U.S. CATTLE INDUSTRY FEEDYARD AUDIT

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INTRODUCTION

The U.S. cattle industry has long upheld the highest standards in animal care and well-being, along with providing a safe, high quality product to consumers. The standards that have been set by the Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) program have laid the foundation for a robust and prosperous industry that is committed to doing the right thing.

Participation in the industry-wide third-party audits allows feedyard operations to demonstrate and quantify their commitment to animal care and a safe and abundant food supply. While third-party audits can demonstrate transparency, credibility and compliance with BQA industry standards, it is just one component of a comprehensive commitment to maintain and enhance customer and consumer trust in beef.

CONTEXT AND TIMELINE

In 2018, a task force of beef industry stakeholders was charged with developing a workable and credible industry feedyard audit that would level the playing field and serve as a foundation for the industry's feedyard operators. This group of diverse industry stakeholders included feedyard owners and managers, veterinarians, animal scientists, packers, extension agents, and trade association representatives. Together this group developed the first industry feedyard audit, which was released in 2020.

AUDIT PROCESS

AUDIT OBJECTIVES

The U.S. Cattle Industry Feedyard Audit establishes a common set of practices and criteria that any cattle feedyard audit must include to be considered both comprehensive and in agreement with BQA standards. This audit creates a basis for packers and beef customers to verify that a feedyard is in compliance with and adheres to industry best practices as outlined in the BQA program. Results from the audit can provide information back to the feedyard to drive continuous improvement and measure the effectiveness by which the operation implements BQA standards.

AUDIT SCOPE

The U.S. Cattle Industry Feedyard Audit includes key standards of animal care that are directly related to animal health and welfare, and contribute to a safe beef supply. The audit places measurable objectives on standards and guidelines that are included as a part of the BQA program. The audit was intentionally designed to be applicable to all feedyards independent of operation size, facility/housing type, breed, or geographical location.

A complete audit will include review of records and protocols, animal observations both in pens and during processing, facilities, and potentially employee interviews.

SCHEDULING AN AUDIT

It is up to the audit client (an entity who has commissioned and paid for the conducting of the audit) to determine the frequency of when an audit should be conducted for a feedyard. An audit should be scheduled when the feedyard is operating under normal conditions. An audit should not be performed during or immediately after a weather event that could create adverse facility conditions or increase morbidity. Additionally, an audit should not be performed during an uncommon disease outbreak. Should an audit be conducted during adverse conditions or during a disease outbreak, this should be noted so that it is taken into consideration when reviewing results. Audits that are conducted during these situations may not be an accurate reflection of feedyard management and implementation of protocols.

A feedyard site is defined by its Premises Identification Number (PIN). If a feedyard operation has more than one yard under its management, the auditor must establish if the operation or the audit client is requesting an audit of all yards owned by the operation or just specific feedyards. If each yard site has its own PIN, then it should have its own audit conducted.

PREPARING FOR AN AUDIT

Auditors have the responsibility to ensure the feeding operation is ready and prepared for an audit before arriving on site. These preparation steps include:

- Contacting the owner/manager of the operation to schedule the on-site third-party audit at a mutually agreeable time and date.
- Scheduling the audit during normal operations to ensure that animal handling and facilities are evaluated under typical conditions. It should be communicated that animal handling is expected to be observed so an audit should be scheduled when cattle processing is going to occur.
- Providing the owner/manager with a current audit form and checklist of documents/records/protocols that will be reviewed.
- Acquiring feedyard specific biosecurity information that the auditor must be aware of prior to arrival.
- Verifying who should obtain the completed audit. This should include feedyard management and the audit client that requested the audit.
- Informing the owner/manager if any additional personnel will be attending the audit (i.e., shadow auditors, interns, etc.) to be sure that the operation permits this and enables them to conduct any background checks or other preferred operational processing prior to arrival.
- The auditor should make a clear request for the operation to provide an employee/on-site guide to be available for the duration of the audit. This person should be deeply familiar with daily operations and animal care. If a translator is necessary, that should be discussed and arranged prior to the audit.
- The auditor should request current feedyard inventory numbers and a yard map/layout so that they can pre-determine animal and pen sampling before arrival. If this information is unavailable, the auditor should be prepared to make such decisions and calculations on site.

CONDUCTING AN AUDIT

- An audit should begin with an opening meeting with feedyard management to make introductions, answer any questions, and review the scope and purpose of the audit. The group should review the flow of the audit and how the auditor will be reviewing documentation, making observations, and potential interviews that may need to be conducted with employees. Be aware of activities that will need to be observed (i.e., processing, loading/unloading, etc.) as this will determine the audit flow and timetable.
- Auditors must conduct the audit within the scope of the Cattle Industry Feedyard Audit, which will include reviewing records, protocols, and potentially electronic documentation; evaluating facilities; observing cattle and animal handlers; and interviewing management and employees. The goal of the auditor is to determine that there is consistency between documented and verbally expressed practices and verify with observations of practices and cattle. Inconsistencies identified throughout the audit will be reflected in scoring. Inconsistencies should be noted in the audit report.
- The feedyard employee/guide should accompany the auditor at all times but not interfere with the auditor's work.
- The auditor must not interfere with the normal operations of the feedyard or provide advice or consult. The auditor should not move any animals without assistance from feedyard employees to complete an observation.
- If necessary, auditors should interview employees and management using open-ended questions and avoid guiding the interviewee to a specific answer. The auditors may ask additional questions for clarification.
- For any audited areas that are determined to be unacceptable, the auditor should verbally explain immediately why the practice is unacceptable during the observation and provide written comments to explain such a score at the conclusion of the audit. It is also helpful to provide immediate verbal feedback during the process and notes at the conclusion of the audit for areas that do not receive full marks. These notes will help the auditor explain the results in a closing meeting and will also assist the feedyard in making improvements and implementing corrective actions.
- If a willful act of abuse or neglect is observed the auditor should immediately address this with feedyard management so that appropriate corrective actions can take place. Additionally, the audit should be terminated and conducted at a later date.

AUDIT SCORING

Each audit component has a maximum possible score based on relative importance in ensuring animal welfare and a safe beef supply. These scores were determined by the audit authors and audit working group. Below is a chart which shares the categories of importance. Categories of importance were determined in a holistic evaluation of the entire audit.

CATEGORY OF IMPORTANCE	POSSIBLE POINTS
Critical	25-50
High	15
Elevated	10
Low	5

Protocols, Records, Best Management Practices (BMPs), procedures or Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) must be provided and documented for all of the audited categories and, when specifics are described, that protocol must contain the item(s) noted.

Protocols, BMPs, procedures or SOPs should be assessed annually at a minimum with dated initials or signatures of responsible party confirming the review.

SAMPLE SIZE AND PEN/ANIMAL SELECTION

The number of animals, pens, or trucks to be assessed during an audit is based on what is available to assess on the day of the audit and the size of the yard. The goal is to balance sample size and selection with what can be practically and efficiently assessed to ensure representative data for that yard. Attempts should be made to schedule the audit on a day that active cattle handling in the processing/treatment barn and cattle unloading/loading can be observed.

CATTLE HANDLING OBSERVATIONS

When observing animals in the processing and treatment barns, the auditor should record the time of the cattle handling assessment when the feedlot is working animals through the handling facility. If the feedlot will be working 100 or less cattle through the chute that day, observe all of those animals at that time. If the feedlot will work over 100 head of cattle through the handling facilities, then select a time that allows observation of 100 cattle handling through the chute to be observed while managing time overall to assess all other parts of the audit in a time-efficient manner.

PEN OBSERVATIONS

To determine how many pens of cattle to observe for the pen and individual animal observations, the auditor should ask the feedlot to provide a schematic diagram of their feedlot (i.e., site map) showing which pens contain cattle and type of pen (e.g., home feeding pens and specialty pens like sick, chronic, buller, rail, receiving, and shipping pens).

HOME PENS

Observe at least 5% of the home feeding pens (minimum of 10 pens). All pens observed must contain cattle. If there are less than 10 home feeding pens in the entire feedlot then assess all pens. To select 5% of the home feeding pens to assess, use a simple random number calculator to identify which pens to evaluate to ensure there is no bias and data are representative of the yard.

For example, the feedlot has 300 home feeding pens with cattle in them. Five percent of the 300 pens must be assessed, which is 15 pens. Using a simple random number calculator with no repeats, ask it to select random numbers from 1 to 300. If the feedlot has alleys from A to J with 10 pens per alley (e.g., A1 to A10), then pen 25 would be B5, pen 32 would be C2, pen 46 would be D6, pen 78 would be G8, and pen 85 would be H5. A labeled schematic of the feedyard pens will further assist the auditor in pen selection.

The auditor should ensure the pens to be evaluated are reflective of differing topography across the feedyard.

SPECIALTY PENS

Specialty pens are defined as pens other than the feedyard home pens that are in use or used to contain cattle (sick, receiving, buller, railer). Observe at least 50% of each type of specialty pens (minimum of 3). If some of these specialty pens contain no cattle, then record “not observed” (NO). For specialty pens, systematic randomization will be used to select pens to assess. For example, if there are 5 sick pens (S1, S2, S3, S4, S5), then score every other sick pen (e.g., S1, S3, S5).

CATTLE OBSERVATIONS

Sample size calculations based on feedyard size are recommended by Cannon and Roe (1986) provided in a table[1]. These calculations ensure sufficient animals are sampled in the home pens to be 95% confident to detect a disease (or observation) is present at/or below the specified prevalence of 1% (our lowest target value for animal health that is not 0). Auditors are to randomly observe the total sample size from the 10 home pens and/or animals may be observed walking to the loadout area and/or to or from processing. All animals need to be standing and mobile when conducting individual observations of locomotion and mud/manure.

UNLOADING/LOADING OBSERVATIONS

Assess up to two livestock trucks for unloading/loading practices. If there is only one truck available for observation, then observe that truck and record that no other trucks were available to observe during the audit. If there are more than two trucks available to observe for either unloading/loading, then select trucks conveniently based on what is most time-efficient overall to observe, while ensuring the rest of the audit can be completed in a timely manner.

COMPLETING AN AUDIT

After all components of the audit are scored, the auditor must conduct a closing meeting with feedyard management. The closing meeting should be used to review the scope of the audit as well as review the audit findings and provide a verbal report. This is also a good time to answer any questions regarding how the audit was scored as well as review any notes that the auditor took during the audit. The auditor MUST NOT provide

counsel or guidance for any audit areas that did not receive full credit. This is outside of the scope of a third-party audit and the role of an auditor. The auditor should review the names and contact information of the individuals who should receive the full audit report. This should include feedyard management and the audit client that requested the audit. Feedyards are encouraged to keep a record of audit results indefinitely to reference back to as a record of improvement.

COMPETENCY OF AUDITORS

The U.S. Cattle Industry Feedyard Audit is available for the beef value chain to use as it sees fit in business-to-business relationships. Personnel conducting an audit, known as auditors, should have working knowledge of animal husbandry, the cattle feeding industry, and the Beef Quality Assurance program. It is required that auditors be BQA certified and Professional Animal Auditor Certification Organization (PAACO) certified to ensure adequate competency and accuracy in auditing.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

Certain audit criteria may be of such critical importance that corrective actions are necessary. Below are corrective action categories and a timetable recommended by the audit authors and audit working group. Criteria for corrective actions to either Mandatory Corrective Action Plans (MCAP) or Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP) will be identified throughout the audit as either a “MCAP” or a “CIP”.

The audit client can determine corrective actions (if any) for the noted section and set the timetable in which those corrective actions must be addressed. In addition, the audit client may decide on the potential for a re-audit in consultation with the feedyard.

- Mandatory Corrective Action Plans | MCAP
  - » Recommends that the standard is met within six (6) months or less - final determination by the audit client.
    - Veterinarian-Client-Patient-Relationship (VCPR)
    - Euthanasia
    - Withdrawal/Residue Avoidance
    - Handling of Non-Ambulatory Animals
- Continuous Improvement Plan | CIP
  - » Recommends that action has been taken to meet the standard prior to the next audit or in less time as determined by the audit client.
    - BQA/Employee Training
    - Herd Health Plan
    - Carcass Disposal
    - Pen Surface Maintenance

FEEDYARD INFORMATION

Auditing Date: _____

National Premises Identification Number (Prem ID or PIN; request from the office of the State Animal Health Official):

_____

Premises address:

Address: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip: _____

The Feedyard Manager for this premises and their contact information is as follows:

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

AUDITOR INFORMATION

Auditor Affiliation: _____

The Feedyard Auditor for this premises and their contact information is as follows:

NAME: _____

Auditor ID # (if applicable): _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

CRITICAL FAILURES

If a willful act of abuse or egregious act of neglect of an animal is observed, the auditor should immediately report the abuse/neglect to Feedyard Management and appropriate authorities. The audit should be terminated at that time. After corrective actions have been taken by Feedyard Management, an audit can be rescheduled.

Below, check the box of the willful act of abuse or egregious act of neglect that is observed on the feedyard. Record in detail in the comment box what was witnessed. Inform Feedyard Management the feedyard audit is terminated and will be rescheduled after corrective action has been taken.

WILLFUL ACT OF ABUSE

Willful acts of abuse of animals will not be tolerated. Willful abuse is defined as acts that intentionally cause pain, injury, or suffering.

Willful acts of abuse include but are not limited to:

- ❑ Dragging of conscious animals by any part of their body except in the rare case where a non-ambulatory animal must be moved from a life-threatening situation
- ❑ Deliberate application of electric prods to an animal that has no place to go
- ❑ Deliberate electric prodding of animals multiple times in an egregious manner
- ❑ Deliberate application of electric prods to sensitive parts of the animal such as the eyes, ears, nose, anus, vulva, udder, or testicles
- ❑ Deliberate slamming of gates on cattle unless for human safety
- ❑ Malicious hitting/beating of an animal which includes forcefully striking an animal with a closed fist, foot, and/or handling equipment (e.g., sorting paddle or other hard/solid objects that can cause pain, bruising, or injury)
- ❑ Deliberate driving of ambulatory cattle on top of one another
- ❑ Tail docking unless on the advice of a licensed veterinarian
- ❑ Abdominal surgery (e.g., rumen fistula, cesarean section, spaying, etc.) conducted by an unqualified, untrained person without anesthetic and analgesia
- ❑ Rectal/vaginal/uterine prolapse replacements with suture or amputations without anesthetic and analgesia
- ❑ Euthanasia by means other than approved methods covered under BQA guidelines[2]
- ❑ During euthanasia by gunshot, failing to immediately deliver additional shots if the first shot does not render the animal insensible and then dead (assuming no secondary kill step was used after rendering insensible by gunshot, such as pithing or jugular exsanguination)
- ❑ During euthanasia by gunshot, using a caliber that is not appropriate for the class of animal as per BQA guidelines[2]
- ❑ Live animal observed on the dead stockpile
- ❑ Unchecked dog biting cattle in chute with cattle having nowhere to go
- ❑ Live animal frozen to the ground
- ❑ Branding wet cattle
- ❑ Loading cattle unfit for transport as per BQA Transportation Guidelines[3]

Comments: _____

_____

_____

_____

EGREGIOUS ACT OF NEGLECT

Egregious acts of neglect will not be tolerated. Egregious acts of neglect are defined as purposely not providing adequate amounts of feed, water or other necessary care, which could result in significant harm, illness, or death of an animal.

Egregious acts of neglect include but are not limited to:

- ❑ Failing to follow veterinary protocols related to timely euthanasia of critically ill/distressed or injured animals
- ❑ Failing to euthanize a chronically diseased or injured animal with a BCS ≤ 2 (on the beef and dairy body condition score card) and according to protocols developed in consultation with a veterinarian
- ❑ Failing to follow veterinary protocal related to timely treatment of an injured animal.
- ❑ Failing to provide daily feed to cattle within a 24-hour period
- ❑ Failing to provide ad libitum water to cattle in home feeding pens
- ❑ Failing to provide water to non-ambulatory animals
- ❑ Failing to assist a known calving heifer in a timely manner
- ❑ Failing to assist a newborn calf in distress
- ❑ Failing to immediately assist and provide medical care to a non-ambulatory animal
- ❑ Failing to provide immediate medical assistance to a “compromised” animal unloaded from a livestock truck, as per BQA Transportation Guidelines[3,4]
- ❑ Loading a “compromised” animal without special transport provisions, as per BQA Transportation Guidelines[3]

Comment:_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

PROCEDURES AND RECORDS

Where applicable, if the feedyard does not have a documented protocol, but an interviewed employee can demonstrate how a protocol is implemented, partial credit is awarded. Where applicable, if the feedyard does not have documented records that verify a particular protocol is being implemented, but an interviewed employee can demonstrate how a protocol is implemented, partial credit is awarded.

In the chart below, circle the appropriate points to be awarded. Only the sections labeled with "N/A" may be scored as "N/A". If N/A is selcected for a question, remember to deduct the points for the question from the total points possible. Once the audit has been conducted, subtotal the points of each section and complete the score summary sheets on pages 26-27.

**Records for the last 2 years must be made available for review by the auditor.*

		NO	PARTIAL	YES	N/A
FEEDYARD SELF-ASSESSMENT					
1) Does the feedyard have proof of a completed BQA Feedyard Assessment within the last 3 years of the audit date?		0		15	
2) Does the feedyard have a completed Veterinarian-Client-Patient-Relationship (VCPR) form that includes operation manager and feedyard veterinary contact information and signatures that is updated/confirmed annually? *(Recommended Corrective Action: MCAP)*		0		15	
Feedyard Self-Assessment Subtotal					
BEEF QUALITY ASSURANCE CERTIFICATION					
3) Does the feedyard manager or key employee have proof of a current BQA certification? (Recommended Corrective Action: CIP)		0		15	
Beef Quality Assurance Certification Subtotal					
EMPLOYEE TRAINING					
4) Does the feedyard have a documented training program focused on cattle care?		0	8	15	
5) Are there records available that verify feedyard employees are trained in their area of work?		0		15	
6) Does the feedyard have a documented "Commitment to Animal Welfare Policy" posted publicly the includes a zero tolerance for neglect abuse;signed and dated by all employees?		0		15	
Employee Training Subtotal					
HERD CARE/ANIMAL HEALTH					
7) Are there records available verifying a relationship with a veterinarian exists in some capacity through other documentation such as vet visit reports, billing records, or other proof documents?		0		15	
Does the feedyard have a documented "Routine Animal Care" protocol that includes the following:	8) Feed delivery record that includes frequency/amount/ type	0		5	
	9) Frequency of pen check	0		5	
Are there records available verifying a "Routine Animal Care" protocol is being implemented that includes:	10) Feed delivery record	0		5	
	11) Pen checks/animal pull records	0		5	

Does the feedyard have a documented "Herd Health Management" protocol, that addresses prevention, management, and treatment of infectious diseases including but not limited to metabolic disorders, toxins, parasites, neoplasia, and injury developed in consultation with a veterinarian and/or nutritionist for nutrition program? *(Recommended Corrective Action: CIP)*	PREVENTION				
	12) Vaccine program	0	5	10	
	13) Parasite prevention program	0	5	10	
	14) Nutrition program	0	5	10	
	MANAGEMENT				
	15) Observation and disease identification protocol for pen riders	0	5	10	
	TREATMENT				
	16) Hospitalization/ sick pen monitoring protocol	0	5	10	
	17) Disease specific treatment protocols	0	5	10	
Are there records available that indicate the "Herd Health Management" protocol is being implemented on the following topics:	PREVENTION				
	18) Vaccine program	0		10	
	19) Parasite prevention program	0		10	
	20) Nutrition program	0		10	
	MANAGEMENT				
	21) Observation and disease identification protocol for pen riders	0		10	
	22) Protocol for specific diseases common to the feedyard	0		10	
	TREATMENT				
	23) Hospitalization/ sick pen monitoring protocol	0		10	
	24) Disease specific treatment protocols	0		10	
25) Does the feedyard have a documented "Surgical Procedures[5]" protocol, with documentation that it was developed in consultation with a veterinarian with guidance regarding surgical technique and the availability, advisability, and use of analgesia for all surgical procedures?		0	5	10	
26) Are there records available verifying the "Surgical Procedure[5]" protocol is being implemented (if no surgical procedures performed with the past 24 months - N/A)?		0		10	N/A
Feedyards should have a documented comprehensive antibiotic stewardship protocol that addresses animal health, antibiotic resistance, and antibiotic residues[6], available for review. Antibiotic stewardship records should be available to demonstrate the protocol is being followed or, alternately, an employee in charge of animal treatment should be able to describe their efforts to use antibiotics judiciously.	27) Does the feedyard have a documented "Antibiotic Stewardship" protocol with documentation that it was developed in consultation with a veterinarian?	0	5	10	
	28) Are there records available verifying an "Antibiotic Stewardship" protocol is being implemented?	0	5	10	
Herd Care/Animal Health Subtotal					

CALVING HEIFER AND NEWBORN CALF CARE/MANAGEMENT					
If the feedyard being audited can verify that they only feed steers/males, this series of questions can be marked N/A. Failing to assist a known calving heifer in a timely manner and/or failing to assist a newborn calf in distress is considered an egregious act of neglect. **Calves born at the feedyard** Heifers who are observed to be calving should be attended to in a timely manner. A protocol should be established in the event a calf is born at the feedyard. This protocol should include procedures that cover viable and non-viable calves. • Viable calves born at the feedyard will be cared for in a timely manner according to protocol. • Non-viable calves born that are not fully developed or calves that are non-ambulatory will be moved and euthanized as outlined in the feedyard euthanasia protocol.	29) Does the feedyard have a documented "Calving Heifer" protocol?	0	8	15	N/A
	30) Are there records available verifying a "Calving Heifer" protocol is being implemented?	0		15	N/A
	31) Does the feedyard have a documented "Newborn Calf Care and Management" protocol?	0	8	15	N/A
	32) Are there records available verifying a "Newborn Calf Care and Management" protocol is being implemented (if no calves have been born in 24 months mark N/A)?	0		15	N/A
	33) Are there records available of calves born on-site being moved to locations off-site, if any (if no calves have been born in 24 months mark N/A)?	0		5	N/A
Calving Heifer and Newborn Calf Care/Management Subtotal					
CATTLE HEALTH PRODUCT MANAGEMENT					
Does the feedyard have a documented "Cattle Health Product Management" protocol outlining proper:	34) Receiving	0	3	5	
	35) Handling	0	3	5	
	36) Storage	0	3	5	
	37) Inventory **Must include expiration date, product name, quantity*	0	3	5	
Are there records available/observation/interview verifying a "Cattle Health Product Management" protocol for the following:	38) Receiving	0		5	
	39) Handling	0		5	
	40) Storage	0		5	
	41) Inventory ***Must include expiration date, product name, quantity*	0		5	
42) Does the feedyard have a documented "Cattle Health Product Disposal" protocol outlining the process of evaluating cattle health product expiration dates and cattle health product disposal?		0	3	5	
43) Are there records available verifying a "Cattle Health Product Disposal" protocol is being implemented? Are there records available/observation/interview?		0		5	

44) Observe 3 random expiration dates on animal health products in storage. If an expired product is observed, no points are rewarded		0		5	
Cattle Health Product Management Subtotal					
BIOSECURITY					
Does the feedyard have a documented "Biosecurity Plan" that addresses the following:	45) Visitor logs	0		5	
	46) Staff biosecurity training and awareness	0		5	
	47) Site security	0		5	
	48) Foreign Animal Disease Outbreak Contingency Plan (Secure Beef Supply)	0		5	
	49) Cleaning and sterilization of machinery/ equipment used for moving non-ambulatory or diseased animals	0		5	
	50) Disinfecting veterinary equipment	0		5	
	51) Cleaning cattle handling facilities	0		5	
Are there records available/observation/interview verifying a "Biosecurity Plan" is being implemented for the following topics:	52) Visitor logs	0		5	
	53) Staff biosecurity training and awareness	0		5	
	54) Site security	0		5	
	55) Cleaning and sterilization of machinery or equipment used for moving non-ambulatory or diseased animals	0		5	
	56) Disinfecting veterinary equipment	0		5	
	57) Cleaning cattle handling facilities	0		5	
Biosecurity Subtotal					
COMPROMISED/NON-AMBULATORY CATTLE					
58) Does the feedyard has a documented "Compromised Cattle Evaluation" protocol which includes timely evaluation of compromised animals? **Failing to euthanize a chronically diseased or injured animal with a BCS ≤ 2 (on the beef and dairy body condition score card) is considered an egregious act of neglect.*		0		15	
59) Are there records available or can employees responsible for compromised cattle verify a "Compromised Cattle Evaluation" protocol is being implemented that includes documentation that timely evaluations of compromised cattle are conducted?		0	8	15	

60) Does the feedyard have a documented "Non-Ambulatory Cattle Handling1" protocol? (Recommended Corrective Action: MCAP)		0		25	
61) Can an employee responsible for non-ambulatory cattle handling demonstrate the "Non-Ambulatory Cattle Handling" protocol via interview? (Recommended Corrective Action: MCAP)		0		25	
Compromised Cattle Evaluation Subtotal					
EUTHANASIA					
Does the feedyard have a documented "Euthanasia" protocol that includes the following:	62) Developed in consultation with a veterinarian and includes: • timeliness • method • shot placement • confirmation of death that meets BQA guidelines*? **BQA euthanasia guidelines follow American Association of Bovine Practitioners euthanasia guidelines. (Recommended Corrective Action: MCAP)*	0	8	15	
	63) Documented primary personnel responsible for euthanasia decision making	0	8	15	
	64) Documented secondary/ additional personnel responsible for euthanasia decision making	0	8	15	
	65) Documented primary and secondary euthanasia tool that are functional, in good repair, and accessible for use by trained personnel	0	8	15	
	66) Documented protocol for maintenance of euthanasia tools	0	8	15	
67) Can an employee responsible for euthanasia demonstrate the "Euthanasia" protocol via interview?		0		15	
68) Can the feedyard verify through documented records the maintenance* and functionality check of each euthanasia tool? **Maintenance is when the euthanasia tool is cleaned and maintained to be in good working order.*		0		15	
Euthanasia Subtotal					
MORTALITY/CARCASS DISPOSAL					

69) Does the feedyard have documented "Cattle Mortality" records that indicate the cause of death?		0		5	
70) Does the feedyard have a documented "Carcass Disposal" protocol? *(Recommended Corrective Action: CIP)*		0	3	5	
71) Are there records or employee available to interview to verify a documented "Carcass Disposal" protocol? *(Recommended Corrective Action: CIP)*		0		5	
Mortality/Carcass Disposal Subtotal					
FEED QUALITY/MEDICATED FEED					
72) Does the feedyard have a documented "Feed Quality" protocol that includes feed sampling?		0	3	5	
73) Are there records or employee available to interview to verify a "Feed Quality" protocol is being implemented that includes feed sampling/feed quality records?		0		5	
74) If the feedyard feeds ruminant derived protein sources, do those feed stuffs meet FDA guidance? Add an N/A option if they don't feed those feedstuffs.[7] *If the Feedyard feeds beef tallow, analysis of the beef tallow should be reviewed to confirm it is at least 99.85% pure.*		0		10	
Does the feedyard have a documented "Medicated Feed" protocol that includes:	75) Veterinary Feed Directive	0	3	5	
	76) Mixing	0	3	5	
	77) Feed delivery	0	3	5	
	78) Disposal of excess mixed feed	0	3	5	
Are there records or employee available to interview to verify a "Medicated Feed" protocol is being implemented that includes:	79) Veterinary Feed Directive	0		5	
	80) Mixing	0		5	
	81) Feed delivery	0		5	
	82) Disposal of excess mixed feed	0		5	
Feed Quality/Medicated Feed Subtotal					
CATTLE HANDLING/PROCESSING					
83) Does the feedyard have a documented "Unloading" protocol that addresses documenting animal condition at receiving?		0	3	5	
84) Are there records available verifying an "Unloading" protocol that addresses documenting animal condition at receiving is being implemented?		0		5	
Does the feedyard have a documented "Receiving/ Processing" protocol addressing the following:	85) Processing Crew responsibilities	0	5	10	
	86) Number of cattle received	0	5	10	
	87) Administration of implants	0	5	10	N/A
	88) Processing map	0	5	10	
	89) Animal/group ID	0	5	10	
	90) BQA guidelines for injectables[8]	0	5	10	

Are there records available/employee interview/observation verifying a "Receiving/ Processing" protocol is being implemented addressing the following:	91) Processing Crew responsibilities	0		10	
	92) Number of cattle received	0		10	
	93) Administration of implants	0		10	N/A
	94) Processing map	0		10	
	95) Animal/group ID	0		10	
	96) BQA guidelines for injectables[8]	0		10	
Does the feedyard have a documented "Inclement Weather" protocol that addresses the following:	97) Extreme heat[9] conditions	0	5	10	
	98) Extreme cold[9] conditions	0	5	10	
Are there records available/employee interview/observation verifying a "Inclement Weather" protocol is being implemented?	99) Extreme heat[9] conditions	0		10	
	100) Extreme cold[9] conditions	0		10	
101) Does the feedyard have a documented "Broken Needle" protocol that includes what to do in the instance of a broken needle that remains in the animal when administering injectables, such that the animal does not enter the commercial beef supply?		0	8	15	
101) Are there records available verifying a "Broken Needle" protocol is being implemented that includes what was done in the instance a broken needle remained in an animal when administering injectables, such that the animal did not enter the commercial beef supply?		0		15	
Does the feedyard have a documented "Shipping" protocol that addresses the following:	103) Residue Avoidance: Withdrawal/Safe-to-ship documents/ verification *(Recommended Corrective Action: MCAP)*	0	15	25	
	104) Fitness for transport evaluation/ verification	0	8	15	
Are there records available verifying a "Shipping" protocol is being implemented that includes:	105) Withdrawal/Safe-to-ship documents/ verification	0		25	
	106) Fitness for transport evaluation/ verification	0		15	
107) Does the feedyard have a documented "Loading" protocol?		0	3	5	
108) Are there records available verifying a "Loading" protocol is being implemented?		0		5	
Cattle Handling/Processing Subtotal					

PEN SURFACE MAINTENANCE					
109) Does the feedyard have a documented "Pen Surface Maintenance" protocol? *(Recommended Corrective Action: CIP)*		0	3	5	
110) Are there records available/employee interview/observation verifying a "Pen Surface Maintenance" protocol is being implemented? *(Recommended Corrective Action: CIP)*		0		5	
Pen Surface Maintenance Subtotal					
EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN					
Does the feedyard have a documented EAP that is readily accessible by all feedyard employees and, at a minimum, includes the following:	111) Is the Emergency Action Plan posted?	0		5	
	112) Emergency contact phone list	0		5	
	113) Loss of utilities plan	0		5	
	114) Feed contingency plan	0		5	
	115) Water contingency plan	0		5	
Emergency Action Plan Subtotal					
RECORD KEEPING					
116) Does the feedyard have records for the last two consecutive years available for review for all areas where records are required?		0		10	
Record Keeping Subtotal					

NOTES:

CATTLE HANDLING OBSERVATIONS

	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
1	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
2	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
3	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
4	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
5	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
6	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
7	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
8	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
9	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
10	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
11	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
12	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
13	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
14	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
15	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
16	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
17	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
18	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
19	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
20	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
21	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
22	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
23	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
24	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
25	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
26	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
27	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
28	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
29	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
30	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
31	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
32	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
33	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
34	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
35	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
36	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
37	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
38	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
39	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
40	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
41	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
42	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
43	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
44	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
45	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
46	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
47	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
48	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
49	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
50	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F

	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
51	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
52	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
53	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
54	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
55	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
56	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
57	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
58	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
59	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
60	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
61	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
62	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
63	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
64	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
65	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
66	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
67	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
68	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
69	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
70	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
71	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
72	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
73	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
74	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
75	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
76	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
77	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
78	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
79	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
80	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
81	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
82	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
83	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
84	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
85	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
86	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
87	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
88	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
89	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
90	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
91	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
92	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
93	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
94	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
95	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
96	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
97	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
98	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
99	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F
100	✓	P	M	V	J/R	S	F

OBSERVATION GUIDANCE

- Count at least 100 head – SCORE DURING ACTIVE HANDLING
- Animal can only be scored once per category.

Type of cattle processing: _____

Number of animal handlers: _____

✓	Cattle were handled with no issue.
P (Electric Prod Use)	Prod Use is defined as discharging electric current while in contact with the animal*. If prod usage is ≤ 10%, full credit is awarded. If prod usage is 11% - 19%, partial credit is awarded. If prod usage is ≥ 20%, no credit is awarded.
M (Miscatch)	Miscatch is defined as the animal being in any position other than with its head fully outside of the front catch and the balance of the body within the chute (i.e. animals that are caught by the head in front of the ears and not released and/or if an animal is caught in the tail/back gate and not released).**
V (Vocalize)	Any audible vocalization (moo, bellow) during chute handling (not related to a processing activity)
J/R (Jump and/or Run)	Cattle that jump when exiting the chute*** Cattle that run when exiting the chute****
S (Stumble)	Cattle that stumble when exiting the chute and the animal's knee or hock touch the ground.
F (Fall)	Cattle that fall when exiting the chute and animal's chest, torso/belly, or rump touching the ground; kneeling is not fall. (animals on their knees in the chute should not be categorized as a fall)

** Due to the nature of an audit it is to be assumed that a prod touching an animal is being discharged; this information should be relayed to the feedyard management and cattle handlers prior to the observations. Prod use is counted only once per animal even if the prod contacts the animal twice. .** If two animals enter the chute, as long as the tail/back catch is not closed on any of the two animals, it is not counted as a miscatch. *** Some chutes contain "brisket bars" that prevent cattle from going down in the chute, do not count animals that are hopping over the brisket bar when exiting the chute. **** Do not count trotting as running.*

	A	B			
Observation	# counted	Total # of head observed	Column A ÷ Column B x 100 = % observed	Target	Points Awarded / Points Available
P				≤ 10%	0/25/50
M				0%	0/25
V				≤ 5%	0/10
J/R				≤ 25%	0/10
S				≤ 10%	0/20
F				≤ 2%	0/35
					_____/150

Comments: If stumbles or falls are common, record where stumbles and falls occur; suspected reason for vocalizing (e.g., hydraulic pressure too high in chute), miscatches in chute (with release), reason for jumping/running (e.g., prod use, belly bar in chute, dog biting animal, inappropriate handling equipment or inappropriate use of appropriate handling tools), any electric prod misuse, and patterns of repetitive poor cattle handling behavior.

HOME PEN OBSERVATIONS

Number of home pens with cattle the feedyard has: _____

_____ x .05 = _____

Number of home pens the feedyard has with cattle — *Number of home pens with cattle to evaluate*

**If the feedyard has ≤ 200 home pens with cattle, evaluate 10 home pens with cattle.*

***Ensure that pens being evaluated are from areas reflective of the different topography across the feedyard.*

PEN OBSERVATION GUIDANCE	
FB Feed Bunks	Feed bunks should be accessible for cattle and they should be clean and free of manure and foreign objects as well as spoiled, moldy, sour, packed, or unpalatable feed. Evaluate the feed bunks of the predetermined "pens to evaluate" ✓ - Clean Bunk X - Dirty Bunk
WT Water Tanks	Fresh, clean, and clear water should be readily available at all times to animals. Water tanks should be easily accessible and free of manure, excessive buildup of algae, or other foreign material. Evaluate the water tanks of the predetermined "pens to evaluate". ✓- Clean Water Tank X - Dirty Water Tank
SR Stocking Rate	Space should be available for all cattle to stand up, lie down, move freely and allow for feedyard environmental management at any given time. Evaluate the stocking density of the predetermined "pens to evaluate". ✓- Good Stocking Density X - Crowded Stocking Density
PF Pen Facilities	Pen facilities should be in good working order, with no broken fencing, gates or other equipment, and no sharp protrusions. Evaluate the pen facilities condition of the predetermined "pens to evaluate". If ≥ 70% evaluated home pens that contain cattle are in good working order, with no broken fencing, gates or other equipment, and no sharp protrusions, that is considered satisfactory. If 51% - 69% evaluated home pens that contain cattle are in working order with minor issues in fencing, gates or other equipment that will not cause harm or injury to cattle, appropriate pen improvements should be considered. If ≤ 50% evaluated home pens that contain cattle are not well maintained and have major issues including broken fencing, gates, or other equipment or protrusions that could cause injury to cattle, immediate action to improve these conditions and issues should be taken. ✓= Good stocking density ½ = Pen facilities have issues, but none that would cause harm to animals. X = Crowded stocking density.

	A	B			
Observation	# counted	Total # of pens observed	Column A ÷ Column B x 100 = % observed	Target	Points Awarded
FB Feed Bunks (Dirty)				≤ 30%	0/10
WT Water Tanks (Dirty)				≤ 30%	0/10
SR Stocking Rate (Crowded)				≤ 30%	0/15
PF Pen Facilities	x =			≥ 50%	0/8/15
	½ =			51% - 69%	
	✓=			≥ 70%	
**PF: The % observed that falls into its target range determines points awarded.*					
				Total Points Awarded	__/50

Pen Observation					
	Pen #	FB	WT	SR	PF
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					
19					
20					
21					
22					
23					
24					
25					
26					
27					
28					
29					
30					

NOTES:

INDIVIDUAL ANIMAL OBSERVATIONS

All animals need to be standing and mobile when conducting individual observations of locomotion and mud/manure.

_____ must be ≥ _____	
Number of cattle observed in home pens evaluated.	Number of cattle observed based on size of feedyard. Reference "Individual Cattle Observation"[1].

INDIVIDUAL ANIMAL GUIDANCE	
MM Mud/Manure	Using the 5 Point Mud and Manure Score system (Ramsey & Allen10), evaluate 20 head per pen in each evaluated home pen. If all the home pens evaluated have less than the needed individual animal observations required, evaluate additional home pens until the individual animal observation requirement is met. Take the average score of the evaluated animals to be used to assign a pen mud and manure score.
L Locomotion	To evaluate locomotion auditors are to randomly observe the total sample size from the 10 home pens and/or animals may be observed walking to the loadout area and/or to or from processing until the individual animal observation requirement is met. Cattle should be moving in pens, and scored using the North American Meat Institute (NAMI) 4-point locomotion scale: 1= Normal, walks easily with no apparent changes in gait 2= Moderate, exhibits ANY of the following: minor stiffness, shortness of stride, or slight limp, but keeps up with normal cattle in a group 3= Severe, and is not fit for transport without special provisions, exhibits ANY of the following: obvious stiffness, difficulty taking steps, an obvious limp, or obvious discomfort and lags behind normal cattle in a group 4= Critical, not fit for transport, extremely reluctant to move even when encouraged by a handler, described as statue-like.

	A	B			
Observation	# of observations counted	Total # of head observed	Column A ÷ Column B x 100 = % observed	Target	Points Awarded
L Locomotion Score ≥ 3				≤ 20%	0/20/40*
MM Mud/Manure Score ≥ 3				≤ 30%	0/20/40**
				Total Points Awarded	_____/80

*If ≥ 20% of cattle score a locomotion score ≥ 3, but strategies are being implemented to improve locomotion, partial credit may be awarded.

**If ≤ 30% of the home pens have an average Mud/Manure score ≥ 3, full credit is awarded; If 30% - 50% of the pens have an average Mud/Manure score ≥ 3, partial credit may be awarded; If ≥ 50% of pens have an average Mud/Manure score ≥ 3, no credit is awarded.

Tally the number of each observation made							
Pen Number	Total number of cattle in the pen	Cattle with Locomotion Score ≥ 3	Cattle with Mud/Manure Score ≥ 3	Pen Number	Total number of cattle in the pen	Cattle with Locomotion Score ≥ 3	Cattle with Mud/Manure Score ≥ 3

SPECIALTY PEN OBSERVATIONS

Number of each specialty pens with cattle the feedyard has: _____

_____ x .5 = _____

Number of each specialty pen type (receiving, hospital, buller, railers, etc.) the feedyard has with cattle

Number of each specialty pen type (receiving, hospital, buller, railers, etc.) with cattle to evaluate

**If the feedyard has < 3 of each specialty pen type (receiving, hospital, buller), evaluate all specialty pens of each type.*
***Ensure that pens being evaluated are from areas reflective of the different topography across the feedyard.*

PEN OBSERVATION GUIDANCE	
FB Feed Bunks	Feed bunks should be accessible for cattle and they should be clean and free of manure and foreign objects as well as spoiled, moldy, sour, packed, or unpalatable feed. Evaluate the feed bunks of the predetermined "pens to evaluate." ✓ - Clean Bunk X - Dirty Bunk
WT Water Tanks	Fresh, clean, and clear water should be readily available at all time to animals. Water tanks should be easily accessible and free of manure, excessive buildup of algae, or other foreign material. Evaluate the water tanks of the predetermined "pens to evaluate". ✓- Clean Water Tank X - Dirty Water Tank
SR Stocking Rate	Space should be available for all cattle to stand up, lie down, move freely and allow for feedyard environmental management at any given time. Evaluate the stocking density of the predetermined "pens to evaluate". ✓- Good Stocking Density X - Crowded Stocking Density
PF Pen Facilities	Pen facilities should be in good working order, with no broken fencing, gates or other equipment, and no sharp protrusions. Evaluate the pen facilities condition of the predetermined "pens to evaluate". If ≥ 70% evaluated home pens that contain cattle are in good working order, with no broken fencing, gates or other equipment, and no sharp protrusions, full credit is awarded. If 51% - 69% evaluated home pens that contain cattle are in working order with minor issues in fencing, gates or other equipment, that will not cause harm or injury to cattle, partial credit is awarded. If ≥ 50% evaluated home pens that contain cattle are not well maintained and have major issues including broken fencing, gates, or other equipment, or protrusions that could cause injury to cattle, no credit is awarded. ✓= Pen facilities in good condition. ½ = Pen facilities have issues, but none that would cause harm to animals. X = Pen facilities in poor condition.

	A	B			
Observation	# counted	Total # of pens observed	Column A ÷ Column B x 100 = % observed	Target	Points Awarded
FB Feed Bunks (Dirty)				≤ 30%	0/10
WT Water Tanks (Dirty)				≤ 30%	0/10
SR Stocking Rate (Crowded)				≤ 30%	0/15
PF Pen Facilities	X =			≥ 50%	0/8/15
	½ =			51% - 69%	
	✓ =			≥ 70%	
**PF: The % observed that falls into its target range determines points awarded.*					
				Total Points Awarded	___/50

Specialty Pen Observation (Receiving, Hospital, Buller, Railer, etc.)					
	Pen #	FB	WT	SR	PF
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
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26					
27					
28					
29					
30					

NOTES:

CATTLE HANDLING FACILITIES OBSERVATIONS (PROCESSING AND UNLOADING/LOADING)

Handling Facility Observation		
Identity	Score	Handling Facility Comments

Handling facilities should:

- Be able to safely handle and restrain cattle
- Include nonslip flooring*
- Have gates in handling areas that swing freely and latch securely
- Have no sharp protrusions that could potentially injure cattle or handlers
- Have adequate lighting

Cattle Handling Facility Observation Guidance

✓ If ≥ 30% of the handling facilities have issues that could cause harm to animals with the components listed above, the facilities need improvement.

**Examples of non-slip flooring would include, but are not limited to, sand, straw, wood shavings, rubber mats, stamped tread, steel reinforcement rods, or grooved concrete flooring*

	Column A	Column B			
Handling Facilities Observation	# Counted	Total Observed	Column A ÷ Column B x 100 = % observed	Target	Points Available
✓= Handling facility in good condition.				≥ 70%	0/25/50
½ = Handling facility has issues, but none that would cause harm to animals.				51% - 69%	
x = Handling facilities in poor condition.				≥ 50%	
				Total Points Awarded	___/ 50

CATTLE HANDLING OBSERVATIONS DURING UNLOADING/LOADING

Unloading/Loading Observation Guidance

- Assess 2 trucks during Unloading/Loading. If there are <2 trucks, observe all trucks. – SCORE DURING ACTIVE HANDLING
- Animals cannot be scored more than once per category.

✓	Cattle were handled with no issue.
P (Electric Prod Use)	Prod Use is defined as discharging electric current while in contact with the animal.*
S (Stumble)	Cattle that stumble when exiting the truck and the animal's knee or hock touch the ground.
F (Fall)	Cattle that fall when exiting the truck and animal's chest, torso/belly, or rump touching the ground.

**Due to the nature of an audit or assessment it is to be assumed that a prod touching an animal is being discharged, this information should be relayed to the feedyard management and cattle handlers prior to the observations. Prod use is counted only once per animal even if the prod contact the animal twice.*

Do feedyard employees and/or contractors who transport cattle have proof of a current BQA Transportation certification? **YES/NO**

UNLOADING/LOADING/BOTH - *(Circle One)*

Number of animal handlers: _____

Number of Trucks: _____

Is the trailer properly aligned with the unloading/loading area so that cattle do not risk stepping inot the gap and there are no gaps between the back end of the trailer and the side walls of the unloading/loading area where livestock can escape? **Truck 1: YES/NO Truck 2: YES/NO**

Comments: _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Tally each time an observation is made for each of the categories.			
✓	P	S	F

	A	B			
Observation	# counted	Total # of head observed	Column A ÷ Column B x 100 = % observed	Target	Not Scored/ Observation Only
P				≤ 10%	
S				≤ 10%	
F				≤ 2%	

Comments: If stumbles or falls are common, record where stumbles and falls occur; dog biting animal, inappropriate handling equipment or inappropriate use of appropriate handling tools; any electric prod misuse, and patterns of repetitive poor cattle handling behavior.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

CATTLE INDUSTRY FEEDYARD AUDIT SCORE SUMMARY		
Auditing Date:	Feedyard Name:	
Address:		
City:	State:	Zip:
Phone:		
Auditor Name:		Auditor ID:

Audited Area	Points Awarded	Points Available	N/A
Critical Failures	Pass	Fail	
Feedyard Assessment Subtotal		30	
Feedyard manager or key employee with current BQA certification & records		15	
Feedyard employees and/or contractors who transport cattle with current BQA Transportation certification & records			
Beef Quality Assurance Certification Subtotal		15	
Feedyard Employee Training Program & records		30	
Feedyard "Commitment to Animal Welfare Policy" and records		15	
Employee Training Subtotal		45	
Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship (VCPR) & Records			
Verification a relationship with a veterinarian exists in some capacity through documentation such as vet visit reports, billing records, or other proof documents		15	
"Routine Animal Care" protocol & records		20	
Disease prevention, management, and treatment protocol & records		130	
"Surgical Procedures" protocol & records		20	
"Antibiotic Stewardship" protocol & records		20	
Herd Care/Animal Health Subtotal		205	
"Calving Heifer" protocol & records		30	N/A
"Newborn Calf Care and Management" protocol & records		30	N/A
Records of calves born on-site being moved to locations off-site		5	N/A
Calving Heifer/Newborn Calf Care and Management Subtotal		65	N/A
"Cattle Health Product Management" protocol & records		40	
"Cattle Health Product Disposal" protocol & records		10	

Cattle Health Product Management Subtotal		55	
Biosecurity Subtotal		65	
“Compromised Cattle Evaluation” protocol & records		30	
“Non-Ambulatory Cattle Handling” protocol & records		50	
Compromised Cattle Evaluation Subtotal		80	
Euthanasia Subtotal		105	
"Cattle Mortality" records		5	
"Carcass Disposal" protocol & records		10	
Mortality/Carcass Disposal Subtotal		15	
"Feed Quality” protocol & records		5	
Non-ruminant-derived protein records		10	
"Medicated Feed" protocol & records		40	
Feed Quality/Medicated Feed Subtotal		60	
"Unloading" protocol		10	
"Receiving/Processing" protocol & records		120	
"Inclement Weather" protocol & records		40	
"Broken Needle" protocol & records		30	
"Shipping" protocol & records		80	
"Loading" protocol & records		10	
Cattle Handling/Processing Subtotal		290	
Pen Surface Maintenance Subtotal		10	
Emergency Action Plan Subtotal		25	
Record Keeping Subtotal		10	
Cattle handling observations		150	
Home pen observation		50	
Individual animal observations		80	
Specialty pen observations		50	
Cattle handling facilities observations (processing & unloading/loading)		50	
Cattle handing observations during unloading/loading	Not Scored Observation Only		
Feedyard Observations Subtotal		380	
	Total Points Awarded	**Total Points Available**	
		1455*	

*Total points available may be less if any question where N/A is an option is selected.

NOTES:

APPENDIX

AUDIT PREPARATION CHECKLIST FOR THE FEEDYARD

- ❑ Is the feedyard operating under normal conditions on the day of the scheduled audit?
- ❑ Are you prepared to process a minimum of 100 head of cattle through a chute?

Do you have a copy of the following:

- ❑ A BQA Feedyard Assessment completed within 3 years of the audit date.
- ❑ The feedyard manager or key employee's BQA certification.
- ❑ Current BQA Transportation certification for feedyard employees and/or contractors who transport cattle.
- ❑ The feedyard employee training program.
- ❑ Feedyard employee training records.
- ❑ A documented "Commitment to Animal Welfare Policy" signed and dated by all employees.
- ❑ A written and valid Veterinarian-Client-Patient-Relationship.
- ❑ Records verifying a relationship with a veterinarian exists in some capacity through other documentation which may include items such as vet visit reports, billing records, or other proof documents.
- ❑ The feedyard "Calving Heifer" protocol.
- ❑ "Calving Heifer" records to show the protocol is being implemented.
- ❑ The feedyard "Newborn Calf Care and Management" protocol.
- ❑ "Newborn Calf Care and Management" records to show the protocol is being implemented.
- ❑ Records showing calves born on-site being moved to locations off-site
- ❑ The feedyard "Routine Animal Care" protocol.
- ❑ "Routine Animal Care" records to show the protocol is being implemented.
- ❑ The feedyard "Disease Prevention" protocol.
- ❑ "Disease Prevention" records to show the protocol is being implemented.
- ❑ The feedyard "Disease Management" protocol.
- ❑ "Disease Management" records to show the protocol is being implemented.
- ❑ The feedyard "Disease Treatment" protocol.
- ❑ "Disease Treatment" records to show the protocol is being implemented.
- ❑ The feedyard "Surgical Procedures" protocol.
- ❑ "Surgical Procedures" records to show the protocol is being implemented.
- ❑ The feedyard "Antibiotic Stewardship" protocol.
- ❑ "Antibiotic Stewardship" records to show the protocol is being implemented.
- ❑ The feedyard "Residue Avoidance" protocol.
- ❑ "Residue Avoidance" records to show the protocol is being implemented.
- ❑ The feedyard "Cattle Health Product Management" protocol.
- ❑ "Cattle Health Product Management" records to show the protocol is being implemented.
- ❑ The feedyard "Cattle Health Product Disposal" protocol.
- ❑ "Cattle Health Product Disposal" records to show the protocol is being implemented.
- ❑ The feedyard "Biosecurity Plan".
- ❑ "Biosecurity Plan" records that show one is being implemented.
- ❑ The feedyard "Compromised Cattle Evaluation" protocol.
- ❑ "Compromised Cattle Evaluation" records to show the protocol is being implemented.
- ❑ The feedyard "Non-ambulatory Cattle Handling" protocol.
- ❑ "Non-ambulatory Cattle Handling" records to show the protocol is being implemented.
- ❑ The feedyard "Euthanasia" protocol.
- ❑ "Euthanasia" records to show the protocol is being implemented.

- ❑ Documentation showing “Primary Personnel responsible for euthanasia decision making”.
- ❑ Documentation showing “Secondary/Additional Personnel responsible for euthanasia decision making”.
- ❑ Documentation showing “Primary euthanasia tool”.
- ❑ Documentation showing “Secondary euthanasia tool”.
- ❑ Records showing maintenance and functionality check of each euthanasia tool.
- ❑ “Cattle Mortality” records.
- ❑ The feedyard “Carcass Disposal” protocol.
- ❑ “Carcass Disposal” records to show the protocol is being implemented.
- ❑ The feedyard “Feed Quality” protocol.
- ❑ “Feed Quality” records to show the protocol is being implemented.
- ❑ Documentation showing no ruminant-derived proteins were received or fed.
- ❑ The feedyard “Medicated Feeds” protocol.
- ❑ “Medicated Feeds” records to show the protocol is being implemented.
- ❑ The feedyard “Unloading” protocol.
- ❑ “Unloading” records to show the protocol is being implemented.
- ❑ The feedyard “Receiving/Processing” protocol.
- ❑ “Receiving/Processing” records to show the protocol is being implemented.
- ❑ The feedyard “Inclement Weather” protocol.
- ❑ “Inclement Weather” records to show the protocol is being implemented.
- ❑ The feedyard “Broken Needle” protocol.
- ❑ “Broken Needle” records to show the protocol is being implemented.
- ❑ The feedyard “Shipping” protocol.
- ❑ “Shipping” records to show the protocol is being implemented.
- ❑ The feedyard “Loading” protocol.
- ❑ “Loading” records to show the protocol is being implemented.
- ❑ The feedyard “Pen Surface Maintenance” protocol.
- ❑ “Pen Surface Maintenance” records to show the protocol is being implemented.
- ❑ The feedyard “Emergency Action Plan”.

All records required must be for the last two consecutive years from the date of the audit.

REFERENCES

[1]Individual Animal Sample Size

Cattle on Feed	Individual Animals to Observe		Cattle on Feed	Individual Animals to Observe
100	96		1600	272
200	155		1800	275
300	189		2000	277
400	211		3000	284
500	225		4000	288
600	235		5000	290
700	243		6000	291
800	249		7000	292
900	254		8000	293
1000	258		9000	294
1200	264		10,000	294
1400	269		>10,000	299
*Cannon RM, Roe RT (1986) Livestock Disease Surveys. A Field Manual for Veterinarians. Pg. 16 Table 1b. 95% Confidence interval with 1% prevalence. Bureau of Rural Science, Department of Primary Industry. Canberra: Australian Government Publishing Service.				

[2]BQA guidelines for Euthanasia

- Methods of Euthanasia
  - Gunshot
    - If a firearm is used it should be used within three feet of the target when possible and positioned so that the muzzle is perpendicular to the skull to avoid ricochet.

GUIDELINES FOR EUTHANASIA WITH A FIREARM			
Animal/Firearm	**Handgun**	**Rifle**	**Shotgun**
Calves	.32 to .45 caliber with solid point bullet/full metal jacket (FMJ)	.22 LR caliber or larger with solid point bullet/full metal jacket (FMJ)	.410 to 12 gauge #4 – 6 bird shot or slug
Adult	.38 to .45 caliber with solid point bullet/full metal jacket (FMJ)	.22 magnum or higher caliber* with solid point bullet/ full metal jacket (FMJ)	20 to 12 gauge #4 – 6 bird shot or slug
*.22 LR is discouraged for use in euthanasia of adult cattle because it lacks sufficient ballistic energy to yield consistent results. Higher caliber rifles should be avoided as bullets may exit the body and place by-standers in danger.			

- Penetrating captive bolt with a secondary step to ensure death
  - When using penetrating captive bolt, operators are advised to restrain the head so that the captive bolt may be held flush with the skull.
- Intravenous barbiturate administration under the guidance of a licensed veterinarian
- Anatomical Landmarks for Euthanasia
  - Current information for adult cattle and calves indicates that the point of entry of the projectile should be at (or slightly above) the intersection of two imaginary lines, each

drawn from the outside corner of the eye to the center of the base of the opposite horn.

- Indications of Unconsciousness
    - Animals that attempt to right themselves, vocalize, blink with their eyes, or begin rhythmic breathing are likely returning to a conscious state. In these cases, one should immediately recheck the anatomical site used and reshoot or reapply the captive bolt.
    - Animal collapses immediately when shot and makes no attempt to right itself.
    - Body and muscles become rigid immediately upon collapse followed by relaxation of the body, brief tetanic spasms, and eventually uncoordinated hind limb movements.
    - An absence of vocalization.
    - An absence of eye reflexes and eyelids remain open facing straight forward.
    - Immediate and sustained cessation of rhythmic breathing.
- Confirmation of Death
    - Criteria to be used for confirmation of death include lack of pulse, lack of breathing, lack of corneal reflex, lack of response to firm toe pinch (as with a hoof tester), failure to detect/ hear respiratory sounds or heart beat by use of a stethoscope, graying of the mucous membranes, and rigor mortis. Other than rigor mortis, none of these signs are reliable indications of death. After initial confirmation of death, rechecking of the animal for these parameters after a period of 20 minutes is a very useful method for confirmation of death.

[3]BQA Fitness for Transport Guidelines

- DO NOT move non-ambulatory cattle to market under any circumstances.
- Make the decision to treat, to cull, or to euthanize cattle promptly.
- Delay transport of any cattle that appear to be exhausted or dehydrated until the animal is rested, fed, and rehydrated.
- Use a BQA Transportation certified transport company that is knowledgeable about your cattle care expectations and provides for the safety and comfort of the cattle during transport.
- DO NOT transport cattle to a packing or processing facility until all proper treatment withdrawal times have been followed.
- DO NOT transport cattle with a poor body condition score (i.e., a body condition score of less than 2 on either a beef or dairy scale).
- DO NOT transport heifers or cows where calving is imminent and likely to occur during the transportation or marketing process.
- DO NOT transport cattle that require mechanical assistance (e.g., hip lifts) to rise and walk except for veterinary treatment. When using any handling device, abuse must not be tolerated.
- DO NOT transport cattle with bone fractures of the limbs or injuries to the spine. Cattle with a recent fracture unrelated to mobility should be culled and transported directly to a packing or processing facility if they are ambulatory and can withstand the rigors of transport.
- DO NOT transport cattle with conditions that will not pass pre-slaughter inspection at a packing or processing facility. (*https://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/wcm/connect/04739d5f-6342-4b24-bcdf-1f55f77a3420/PHVt-Antemortem_Inspection.pdf?MOD=AJPERES*)

[4]BQA Handling non-ambulatory cattle

- Promptly diagnose non-ambulatory animals and determine whether the animal should be humanely euthanized or receive additional care.
- Provide adequate feed and water to non-ambulatory cattle at least once daily.
- Move downer animals very carefully to avoid compromising animal welfare. Acceptable methods of transporting downers include a sled, low-boy trailer, or in the bucket of a

loader. Animals should not be scooped into a front-loader bucket but rather humanely rolled into the bucket by caretakers.

- Humanely euthanize animals that refuse to eat or drink and/or are unable to sit up unaided (i.e., lie flat on their side) when treatment is attempted within 24-36 hours of initial onset.
- Do not send non-ambulatory cattle to a livestock market or processing facility.
- NEVER drag non-ambulatory animals.
- NEVER use an electric prod to stimulate an injured or disabled animal to get up unless essential to prevent further injury or death.
- NEVER use chains, rope, or cables to lift, suspend, or move the animal unless necessary to prevent further injury or death, if allowed by state law.
- NEVER let a non-ambulatory animal remain in any area where they may get walked on or trampled.

[5]**Surgical Procedure:** the treatment, through revision, destruction, incision, closure or other structural alteration of animal tissue.

- State of Nebraska, Title 172 Chapter 180, Regulations Governing the Practice of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery, Nebraska Health and Human Services System, Pg. 3. 2005.

[6]**BQA Judicious Use of Antibiotics in Cattle**

1. Prevent Problems: Emphasize appropriate husbandry and hygiene, routine health examinations, and vaccinations.
2. Adhere to FDA guidance: Follow label instructions and FDA guidance for the use of all antibiotics. The use of antibiotics medically important in human medicine should only be used after careful consideration. If medically important feed grade antibiotics are used, they must be under the guidance of a Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD).
3. Select and Use Antibiotics Carefully: Consult with your veterinarian on the selection and use of antibiotics, under the premise of a valid Veterinarian/Client/Patient/Relationship (VCPR). Have a valid reason to use an antibiotic. Appropriate therapeutic alternatives should be considered prior to using antimicrobial therapy.
4. Use the Laboratory to Help You Select Antibiotics: Culture and sensitivity test results should be used to aid in the selection of antibiotics, whenever possible.
5. Combination Antibiotic Therapy is Discouraged Unless There is Clear Evidence the Specific Practice is Beneficial: Select and dose an antibiotic to affect a cure.
6. Avoid Inappropriate Antibiotic Use: Confine therapeutic antibiotic use to proven clinical indications avoiding inappropriate uses such as for viral infections without bacterial complication.
7. Treatment Programs Should Reflect Best Use Principles: Regimens for therapeutic antimicrobial use should be optimized using current pharmacological information and principles.
8. Treat the Fewest Number of Animals Possible: Limit antibiotic use to sick or at-risk animals.
9. Treat for the Recommended Time Period: To minimize the potential for bacteria to become resistant to antimicrobials.
10. Avoid Environmental Contamination with Antibiotics: Steps should be taken to minimize antimicrobials reaching the environment through spillage, contaminated ground run off, or aerosolization.
11. Keep Records of Antibiotic Use: Accurate records of treatment and outcome should be used to evaluate therapeutic regimens and always follow proper meat and milk withdrawal times. Keep records for a minimum of two (2) years or longer based on state and local regulations.
12. Follow Label Directions: Follow label instructions and never use antibiotics other than as labeled without a valid veterinary prescription.

13. Extra Label Antibiotic Use Must Follow FDA Regulations: Prescriptions, including extra label use of medications, must meet the Animal Medicinal Drug Use Clarification Act (AMDUCA) amendments to the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and its regulations. This includes having a valid VCPR.
14. Medically Important Antibiotic Use Should be Limited to Treat, Prevent, or Control Disease: Medically important antibiotics should not be used if the principle intent is to improve performance. Antibiotics that are medically important to human medicine may not be used for performance.

Guidelines developed from American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), American Association of Bovine Practioners (AABP), and Academy of Veterinary Consultants (AVC) guidance on Appropriate Veterinary Antibiotic Use.

[7]Animal Proteins Prohibited in Ruminant Feed "Ruminant Feed Ban"

- Federal Rule 21 CFR 589.2000 (Accessed: 4/16/2020)
- *https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=9b1f8f7349938eb4bd3dc6d2f8016068&mc=true&node=se21.6.589_12000&rgn=div8*
- *https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs144p2_033674.pdf*

[8]Injection Sites

- Injections should be given in front of the shoulder slope (unless directed otherwise by a veterinarian or per label instruction).
- Never give an injection in the rump or back leg.
- Whenever possible restrict administration of drugs to subcutaneous (SQ), intravenuous (IV), intranasal (IN), or oral use.
- BQA guidelines advise against giving SQ injections along the ribs or in the elbow region unless the situation requires the use of an emergency medication.
- If intramuscular medications must be used, administer them in the neck and never exceed 10cc per IM injection site.
- Space each injection 2 to 4 inches apart.
- There are no restrictions to the volume of SQ injections other than as indicated by the product label or as instructed by the herd veterinarian.

[9]Temperature Conditions

Cattle must maintain normal body temperature to sustain essential physiological processes. Properly caring for and handling cattle includes supporting their temperature maintenance and ability to adapt to their regional environment. Prevent or address environmental conditions that approach cattle's heat and cold thresholds to maintain optimal performance and health. Additionally, environmental conditions, even if not extreme, should be considered when deciding how and when to handle cattle.

Extreme Heat

Extreme Heat is defined as when the Temperature Humidity Index (THI) is > 84.

Guidelines to minimize the effects of heat stress as cattle are processed and managed include:

- Provide adequate water.
- Consider heat management tools such as shades.
- Avoid handling cattle when the risk of heat stress is high. Decisions to handle cattle must consider temperature, humidity, wind speed, phenotype, and cattle acclimation. If cattle must be handled, a general rule is to work them before the THI reaches 84 (see image).
    - As an example, when the temperature is 98°F and the humidity is 30%, then the THI is 83. At a constant temperature, the THI increases as the relative humidity increases. Each one mile per hour increase in wind speed decreases the THI by approximately one point.
- Work cattle more prone to heat stress first, earlier in the day, or later if conditions are moderate; for example, process larger cattle during periods of lower THI.
- Limit the amount of time cattle spend in handling facilities where heat stress may be more significant.

Beef Cattle Temperature Humidity Index

Temperature(°F) \ Relative Humidity (%)	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75	80	85
100	84	85	86	87	88	90	91	92	93	94	95	97
98	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	93	94	95
96	81	82	83	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93
94	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91
92	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	85	86	87	88	89
90	78	79	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	86	87
88	76	77	78	79	80	81	81	82	83	84	85	86
86	75	76	77	78	78	79	80	81	81	82	83	84
84	74	75	75	76	77	78	78	79	80	80	81	82
82	73	73	74	75	75	76	77	77	78	79	79	80
80	72	72	73	73	74	75	75	76	76	77	78	78
78	70	71	71	72	73	73	74	74	75	75	76	76
76	69	70	70	71	71	72	72	73	73	74	74	75

Temperature Humidity Index (THI)

Normal <75 | Alert 75-78 | Danger 79-83 | Emergency >84

https://beef.unl.edu/handling-cattle-through-high-heat-humidity-indexes

Extreme Cold

Extreme cold is defined when cattle are in an environment below the Critical Temperature. Critical Temperature is based on a specified degree of temperature when the cattle's coat is in a specified condition. See the table below.

- Cattle exposed to cold have increased maintenance energy requirements. Cattle performance will be reduced if action is not taken to maintain or provide for their increased energy requirements in cold weather. Cattle will voluntarily seek available protection from severe weather conditions.
- Any of the following are acceptable management guidelines for reducing winter stress and maintaining performance in cold weather:
    - Adjust feed and energy rations to match performance requirements when cattle reach low critical temperature.
    - Provide windbreaks and shelters to reduce wind, moisture, and mud.
    - Construct feedlots and buildings in a manner that reduces winter stress due to temperature and moisture.
    - Provide bedding in severe conditions to put a barrier between cattle and the frozen ground.
    - Provide modest protection by either natural or man-made structures to reduce effects of extreme cold by allowing exposure to be intermittent rather than continuous.

Coat Condition	Critical Temperature, Degrees F.
Wet or Summer Coat	59°
Dry, Fall Coat	45°
Dry, Winter Coat	32°
Dry, Heavy Winter Coat	18°

[10] Mud & Manure Scoring

Adapted from Beth E. Doran, 2016, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

Mud and Manure Score 1

Mud and Manure Score 2

Mud and Manure Score 3

Mud and Manure Score 4

Mud and Manure Score 5

1 - No tag, clean hide (0)

2 - Small lumps of mud on hide in limited areas of the legs, side and underbelly (5.7)

3 - Small and large lumps of mud in large areas of the legs, side and underbelly (12.8)

4 - Small and large lumps of mud in even larger areas along the hindquarter, stomach and front shoulder (N/A)

5 - Lumps of manure on hide continuously on the underbelly and side of the animal from front to rear. (23.2)

() is pounds of mud on animal, Ramsey & Allen, 1975

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NOTES:

U.S. CATTLE INDUSTRY FEEDYARD AUDIT