

PRIME BEEF UPDATES

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

Editor's Note: This is part of a monthly series of timely articles and information from the Pennsylvania Beef Council, a non-profit organization focused on strengthening Pennsylvania's beef industry.

Quality Care Matters

BQA Efforts Continue Throughout PA

In Fiscal Year 2024/2025 to date, more than 35 certification and recertification opportunities have been offered through the Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) program, reaching and impacting over 34,000 head of cattle. These efforts reflect the strong commitment of our producers, educators, and partners to advancing science-based practices that support animal health, ensure food safety, and enhance beef quality. Their dedication continues to drive meaningful improvements across the industry, reinforcing the value of BQA in every step of production. Upcoming events are currently being planned for the end of the year. Visit Pa-Bqa.org for more information.





PENNSYLVANIA BQA Giveaway

Participate in an in-person BQA Session or Recertification between January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025 for your chance to win a PA BQA Cooler, 100 BQA ear tags, and a tagger!



You will be automatically entered with your participation in events.

WE'RE ORGANIZING ADDITIONAL FALL SESSIONS!

HAVE A LOCATION IN MIND FOR A BQA TRAINING EVENT?

SEND YOUR REQUESTS TO:
HANNAH WALTERS - HWALTERS@PABEEF.ORG

LET'S BRING BQA TO YOUR COMMUNITY!



Checking in with the Checkoff

Beefing Up Backpacks Program Launches to Fight Child Hunger in Pennsylvania

The Pennsylvania Beef Foundation has officially launched its Beefing Up Backpacks program to combat childhood hunger by adding high-quality, shelf-stable beef sticks to weekend backpack food



programs across the state. The launch event, held at Stoltzfus Meats Headquarters in Gordonsville, PA, featured remarks from program leaders and supporters, a ribbon cutting, and a facility tour. With fewer than 2% of backpack program foods including animal protein, the initiative fills a critical nutritional gap by providing 1-ounce beef sticks to support children's growth and development.

In partnership with CHOP Out Hunger, the first distribution will reach 287 students in Towanda School District, delivering over 10,000 bags annually. The program is supported by Stoltzfus Meats, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, JBS, and others. Read the full story, www.pabeef.org

Top Butchers Showcased Skill and Precision 2025 Best Butcher Contest

The Northeast Beef Promotion Initiative, a subcontractor to the Beef Checkoff, and the PA Pork Producers Council successfully hosted the 2025 Best Butcher Contest on May 15, celebrating the craftsmanship and skill of



the region's top butchers and meat cutters. Held in front of an engaged public audience, the event featured timed challenges testing cutting techniques, product yield, and precision, highlighting the vital role butchers play in the food supply chain. With industry jobs projected to decline, the contest also underscored the importance of attracting new talent. Jeff Woodruff of Country Valley Meat (Jersey Shore, PA) earned first place, followed by Jason Yingling (Dundalk, MD) and Zach Gorham (Off the Rail Meats, Cornell, WI). Special thanks to Cargill for donating beef subprimals. Read the full story, www.pabeef.org

PA Beef Council Attends Penn State Sports Camps

The PA Beef Council was onsite at the first Football and Volleyball Penn State Sports Camps. There were 200 athletes participating at the Football Camp and 75 at the Volleyball camp. Athletes, parents, and coaches received



nutrition information highlighting beef's nutritional properties and information about the Sports Nutrition Game Plan. Athletes were also able to take home a BIWFD drawstring bag, spice packets, and beef jerky.