

On-Farm Food Safety



Food safety remains a pillar of the VBP+ program, which continues to identify practical, industry-sanctioned practices to manage food safety risks at the farm or feedlot.

This is the only on-farm food safety program for beef producers reviewed by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). Thus the original goal of the VBP program has been maintained – the principles of being science-based and outcome oriented.

VBP+'s standard operating procedures, education and record keeping components complement food safety efforts beyond the farm-gate. It is based in HACCP (pronounced "ha-sip") which is a risk-based systematic approach to food safety used around the world

VBP+ food safety focus:

- ✓ Animal Health Management
- ✓ Medicated Feed/Water and Non-Ruminant Feed
- ✓ Cattle Shipping
- ✓ Pesticide Control and Manure
- ✓ Training and Communication

The food safety module continues to focus on meeting withdrawal times for animal health products or medications delivered through feed, and to reduce the potential for broken needle fragments in live cattle.

The standard operating procedures identified help beef producers control risk, include a record-keeping component and a proactive approach to manage inadvertent errors that can sometimes happen.

The food safety component of VBP+ results in:

- ✓ People who work on the operation understand tasks and what needs to be recorded, to show proof of sound practices
- ✓ Cattle are treated optimally to help ensure their health and care
- ✓ If something goes wrong, people know what to do or who to contact
- ✓ All of us undertaking responsible use of animal health products