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and raises the possibility that she will be condemned at slaughter, returning no income.

Make culling decisions prior to applying drugs, insecticides and wormers that might leave a violative

Top Quality Challenges

1999	2007
Bruises	Food safety
Antibiotic residues	Animal welfare/handling
Birdshot/buckshot	Poor condition/nutrition
Arthritic joints	Antibiotic residues
Yield	Bruises
Condition/leanness	Hide damage
Condemnation rate	Lameness/soundness
	Condemnation rates/downers
	Injection-site prevalence

Top 5 Improvements in Beef Cattle Since 1999

- Herd management techniques
- Animal welfare and handling
- Hide damage
- Injection-site location
- Bruises

residue if the animal is sold prior to the withdrawal date.

Cows with body condition scores less than 3 need special consideration when marketing. They need to be sound enough for transport and sale.

In some cases, consider a reconditioning program to increase muscle and fat deposition of cull cattle prior to marketing.

Transport and Handling of Animals

Everyone involved in handling and transporting beef and dairy animals should follow the guidelines defined in the Master Cattle Transporter program. If electric prods must be used, they should be used minimally and responsibly.

Risk Management and Information Management

Producers should maintain recordkeeping systems to verify their Good Management Practices. Production records should document the use of animal health products, as well as the animal husbandry practices used prior to the animals being marketed. The result will be a decrease in liability for issues that may occur after harvest. Integrating existing ID systems, such as tag numbers and visual ID tags, will improve product traceability.

To get a copy of the report, call 1-800-525-3085.

Managing Cattle to Improve Beef Quality

The Strategy Working Groups for the 2007 National Market Cow and Bull Beef Quality Audit developed these four priorities for improving cow and bull beef.

1. Recognize and optimize value of market cows and bulls.

- Add Value
 - Try a brief feeding period before you sell them to increase weight, improve body condition and carcass characteristics.
- Pool Resources
 - Small operators can form co-op marketing agreements.
 - Auction markets can help expand marketing opportunities for smaller producers.

2. Be proactive to ensure the safety and integrity of the product.

- Consumer Confidence is No. 1.
 - Market cows and bulls must be free of chemical and physical hazards such as drug residue, buckshot or broken needles.

- Follow proper guidelines for injecting pharmaceuticals and withdrawal times.
- Remove broken needles from muscle tissue.
- Keep facilities clean to help reduce pathogens.

3. Use appropriate management and handling practices to prevent quality defects.

- Reduce bruising.
 - Don't overcrowd alleyways, chutes and trailers.
- Eliminate horns.
- Train personnel in proper cattle handling.
 - Minimize use of prods/whips.
- Use properly designed and maintained facilities.
- Improve transportation methods.

4. Monitor herd health and market cattle timely and appropriately.

- Treat diseases promptly.
 - use early detection and intervention for cancer eye
- Consider euthanasia for downers or cattle with a terminal condition.
- Improve flooring and housing to reduce arthritis.