



Two Area Beef Quality Assurance Certification Meetings Scheduled

2024-25 is the 3-year mark for many Wisconsin farmers needing to get recertified in the Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) program. In 2018, certain packers announced they would only purchase cattle from farms selling finished cattle that are BQA Certified.

The UW-Madison's Division of Extension and the Wisconsin Beef Council will be hosting two in-person Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) certification meetings in the area on January 16th. One meeting will be held in Lomira at Equity Livestock with lunch being provided at Noon, and another session in Manchester at the Manchester Rod and Gun Club at 6pm.

Registration will start 30 min. prior to the listed start time. Please go to <https://tinyurl.com/2hr5karf> or call Extension Educator **Adam Hartfiel** at: **920-647-6560** to register for one of the sessions.

Jan 16, 2025 | 12 pm: Equity Coop Lomira, N11579 Industrial Dr, Lomira. 920-294-4032

Jan. 16, 2025 | 6 pm: Manchester Rod & Gun Club, W3614 S Gate Rd, Markesan. 920-294-4032

Pre-registration is highly encouraged and will make check-in faster. At least one individual per farm should attend. The individual attending the meeting will hold the BQA certification; family members and employees of that farm can be covered by that certification when it is filed with the market(s). It is each individuals' responsibility to share certification details with markets.

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

Farmers needing to get recertified can also achieve that through two additional options:

Online by going to <https://www.bqa.org/beef-quality-assurance-certification/online-certifications>. At this site, you will logon and choose either the Cow/Calf, Stocker/Backgrounder or Feedyard courses. Once you've selected a course, you can work through each lesson at your own pace. The website will keep track of your progress, so you don't need to complete the entire course at one time.

Continuing Education (CE) Credits: The BQA program is also offering new educational courses that will provide you with credit towards renewing your certification – this option is only available to farmers who hold a current BQA certification. By completing three (3) continuing education credits from the options found on the [website](#), your BQA expiration date will be extended by an additional three years.

Available courses include BQA Transportation (2 credits), Biosecurity (1 credit), Foundations of Herd Health (1 credit), Principles of Stockmanship (1 credit), and Herd Health Management Practices (1 credit.) The Division of Extension also offers meetings throughout the year which offer CE credits.

-Adam Hartfiel, UW-Extension Regional Livestock Educator, Adams, Green Lake, Waushara Counties