



NYSCHAP NEWS

NEW YORK STATE CATTLE HEALTH ASSURANCE PROGRAM

MARCH 2002

NYSCHAP Releases New Modules:

Two new NYSCHAP modules have recently been completed, including the herd expansion module and the market cow and bull beef quality assurance module.

Herd Expansion Module:

The herd expansion module included expertise from Dr. Bill Stone (Pro-Dairy), Dr. Frank Welcome (Quality Milk Promotion Services), Dr. Sue Stehman (NYS Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory), Dr. Roger Ellis (NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets) and Kathy Kaufman (NYSCHAP).

For the most part, livestock operations that are expanding face a buyer beware market. There are no guarantees regarding cattle health; purchasing cattle with infectious disease can have disastrous impacts on the health of the resident herd. Diseases to be aware of include contagious mastitis, respiratory disease, BVD, Salmonellosis, bovine leukosis virus, foot rot/heel warts and Johne's disease. However, there are strategies that can be employed when buying cattle to reduce risk.

In consultation with the NYSCHAP planning team, producers should consider the following factors and develop a plan based on the degree of risk presented:

- Source of replacement animals—on-farm, biosecure farm without need for heifers, dealer, sale barn
- Potential risks prior to purchase—health and management of resident herd; disease and immune status of incoming cattle
- Pre-purchase process—visual in-

speciation, vaccination, pregnancy check, tape, deworm, boost resident herd

- Pre-purchase testing—discuss with NYSCHAP team, possibly test for contagious mastitis, BVD-PI, BLV, Johne's disease
- Livestock transport vehicles—clean and disinfect, do not overcrowd, plan for shortest trip
- Post-purchase—segregate, identify, boost vaccinations, consult with nutritionist, monitor health, additional testing as needed, maintain records, identify and train staff to monitor new cattle

Market Cow and Bull Beef Quality Assurance:

This module was developed in conjunction with Dr. Tom Nytych (NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets), Kathy Kaufman (NYSCHAP) and Bonnie Bargstedt (NYS Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory).

The quality of market cows and bulls is essential to provide consumers with a nutritious, wholesome and safe beef eating experience. Although dairy farmers do not produce beef as their main product, 20% of total beef and 30% of ground beef in the United States is produced from dairy cattle. Many high quality cows and bulls are used for economical steak houses and fast food roast beef trade. Therefore, it is imperative that dairy producers take appropriate measures to ensure the quality of the beef they produce. Many of these measures are merely management practices.

Management practices that can contribute to the safety of beef from dairy animals include:

- Eliminating antibiotic residues
- Marketing cattle with clean hides
- Not allowing any buckshot or birdshot near the cattle



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Management practices that can contribute to the quality of beef from dairy cattle include:

- Injecting animal health products only in the triangle area of the neck
- Handling and transporting cattle in a way to avoid bruising
- Protecting hides from parasite and physical damage
- Marketing cattle in good body condition
- Marketing cattle that are not lame or disabled

The bottom line is to manage cattle to decrease defects, monitor the health and condition of cattle and market cattle in a timely and prudent manner.

Environmental Pathogens and NYSCHAP

Farms of a certain size require an environmental permit from NYS DEC to address potential pollutants from agriculture. These are referred to as the Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation or CAFO permit. The Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) Program, administered by NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets, in conjunction with NYS Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) assists farms in developing

farm plans to meet CAFO requirements on any sized farm. NRCS-approved Best Management Practices (BMPs) are outlined in published standards.

The NRCS has recently developed a pathogen management standard that sets up three barriers to pathogen movement from farms. NYSCHAP has been working closely with AEM and NRCS to integrate Best Management Practices for pathogen control on farms and movement from farms. Your NYSCHAP veterinarian, following farm BMP's for biosecurity in the Core Module, can identify the needed practices for the first two barriers recommended by NRCS. AEM planners can help with manure storage and transport barriers. For more information see:

<http://www.agmkt.state.ny.us/SoilWater/AEM/WaterBornePathogens.pdf> and
<http://www.ansci.cornell.edu/prodairy/enviro/07WaterParaPath.pdf>.

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