

River View Veterinary Service Newsletter

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News and Upcoming Events:

- Calving School is coming! Be watching for invitations!

Welcome to the River View Veterinary Service Newsletter!

This newsletter is designed to provide cattle producers with timely information and education on a variety of topics. Got a topic? Let us know!

Sarah Foust, DVM and Terry Foust, DVM

BQA and what it means for you

The end of the year is nearly upon us! What changes lie in store for 2019? By 2019, both Cargill and Tyson will require their purchased cattle to come from feedyards that have BQA certification in place.

BQA is Beef Quality Assurance, a nationally coordinated, state implemented program designed to provide systematic information to US beef producers and beef consumers of how common sense husbandry techniques can be coupled with accepted scientific knowledge to raise cattle under optimum management and environmental conditions. BQA programs involve record keeping and herd health management, such as proper use of pharmaceutical products and honoring of withdrawal times. BQA was developed in the late 1970s and has evolved over time to where it is today.

Most livestock auction markets will be requiring BQA certification of the producers that sell at their markets. This means anyone selling cattle to Tyson (even through a sale barn) will need BQA certification.

In Illinois, there are a couple of ways to get BQA certified. The first is to attend an in-person meeting. Travis Meeter of the Illinois Extension office will be holding a meeting on December 6 in Congerville, December 11 in Elizabeth, and December 13 in Teutopolis. The second way to become BQA certified is to do online coursework. Visit www.bqa.com and click on "Certification" to begin. You will need to choose the area you would like to be certified in (cow-calf, stocker, feedyard, dairy, or transportation). A producer can be certified in any (or as many) areas as desired. If you are marketing to a packer, it is recommended to take the feedyard version. BQA certification will need to be updated every 3 years. Currently, Illinois plans to have annual opportunities to re-certify in person at regional locations.

Please let us know if you would like assistance with your BQA Certification process!