

BEEF BUSINESS

by Julie Mais, editor

In this month's "Beef Business," we present Beef Quality Assurance resources and news from the USDA.

Condensed BQA manual

A more condensed version of the Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) Manual is now available to BQA followers in digital or print form. The BQA Field Guide is a more compact version of the manual that can be used as a convenient reference piece. It covers the key points of the BQA program without program background and other information that may not be useful in the course of day-to-day operations.

The BQA Program is managed by the producer education team at the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), a contractor to the Beef Checkoff.

The digital Field Guide has 10 chapters that cover everything from behavior and handling to transportation to emergency action planning. It allows producers to assess their management decisions in a way that recognizes a responsibility to the animals, consumers, the environment and the larger beef industry.

The digital Field Guide contains embedded links and videos that allow producers to interact with various elements of BQA. The digital guide, the print version and



the larger, more in-depth manual represent the foundation for training and certification programs offered nationally and by many states.

For more information visit www.bqa.org.

Source: NCBA

USDA approves \$1.2 billion in food purchases

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) on May 8, approved \$1.2 billion in contracts to support American producers and communities in need through the USDA Farmers to Families Food Box Program.


"This is a new, innovative approach to provide critical support to American farmers and families, and USDA moved as expeditiously as federal procurement rules allow to stand up the program and solicit offers," said U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue. "We were pleased to see the abundance of interest from both food distributors and non-profit organizations. Within days, the Farmers to Families Food Box Program will begin distributing surplus food, while safeguarding food safety techniques,

to communities across the country where it's needed most."

A full list of approved suppliers was posted on the Farmers to Families Food Box Program website on May 8. Approved suppliers may increase the number of non-profit organizations or Government entities they will provide boxes to within their service area, but must ensure the non-profit has 501(c)(3) tax exempt status.

On April 17, 2020, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue

announced the program as part of the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program developed to help farmers, ranchers and consumers in response to the COVID-19 national emergency.

Additional information on the Farmers to Families Food Box Program, including webinars and FAQs, is available on the AMS website at www.ams.usda.gov/selling-food-to-usda/farmers-to-families-food-box. 

Source: USDA AMS

