

Kentucky Cattlemen's Association
Talking Points for BSE ID/Quality Related Questions

ID and Traceability Programs

Producers and consumers of beef in Kentucky can rest assured that they reside in the most proactive state in the nation on the issue of Livestock traceability.

- Kentucky has had an issue working group in place for over a year working on planning and implementation of an animal ID and traceability program. Kentucky is looked at as a leader in the implementation of an animal tracking model, because there is no other state in the nation as far along as Kentucky in establishing an ID program for tracking cattle.
- Thanks to the members of the Kentucky General Assembly in the use of half of the funds from tobacco settlement funds for the revitalization of rural Kentucky and the insurance of a productive and safe food supply.
- The Kentucky Agriculture Development Board invested \$4 million in the Kentucky Beef Network since 2001. Two million going directly to the Kentucky Livestock Auction markets and concentration points for development of an electronic animal identification system. The funds are matching funds and will be used for the purchase of computer hard and software equipment as well as scanners, readers and a web based database that will allow 48-hour trace back to the birth farm. The system will be operational in early 2004.
- The KBN, Kentucky Department of Agriculture, University of Kentucky, Kentucky Farm Bureau and the Kentucky Livestock Marketing Association formed an issue working group a year ago to work on the implementation of the animal ID and traceability system.
- CPH 45 (Certified Preconditioned Health) feeder calf sales have expanded dramatically over the past three years. This 20+ year old program is a premium feeder calf management and marketing program that uses unique individual ID and traceability as its corner stone.
- ID programs have already been put in place with producers interested in voluntarily identifying their animals with electronic identification tags (EID) and stockyards willing to put scanner and computer systems in place to track animals as they move through the marketing system.
- Kentucky is one of a handful of states with a seat on the United States Animal Identification Plan, Species Working Group. This is a national working group that will develop a more precise transition and implementation of the national identification plan.

- The KBN provides producers the tools for accurate record keeping and herd assessment and personnel are available to assist with farm records entry and evaluation. This helps to ensure that Kentucky cattle are healthy, tracked, weighted and ready for market.
- KBN has 13 regional facilitators on the ground in their home areas. These KBN facilitators work one-on-one with area farmers to assist in implementation of quality assurance programs.

Quality of Beef

- Our consumers need to know that we have the safest, cheapest, highest quality food in the world and that the industry is committed to doing whatever it takes to continue this tradition of quality and safety in our food.
- Since October, 2001, Kentucky has had in place the “Beef Quality Assurance” program. This program has trained and certified over 8,000 Kentucky producers on issues like record keeping for traceability, food safety, bio security and animal management. There are more BQA certified producers in Kentucky than in any other state in the nation.
- All scientific studies show that BSE has never been found in steaks, roasts, hamburger, or milk products.
- BSE is an animal health issue, not a food supply issue.