



PENNSYLVANIA

Dairy Animal Care & Quality Assurance



MISSION:

To produce quality dairy and beef products for consumers by focusing dairy producers' attention on quality animal care, through the use of science, research and education initiatives.



What is Dairy Animal Care and Quality Assurance?

To enhance consumer confidence and improve the quality and value of beef from market dairy cows and bulls, dairy producers have long been encouraged to participate in voluntary Dairy Beef Quality Assurance (DBQA) Certification programs. These programs demonstrate producer commitment to quality animal care and food production through training, certification and verification.

Dairy Animal Care & Quality Assurance (DACQA) upgrades the previous DBQA program to be user-friendly for dairy producers. It is a farm-to-fork effort by Pennsylvania dairy producer organizations, Department of Agriculture representatives, industry stakeholders, and university extension—working with the PA Beef Council—to establish a certification program that incorporates the existing national and state DBQA guidelines in conjunction with the umbrella of principles and guidelines set forth by the Dairy Animal Well-Being Initiative.

DACQA implementation is through voluntary training, standards, and certification based on these combined guidelines. The DACQA Certification process will replace, for Pennsylvania dairy producers, the pre-existing DBQA program. Third-Party Verification systems currently used by the state's BQA Certification program are the framework for DACQA Certification validation.

This DACQA Certification manual is a producer resource, which represents the program's core elements.

Who is a Quality Assurance Certified Producer?

- Any person who is responsible for the well-being of cattle.
- This person will have completed a state Dairy Animal Care and Quality Assurance training and certification process. Their herd production records are also subject to random audit by their state Quality Assurance program.

**Strengthening
consumer confidence
with a commitment to
animal care, food safety and quality...**



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Pennsylvania Center for Dairy Excellence**

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NATIONAL DAIRY ANIMAL WELL-BEING INITIATIVE

www.dairywellbeing.org

Dairy Animal Care & Quality Assurance Certification Manual—2008 Edition

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