

PRIME BEEF UPDATES

A monthly page dedicated to the beef and dairy industries, The Beef Checkoff and The PA Beef Council.

Quality Care Matters



FREE WEBINAR
NEW WORLD
Screwworm 101

DR. JULIA HERMAN
BEEF CATTLE
SPECIALIST
VETERINARIAN, NCBA

GERALD M. MCATEER, CEM
FORMER DIRECTOR
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
SAFETY AND SECURITY, USDA

Scan to register

4 DECEMBER 2025 **7:00 PM - 8:30 PM**

Beef Quality Assurance **BQA** **BEEF**

SAVE THE DATE
RECERTIFICATION
LEVEL 1 & 2 TRAINING

C DAVIS FARMS
363 MILL HILL RD
FOARD CITY, PA 16726

5-6 PM - RECERT
FOR PRODUCERS ALREADY CERTIFIED
6 PM - DINNER
6-9 PM BQA LEVEL 1 & 2
OPEN TO ALL PRODUCERS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2025
RSVP AT PA-BQA.ORG/EVENTS

BEEF **BQA**



January 18, 2026 MERCER COUNTY 9 AM - 3 PM

Cobblehaus At The Falls
1015 Leesburg Station Rd
Mercer, PA 16137

- Complete your Daily Biosecurity Plan alongside trained professionals
- Receive a free biosecurity toolkit for your operation
- Lunch provided for all attendees
- Multi-species panel discussion with industry experts

Visit www.pa-bqa.org for more details

BEEF **BQA** **BEEF**

Checking in with the Checkoff

PA Beef Foundation's "Beefing Up Backpacks" Expands to Reach Nearly 8,500 Youth Across 14 Counties

The Pennsylvania Beef Foundation's Beefing Up Backpacks program continues to make a strong impact in the



fight against childhood hunger, delivering over 60,000 one-ounce beef sticks to backpack food programs across 14 Pennsylvania counties since its launch in May 2025. The initiative, developed to add high-quality beef protein to weekend backpack programs, ensures children facing food insecurity receive the essential nutrients needed for healthy growth and development. Less than 2% of food distributed through traditional backpack programs includes animal protein—a critical gap the Foundation is determined to close. "This program is about more than filling backpacks—it's about filling students with nourishment, dignity, and hope," said Nichole Hockenberry, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Beef Foundation. "By working hand in hand with local producers, processors, and hunger relief partners, we're investing in both the health of our youth and the strength of Pennsylvania's agricultural community."

Since its inception, Beefing Up Backpacks has partnered with hunger relief organizations and local school districts to distribute Pennsylvania-sourced, Pennsylvania-manufactured beef sticks. To date, Beefing Up Backpacks has provided beef sticks to participating programs across the state. Together, these partners have helped the program reach 8,500 children regularly across 14 counties, providing a consistent source of high-quality protein throughout the school year. The program's success is made possible through generous support and partnership with Stoltzfus Meats and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture via the Beef Producers Working Group. Industry support has been a vital part of the collaborative success, which includes but is not limited to the Center for Beef Excellence, Pennsylvania Cattlemen's Association, Pennsylvania Livestock Association, PA Farm Bureau Beef Committee, JBS, Happy Valley Meats, Excalibur Seasoning, WINPAK, ViskoTeepak, Dairy Excellence Foundation, Farm Credit, and numerous private donors. "It's gratifying to see Pennsylvania beef fueling Pennsylvania kids," added Hockenberry. "Every beef stick represents the hard work of our producers and the compassion of our donors—it's truly a community effort from pasture to backpack."

How to Support the Effort: The Pennsylvania Beef Foundation invites individuals, organizations, and agribusinesses to help expand the program's reach in 2026. Donations may be made by check payable to:

Pennsylvania Beef Foundation
205 S. Juliana Street
Bedford, PA 15522
Please note "Beefing Up Backpacks" in the memo line.



To learn more about the Beefing Up Backpacks program or to make an online contribution, scan the QR Code or visit www.pabeef.org/about-us/pennsylvania-beef-foundation.

