrobial
- Appropriate withdrawal times for antimicrobials used in animals intended for food must be adhered to
- Animals treated with antimicrobials may shed resistant bacteria into the environment. If possible, steps should be taken to minimize environmental contamination
- Antimicrobial products should be handled and stored properly. This includes proper disposal to avoid environmental contamination by the antimicrobial drug

5.7 How to Administer Medicines Properly When Giving Injections:

- Always read the product label and follow directions. Always administer in the neck
- Wash hands before and after handling medications
- Ensure proper safety procedures are followed (protective clothing, etc.)
- Use a clean transfer needle (if loading syringe from large container)
- Don't leave the needle in the bottle after use
- Sharp needle disposal receptacle to be available and used
- Clean injection site area on animal

Choose the right size of needle
(refer to chart that shows various needle sizes)

Size of Animal	Route	Gauge	Length
Adult	IM	16 /18	1.5 inch
Calf	IM	16 /18	1 inch
Adult	SQ	16 /18	1 inch

Gauge determined by volume, consistency of product, and size of animal. For watery substances smaller needles can be used. For thick material such as penicillin (especially cold from refrigerator), a larger gauge will be needed.

- **Use smallest size to minimize tissue damage and leakage**, but large enough to avoid easy breakage.

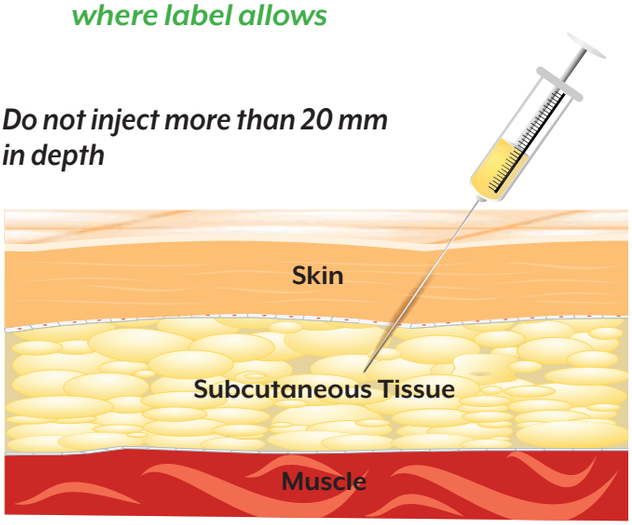
5.8 Use the Proper Injection Technique

- Restrain animal (safer for you and animal)
- Use **sharp, sterile needles** and **change frequently** (ideally, change needle after every animal or after every 10 animals)
- Remove air from syringe so correct dosage can be given
- Avoid giving injections through skin or hide that is dirty
- Choose different sites when giving multiple injections over a period of time or when dividing doses (can impact on product efficacy and food safety)
- Check that needle is not in a blood vessel when inserting, pull back on plunger and check for blood

5.9 Subcutaneous Injection (SQ)

- ***under the skin, commonly called "Sub-Q"***
- ***always be used preferentially where label allows***

Do not inject more than 20 mm in depth



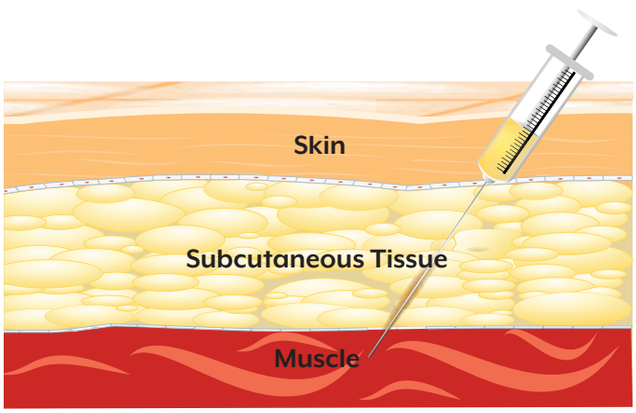
5.10 Intramuscular Injection (IM) – *into the muscle*

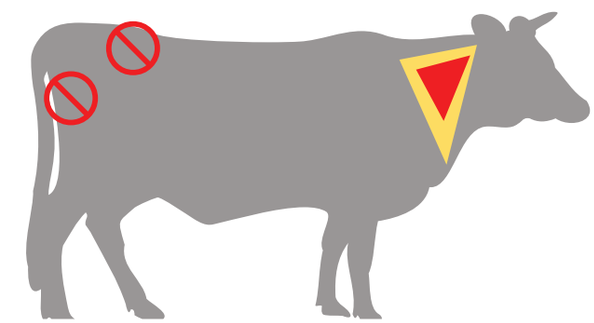
To reduce chance of scar tissue or abscess in valuable cuts of meat, give intramuscular injections in the neck (ahead of the shoulder point).

Intramuscular injections in areas other than the neck are not allowed under the Ontario Corn Fed Beef Quality Assurance Program.

Do not inject more than 10ml per site

Lower volume minimizes injection site tissue irritation and increases the efficacy of the antimicrobial administered





Do Not Inject

Subcutaneous (SQ)

Intramuscular (IM)

5.11 Other Considerations When Giving Injections:

- If you break a needle, permanently mark the animal. Mark and record the location on OCFB QA Program shipping form and notify trucker when shipping
- Discard any bent needles (don't try to straighten them)
- Wash and sterilize syringes after use (or discard)
- Automatic syringes require cleaning, maintenance, and calibration
- Use boiling water for cleaning equipment (caution: don't use disinfectants for modified-live vaccine products)

Always read the label for withdrawal times **before administering** any medications, and be careful not to inadvertently administer two or more products containing the same drug.

Remember that injecting medications into sites other than those the label recommends is **extra-label** and can lead to:

- Increased tissue reaction; delayed absorption
- Lower than desired drug levels or apparent failure of the drug to cure animal
- Drug can stay in animal longer, perhaps leading to residues
- Allergic reactions, shock or death

Be sure to always MARK (or identify) the treated animal.

RECORD the treatment and the withdrawal time on the Animal Treatment Record.

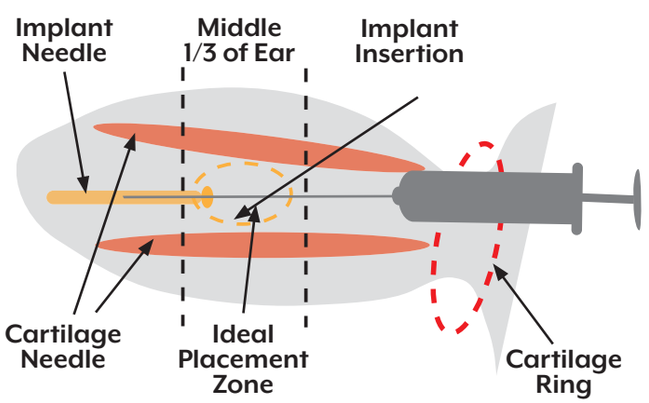
5.12 Implanting Procedures

Implants are used for growth promotion, weight gain and to improve feed conversion in cattle. The product is usually chosen based on the sex and age of the animal.
Proper administration of the implant is crucial in order for it to be effective. To ensure the shelf life of the product, proper storage and handling must be used

As with any injection, ensure that:

- Proper restraint is used to prevent injury and to allow for proper placement
- Make sure the ear for implant is clean and that the implanting needle is cleaned between each use
- Dirty conditions and poor technique can cause abscesses, prevent the active ingredient from being absorbed, and can cause loss of the pellet
- Always read the instructions before implanting. Ensure the implant gun is well maintained and the implant needle is sharp. Carefully pinch the implant site shut after the implant has been placed.

It is a good idea to monitor implants. Randomly check animals after 10 to 28 days after implanting to monitor technique and to make sure the pellets remain in the ear.



5.13 Implant Strategies for Ontario Corn Fed Beef Quality Assurance Program

The range of implants available and the effect of these implants on growth, feed utilization and carcass characteristics have changed significantly in recent years.
Initially only estrogenic agents containing either zeranol or estradiol were available. These compounds improved feed efficiency 5-10% and growth rate 5-15% with little effect on carcass traits.

The introduction of trenbolone acetate, a compound which has an additive effect when combined with the estrogenic compounds allowed for further improvements in feed efficiency of 2-3% and growth improvements of 3-5% over and above estrogenic compounds alone.

Implanting strategies should be planned when cattle arrive at the feedlot based on the projected days to market and the genetic makeup of the cattle.

Typically, implanted cattle will be heavier when finished to the same external fat compared to non-implanted cattle. The more aggressive the implanting strategy, the greater the differences will be.

Since AAA marbling is the target of the OCFB QA Program, it is important to avoid implanting with combination implants containing trenbolone acetate too close to market. It is wise to work back from the projected market date, 80-120 days, to determine the initial and subsequent implant timing.

5.14 Medicine Purchase and Storage Musts:

- Medicines must have Drug Identification Number (DIN)
- Medicines must only be purchased through a veterinarian
- Check expiry date and discard outdated products in an approved manner
- Producer is responsible for proper disposal and storage of bio-medical waste
- Sharps must be disposed of in a safe manner, in a container that cannot be punctured.
- Purchase products recommended by your veterinarian
- Transport medicines under same conditions required for storage (check label)

5.15 Other Ways to Administer Medicines

Intravenous injections

- Only products approved for intravenous use should be given by this route.
- Intravenous injections reduce the chance for carcass damage. However, there are risks to the animal when using this route. One example is heart block and death from administering intravenous calcium preparations too rapidly.
- Because absorption is instantaneous, IV injections are used when a drug's immediate effect is required.
- IV injections must be given slowly. Rapid injections can cause fatal shock reactions. The chance of a severe allergic reaction is also higher with IV injections.
- Large amounts (500 ml or greater) are run in by gravity with the use of IV tubing. Smaller amounts are given by syringe.
- All drugs for IV injection must be sterile as the body's natural defense mechanisms against infectious agents are bypassed.
- The disadvantages of IV administration include short duration of action, adverse effects usually more severe, and no way to rectify it once injection has been made.

Only a properly trained individual should attempt an intravenous injection. (Consult your veterinarian to learn this technique). Any medicine given intravenously has the potential to adversely affect the circulatory system.

Topical Administration

Topical administration refers to applying a drug to the skin's surface for a localized effect, e.g. a liniment, poultice, dusting powder, spray, etc. With some of these products, care must be taken as generalized (or systemic) effects may occur due to licking of the applied medication or drug absorption due to damaged or inflamed skin (e.g. burns, ulcers, wounds, dermatitis). Several drugs are deliberately applied to the skin with the anticipation of generalized effects following absorption through the skin, for example, Ivomec Pour-on, medicated ear tags, etc.

Particular care must be taken when using drugs capable of penetrating the skin. A drug with the ability to penetrate animal hide, can also penetrate human skin.

Oral Treatments

Oral administration means giving a drug by mouth. It is also referred to as Enteral administration meaning via the enteric of digestive tract. Many different drugs in a variety of forms are available for oral use (powders, liquids, pills, boluses, pastes).

Advantages

- Relative ease of administration (especially when added to feed or water)
- Relative safety (not likely to cause serious adverse reactions, because of slower absorption rates and lower peak blood levels)
- Sterility is not needed

Disadvantages

- **Erratic:** or incomplete absorption. Stomach and intestinal motility and degree of filling of the gut will affect the rate and completeness of absorption
- **Inactivation:** Drug may be inactivated by the acid of monogastric (single stomach) animals, e.g. Hogs. Drugs intended for oral use in monogastric animals are specially formulated to protect the drug from the stomach acid
- **Sick Animals:** Sick animals may not consume enough feed or water to get enough drugs. For this reason, giving drugs in the feed and water is better suited for prevention of disease rather than treatment
- **Special equipment and skills:** Oral administration of drugs, other than through feed and water, requires good restraint, some specialized equipment, and the necessary skills

OMAFRA Drug Label Directions Enhance Health of Livestock and Bottom Line:
http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/livestock/dairy/facts/need.htm

5.16 Animal/Group Treatment SOP

Standard Operating Procedures

- Farm team must include a veterinary professional. Contact information must be readily available
- Veterinarian guidance and written instructions for product extra label usage must be filed and kept on-farm until product has expired or been disposed of
- Monitor proper withdrawal times to ensure appropriate shipping dates (note on Animal or Group Treatment Record)
- Record all group/individual animal treatment on the appropriate forms – *Animal Treatment Record; Group Treatment Record*

5.17 Animal Health Product Storage and Inventory Procedures SOP

Standard Operating Procedures

- Medications/health products must have a DIN and be purchased through a veterinarian
- Producer is responsible for proper disposal and storage of bio-medical waste
- Sharps must be disposed of in a safe manner, in a container that cannot be punctured.
- Review product inventory at least twice yearly
- Maintain records of all veterinary prescriptions (including medicated feed)

5.18 Ontario Corn Fed Beef Quality Assurance Program Declaration of Vet-Client-Patient Relationship

For use of veterinary medicine

Producer Name: _____

Address: _____

_____

Veterinarian Name: _____

Veterinarian Declaration:

As of this date, the veterinarians at our clinic have a recent and sufficient working knowledge of the general health status of the cattle in this herd. I have verified that this producer works with our veterinary clinic and has in place protocols to identify and treat sick cattle, and for preventing further illness or cross contamination.

I have reviewed and discussed the use of veterinary medicines with

_____ ,
the person responsible for the use of veterinary medicines for this herd. I have advised this person that veterinary medicines must always be used according to label directions, unless a licensed veterinarian who has a valid Vet-Client-Patient Relationship (VCPR) with the producer and the producer's herd has provided written direction to do otherwise.

Veterinarian's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Producer Declaration:

As an Ontario Corn Fed Beef Quality Assurance Program producer, I acknowledge that I am responsible for and that I will maintain an ongoing relationship with a licensed veterinarian for animal health and advisory services. I agree that veterinary medicine will always be used according to label directions, unless a licensed veterinarian who has a valid Vet-Client-Patient Relationship (VCPR) with me has provided written directions to do otherwise.

Print Name: _____ Signature: _____

Date: _____

5.19 Animal Treatment Record

Producer Name: _____

Date	Animal #	Temp	Product	Dosage	Withdrawal Time / Days	Comments

Animal Treatment – Standard Operating Procedures

1. Farm team must include a veterinary professional Contact information must be readily available
2. Veterinarian guidance and written instructions for product extra label usage must be filed and kept on-farm until product has expired or been disposed of
3. Monitor proper withdrawal times to ensure appropriate shipping dates (note on Animal/Group Treatment Record)
4. Record all group/individual animal treatment on the appropriate forms – Animal Treatment Record; Group Treatment Record

Signature: _____

Date: _____

5.20 Group Treatment Record

Producer Name: _____

Including medicated and prescription feed and water treatments

Date	Pen #	# Head	Product	Dosage	Withdrawal
Comments					
Comments					
Comments					

Group Treatment – Standard Operating Procedures

1. Farm team must include a veterinary professional Contact information must be readily available
2. Veterinarian guidance and written instructions for product extra label usage must be filed and kept on-farm until product has expired or been disposed of
3. Monitor proper withdrawal times to ensure appropriate shipping dates (note on Animal/Group Treatment Record)
4. Record all group/individual animal treatment on the appropriate forms – Animal Treatment Record; Group Treatment Record
5. Retain feed tags for all medicated feed being added to ration

Signature: _____

Date: _____

5.21 Provincial Nutrient Management Standards

All OCFB QA Program producers are responsible to follow the Ontario Nutrient Management Act, 2002, S.O. 2002, c.4. Producers are required to read and adhere to all Government laws and regulations.

OCFB QA Program Audit Requirement:

Ensure proper storage of all agriculture source materials and non-agriculture source materials that are applied to land which is regulated under the Nutrient Management Act and Ontario Regulation 267

- Proper storage of manure and removed from site in an approved manner
- If manure is spread it is done in an appropriate manner

The Law

The management, land application and storage of agricultural source materials (ASM) and non-agricultural source materials (NASM) that are applied to agricultural lands as a nutrient, are regulated under the Nutrient Management Act and Ontario Regulation 267/03 Regulations may be found at:
https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/030267

5.22 Provincial Dead Animal Disposal Standards

All OCFB QA Program producers are responsible to follow the Ontario Nutrient Management Act, 2002 Ontario Regulation 106/09 Disposal of Dead Farm Animals.

In general, dead animal may be disposed of by: burying it; incinerating it; composting it; depositing it in a disposal vessel; using the services of a licensed animal disposal collector service; delivering it to an approved anaerobic digester; delivering it to an approved waste disposal site; delivering it to a licensed disposal facility; delivering it to a licensed veterinarian for purposes of a post mortem activity and disposal by the veterinarian; holding it in cold storage for no more than 14 days post its death; holding it in frozen storage for no more than 240 days post its death. Dead animals must be handled and disposed of in a manner to reduce contamination of the environment and other animals.

Ensure all the requirements of Ontario Regulation 106/09 Disposal of Dead Farm Animals are followed when disposing of dead animals:
https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/090106

5.22 Provincial Dead Animal Disposal Standards

Cont'd

General location rules for disposal

- Animal must be disposed of on land owned by operator, and/or the person who owns the land gives prior written consent
- Animal must be buried in a burial pit that is not located near organic soil that is hydrologic soil group AA
- Animal must be buried 60 metres from every point of the perimeter of registered land
- Animal must be buried 30 metres away from highway
- Animal must be buried 15 metres from lot line of registered land
- Animal must be buried 100 metres away from livestock housing facility, residential structure or outdoor confinement area
- Animal must be buried 6 metres from field drainage
- Animal must be buried 100 metres from well

Composting materials

- Composting materials must only contain dead animals and substrate
- Substrates can be used to compost sawdust, shavings or chips, straw, leaves, grain, corn, beans, clean hay or silage
- All substrate must be free of contamination
- Animal must undergo composting until there is no remaining- animal tissue, bone or bone fragment larger than 15 centimetres in dimension and any additional animal matter larger than 25 millimetres
- Ensure all the requirements of Ontario Regulation 106/09 Disposal of Dead Farm Animals are followed when disposing of dead animals

5.23 On-Farm Euthanasia

Being prepared for on-farm euthanasia includes:

- competent personnel (through training, experience, or mentorship)
- access to proper equipment
- clear decision points for euthanasia

REQUIREMENTS
Euthanize (or cull) without delay cattle that:*

- are unlikely to recover, fail to respond to treatment or convalescent protocols,
- have chronic, severe, debilitating pain and distress, are unable to consume feed and water, show continuous weight loss or emaciation.

See the National Farm Animal Care Council Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Beef Cattle, section 6, On-Farm Euthanasia (pages 29 - 32)

6.0 Bio-Security

Producers must hang Bio-Security signage in appropriate areas to minimize and deter visitors. A Visitor Log-In Form must be readily available to keep track of all individuals that are admitted.

Infectious agents (viruses, bacteria, fungi and parasites) can attack your cattle. These unwanted problems can result in reduced productivity and profits. People, pets, birds, rodents, and other animals can be carriers. Your first line of defense is to limit the chances that cattle and your facilities have come in contact with infectious agents. A proper Bio-Security program involves controlled access to property, buildings, and animals as well as sanitation and pest control.

Controlled-Access and restricted areas on-farm

A controlled-access and restricted areas will help you break the cycle of contact between the outside environment and your cattle. This reduces the risk of bacterial and disease transfer to your herd.

Limit the access to facilities inside this area. Only allow people who are essential to your operation's effectiveness to enter. Discourage visitors and keep them to a minimum. It is important to communicate to outsiders (especially those not familiar with a livestock operation) that you are not trying to hide anything about your operating practices, but you are protecting the health and well-being of your herd.

6.0 BIO-SECURITY

You want to reduce the chance that any potential carrier of infectious agents will come in contact with your herd. This includes people, animals and birds.
Inside the entry to the building, establish a barrier that people must cross to enter the barn. Producers are encouraged to lock doors or gates to further deter visitors. Where practical, have a door or low physical barrier that people must step over. Otherwise, it should be a clearly identified line and all visitors are to sign in and out of your facility to have a track-back mechanism if an issue were to arise.

6.1 Signage and Entrances

Producers must post signage at the farm to warn people that all entrances are restricted. Producers are also recommended to post additional signage at roads to deter visitors from entering the property. Signs must be easy to read.

Everyone who enters the controlled-access area (visitors and staff) must follow the rules. Anyone, including the farm owner, who has recently been in contact with other livestock operations shall properly disinfect or change into clean clothes and footwear prior to entering their own or another facility. Farm owners and staff are encouraged to disinfect boots and clothing regularly especially when they have been in contact with cattle at another facility.

Control Contamination from Humans

Producers shall ensure employees are monitoring and minimizing the possibility of contamination. Everyone on-farm shall wear boots and the appropriate clothing before entering the facility. Boots and clothing should be stored in the controlled-access area and not to be worn off the property. Producers to provide foot bath, if possible. Please note that foot baths are not an effective barrier to disease unless they are managed properly and solution is changed regularly.

Prior to entering restricted areas or the barn, Producers are to provide boot covers and coveralls to all visitors.

Control Contamination from Non-Humans

Not only are humans a possible threat to contamination but so are pests and rodents. Producers are to limit the number of birds, rodents, and insects entering the barn. Always ensure the interior and exterior of the facility, pens, feed bunks or work areas are clean of spills or garbage to minimize the opportunities for pests or rodents to breed.

Pest Control

Pest control is important to reduce the risk of contamination of feed, animals and buildings. Eliminating opportunities for pests to enter the buildings and pens on-farm will make control easier. Beyond rodents, birds, and pets, there are other pests that need to be considered and controlled. Producers are encouraged to use a pest control program/service.

All rodenticide products are poisonous to other animals. Always observe label precautions regarding use, handling and storage.

The Ontario Ministry of the Environment is responsible for regulating pesticide sale, use, transportation, storage, and disposal in Ontario. Ontario regulates pesticides by placing appropriate education, licensing, and/or permit requirements on their use, under the Pesticides Act and Regulation 63/09 which can be found at:
https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/090063

List of approved active ingredients for rodent control in Ontario*, May 2010

Active Ingredient	Ontario Approved Class(es)
brodifacoum	4,6
bromadiolone	4,5,6
bromethalin	3
cellulose from powdered corn cobs	4,5,6
chlorophacinone	4,5,6
difethialone	4,6
diphacinone	4,5,6
warfarin and sulfaquinoxaline	4,6
warfarin	3,4,5,6
zinc phosphide	3

* excludes Class 1 products used by manufacturers

Source: Ministry of the Environment website, 2013 and can be found at:
http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/livestock/dairy/facts/13-057.htm
OMAFRA FactSheet "Rodent Control in Livestock and Poultry Facilities".

All pesticides must be used in accordance with requirements under the Pesticides Act and Regulation 63/09 found at:
www.ontario.ca/e-laws
or call the Service Ontario Publications toll-free number:
1-800-668-9938 or 416-326-5300

Parasites

A parasite control program to reduce the spread of both external and internal parasites in cattle will be beneficial in contributing to both gain and feed efficiency. Develop a program in conjunction with your veterinarian to break the life cycle of parasites. Because of the nature of these products (in many cases, poisons) extreme caution must be used when handling or treating animals with pesticides.

6.2 On-Farm Bio-Security Standard SOP

Standard Operating Procedures

Visitors, Vehicles, and Equipment Risks

- Visitor login must be kept
- Protective clothing/footwear available as needed
- Sanitation practices used as needed on visitors, vehicles, and equipment
- Properly label bio-security entrance areas with signage
- Avoid cross contamination while using equipment and attachments
- Properly dispose of manure according to the Ontario Nutrient Management Act
- Properly dispose of dead-stock according to the Ontario Nutrient Management Act, 2002 Ontario Regulation 106/09 Disposal of Dead Farm Animals
- Effort to eliminate and control pests from entering the barn and sounding area

6.3 Emergency Action Plan

All feedlots should have a written emergency action plan (EAP) that is shared with all staff. It does not have to be a set of complex documents.

An emergency action plan should include actions to take for specific situations that may arise.

6.4 Visitor Login

Please check in with farm owner before signing in

Date	Visitor Name	Time In	Time Out	Signature

6.5 Emergency Action Plan

Farm Name: _____

Farm Phone Number: _____

Farm Address (911 Location): _____

Who	Primary Contact	Phone & Cell	Email
Government Offices			
CFIA Emergency Line			
Chief District Office			
Ministry of Agriculture (local office)			
Service Providers			
Livestock Owners			
Emergency Contact			
Fire Department			
Police Department			
Poison Control			
Family Doctor			
Veterinarian			
Feed Nutritionist			

7.0 Personnel Training

Producers participating in the program are responsible for implementing and following the regulatory acts put in place by the Government of Ontario. Producers are also responsible for following all guidelines put in place by the OCFB QA Program. The OCFB QA Program utilizes the most effective methods and techniques for on-farm food safety, emphasizing animal health, nutrition and welfare, cleanliness, environmental stewardship, and record keeping.

Producer/management must ensure all employees understand the OCFB QA Program and the guidelines to ensure records and good production practices are being implemented by everyone. Producers are responsible for updating employees regularly on farm safety, good production practices, standard operating procedures, and record keeping as both Provincial and Federal regulations change frequently.

7.1 Taking a Team Approach

It takes more than one individual to operate a successful feedlot. A strong team of individuals creates a better balance and improves productivity. Make sure your team is made up of the right people with the right skills. Each member of your team should be a professional in his or her own right.

Because a major part of your business depends on healthy animals, working closely with your veterinarian is critical to ensure animal health is monitored and treated accordingly. Producers are to update veterinarian contact information as needed.
Empower your work force. Let employees take ownership of certain aspects of your operation and they'll do a better job for you.

8.0 Facility and Equipment

8.1 Employee Facilities

Owner of the property must ensure all employees are properly disinfecting and implementing bio-security guidelines under the OCFB QA Program. Employees must have access to washrooms, lunch room and change room that are properly maintained
to prevent contamination.

8.2 Cleaning Building

Cleaning protocols should be put in place and routine maintenance to ensure work areas and entry ways are kept clean at all times to avoid slip hazards, excess manure buildup as well as reducing the risk of pests and rodents. Producers must ensure cleaning of cattle handling treatment areas, pens, hospital pens, and trucks is monitored and acted upon as needed.

Cattle must always be offered a shelter to have the option to get out of all weather conditions. Clean and dry bedding is just as important as feed and water. In wet conditions, monitor bedding and cattle behavior. Wet bedding can become a source of disease if not cleaned regularly.

8.3 Equipment Maintenance and Calibration

Feed equipment is to be monitored, cleaned, and calibrated regularly to ensure proper functioning and avoid feed medication contamination. Maintenance and calibration protocols should be put in place to ensure routine maintenance, cleaning, and calibration is taking place and both the producer and employees know who is responsible for doing so. Calibrate and check mixer parts for wear when mixing new feed ingredients.

Equipment used to deliver medicine must be assessed and cleaned after every load to ensure other feed is not contaminated. Mixing feed in sequence is one method to help ensure antibiotics won't accidentally contaminate the finished feed.

Feed bunk silo's must not be used for manure storage. Feed bunk areas must be clean and spill free to reduce pests or contamination.

8.0 FACILITY AND EQUIPMENT

Notes

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