

GoGREEN F.A.Q.'s

Revised: **02/09/2021**

STATE LEVEL MANAGEMENT

Animal Science is referenced throughout. Shane Gadberry is currently the contact and program coordinator for animal science.

<http://www.uaex.edu/gogreen> is the official program webpage

<https://gogreen.uaex.edu> is the enrollment and tag distribution database for county agents (requires active directory login credentials)

BQA

1. Is BQA certification required to participate in the program?
 - a. Any ranch enrolling in the program must have a ranch operator BQA certified; operators that are licensed veterinarians are exempt; enrolled veterinarians will be encouraged to be BQA certified because BQA certification is a message about building consumer confidence and promoting product quality as much as it is about animal health management.
2. Can BQA be completed online?
 - a. Yes, at the officially sanctioned www.bqa.org
3. How soon should agents provide BQA training?
 - a. The sooner the better.
4. How often should agents provide BQA training?
 - a. Initially, BQA training may be needed several times of year to capture growing interest and different market times (spring, fall, etc). Ultimately, this number is based on county level demand and producer feedback.
5. How can producers get their BQA ID?
 - a. Upon completion of the online modules, the unique BQA number is printed on the certificate of completion
 - b. Upon completion of agent led training, a BQA number will be assigned via Heidi Ward, BQA coordinator
6. Do you have to have a BQA number to enroll or complete the qualifying form?
 - a. Yes, if training completed online
 - b. Yes if training completed at a county agent led training, however, pending ID's may be required (see following question).
7. What if county agent led BQA training ID is pending, can enrollments and qualifying forms be completed?
 - a. Yes, If a producer has completed agent led training but have not received a unique ID prior to enrollment, place a "PENDING ID" on the form and write the TRAINING COMPLETION DATE and AGENT NAME that conducted the meeting.
8. How often should BQA training be renewed?
 - a. Every 3 years

Processing

1. Do scurs have to be removed?
 - a. No.
2. Is tipping horns ok?
 - a. No. Horned cattle must be dehorned and completely healed. Dehorning is less stressful when done at an early age. **CATTLE WITH ANY HORN GROWTH BEYOND SCURS CANNOT SELL WITH A PROGRAM TAG**

Market data and data collection

1. Will market price data be collected to show price difference between GoGREEN and regular market cattle?
 - a. Maybe. We cannot guarantee market data collection and analysis. USDA collects data at certain barns. They also make an effort to denote “Value Added”, “Fancy”, and other characteristics when appropriate. The USDA market news coordinator serves on the GoGREEN steering committee. We will work together to capture some instances of GoGREEN cattle prices in the marketplace.
2. Will GoGREEN cattle be sold at a premium?
 - a. Depends. Cattle must be of good quality. There must be adequate numbers of tagged cattle at the market to fill buyer orders (example, if there are only 3 GoGREEN calves at the sale, it will be very difficult to determine if they brought more than they would have without preconditioning). There must be adequate number of buyers competitively bidding for preconditioned calves. **WE CANNOT GUARANTEE MARKET PREMIUMS**

Enrollment Form

1. Do participants need to enroll prior to marketing cattle as GoGREEN?
 - a. Yes
2. Can participants enroll and qualify on the same day?
 - a. Yes, as long as BQA training is verified through class participation and preferably official BQA certification ID.
3. Is there an enrollment fee?
 - a. Yes, \$10/participant every 3 years
4. How much of the enrollment fee is split between the county and state for program management?
 - a. \$5/enrollment stays in the county and \$5/enrollment is sent to animal science to be placed in the FUND associated with GoGREEN
5. Do I need to keep a list of enrolled producers and most recent enrollment date?
 - a. Yes, to validate true enrollments and provide record in the event of a job change
6. Do I need to send a copy of enrollments to animal science?
 - a. Yes, to have a backup of enrollment records and history.
7. **Where can I keep enrollment and tag distribution records?**
 - a. <https://gogreen.uaex.edu>
8. **How much money do I collect before sending Animal Science their portion of enrollment?**

- a. Send Animal Science their portion and a copy of the enrollment as soon as possible after enrollments so accurate records can be maintained.
- 9. Can a ranch manager enroll as a representative of a ranch?
 - a. Yes. In some cases the ranch may have an absentee landowner. As long as the ranch manager has authority to represent the market of those cattle the manager can enroll on behalf the ranch.

Qualifying Form

1. What is required
 - a. 45 days minimum between weaning and marketing.
 - b. 14 days minimum between last vaccination and marketing (required beginning 9/1/20).
 - c. Bulls castrated and completely healed by sale date.
 - d. Heifers open – Not pregnant (please avoid bull exposure after 6 months of age, any suspected pregnant or exposed should be given lulatory or not enrolled in the green tag program).
 - e. Horns removed and completely healed by sale date.
 - f. Exposed to feed from a trough and water from a tank.
 - g. Vaccinated and Boostered for IBR/PI3/BVD/BRSV using a modified-live OR killed vaccine according to labeled instructions.
 - h. Vaccinated and Boostered with a Clostridia (blackleg) vaccine according to labeled instructions.
 - i. Vaccinated for *Mannheimia haemolytica* per label instructions (required beginning 9/1/20).
 - j. Treated for internal parasites.
 - k. No antibiotic withdrawal time violation.
2. Do producers need to complete all best management practices before tags are received?
 - a. **This should be managed according to agents discretion.** Ideally, the vaccine history should be complete (first and second shot records) however, it may not be practical for producers to wait the full 45 days before acquiring tags and also ensuring a supply of tags in the office. Agents should try to avoid providing tags without evidence of vaccination dates and products as this puts the program integrity at risk; however, the form is the “producers word” not the “agents word” to accompany the calves at time of market.

For example, a producer enrolls the same day calves qualify and the enrollment indicates 20 calves will be tagged. S/he gave first round of shots at weaning, s/he gave the second round of shots 6 weeks later = 42 days. This only leaves 3 additional days before earliest marketable date. It may be most practical to tag the day the second round of shots were given instead of waiting an additional 3 days to meet the 45 day weaning requirement. **IF the producer were to come in on DAY 45 with both enrollment and Qualifying form for 20 calves that will be sold in 3 days, there is risk that tags will not be available.** For this reason it is important to have participants enroll early to gauge tag demand and possibly qualify calves and apply tags when second shots are given.

Vaccine choices

- b. Are modified live vaccines required for respiratory disease protection (IBR, PI3 BRSV, BVD)?
 - i. No. For respiratory vaccines, both modified live and killed vaccines are acceptable. Regardless, producers **MUST follow labeled instructions**, including booster shots as required by the label.
- c. Are intranasal vaccines acceptable?
 - i. Yes, as long as they are used in combination with an appropriate injectable vaccine to cover the full respiratory disease spectrum of IBR, PI3, BRSV, and BVD. For example, Zoetis Inforce cannot be used alone but can be used in combination with One Shot BVD.
- d. If shots were given at 2 to 3 months of age, are they required again for preconditioning?
 - i. Yes. **Follow Labeled instructions**. Vaccines will recommend follow-up protection.
 - ii. **3 SHOTS vs 2 SHOTS HISTORY**
 - 1. Look for a minimum of 3 shots (2 pre-weaning and 1 preconditioning) when vaccines (such killed respiratory and blackleg vaccines requiring a booster) first given at 2 to 3 months of age.
 - 2. Look for a minimum of 2 rounds (1 pre-weaning and 1 preconditioning) when one shot blackleg products and modified lives for full respiratory disease complex are first given at 3 months of age.
 - iii. When shots are started at a young age, document all shot records on the form!
 - 1. **Example 1.** Producer gives a 'blackleg vaccine' at 3 months, boosters at 4 months. The producer should only have to provide 1 additional booster during the preconditioning period, not 2. We are stimulating what has already been established. Since no respiratory vaccines were given at 3 months, either 1 round modified live or a 2 round killed vaccine protocol is needed during preconditioning. Both preweaning and preconditioning shot records should be documented.
 - 2. **Example 2.** Producer gives a 'one shot blackleg' at 3 months, and an 'intranasal' at the same time. During preconditioning the producer needs to give a second 'one shot blackleg' to booster immunity established several months ago. The producer also needs to give a 1 round modified live or 2 round of killed vaccine to booster immunity for IBR/BRSV and establish immunity for BVD. In this case, either all shots should be documented or just the preconditioning shots because the preconditioning shots alone meets requirements
- e. Do I need to examine vaccine choices closely?
 - i. Yes. You are doing your clients and the industry a big favor by doing so. For example a producer thought he had given a One Shot BVD but examination of vaccine purchases it became evident that he had mistakenly purchased and given One Shot Ultra 8 thinking it was for BVD and had also given Convexin 8

for clostridial diseases. Without the agent's close examination of the vaccine choices the producer would had marketed calves that were not protected for respiratory disease!!!

3. Are copies of product purchase receipts required?
 - a. Maybe.
 - i. If producers purchased products and administered those products themselves, copies of product purchase receipts must be attached to the Qualifying Form when calves delivered for market.
 - ii. If a veterinarian administered all products and the veterinarian does not wish to disclose product prices, the veterinarian may provide alternative evidence of services by providing signature on the qualifying form or a letter of service. Veterinary administration of service is NOT EXEMPT from service details including product used, application date, expiration date, and lot number.
4. How much do tags cost participants?
 - a. \$2/tag, 100% returned to animal science for program management
5. Can calves be marketed with the GoGREEN tag WITHOUT an accompanying Qualifying Form
 - a. No, to maintain program integrity, sale barns should not allow GoGREEN tagged calves to sell without the Qualifying Form. Participants need to present a form or markets should inform producers there is a need to remove the GoGREEN tag before being presented for sale.
6. Do I need to keep copies of the Qualifying Form
 - a. Yes, it would be beneficial to keep a copy of the form for no more than 1 year. This will serve as a backup if participants lose their form or if calves are sold without a qualifying form and the buyer wants the Qualifying history.
7. Are agents required to verify processing?
 - a. No, this is an honor system program – the Qualifying Form represents producer affidavit of effort.
8. Do only original birth premise calves qualify?
 - a. No, purchased and straightened out calves qualify too. Although this program is targeted toward cow-calf producers and improved management of calves through weaning, time and resources are not available to verify calf source history.
9. Does a veterinarian have to sign off on the qualifying form?
 - a. No. We encourage producers to work with a veterinarian and when economically feasible have a veterinarian administer shots and perform surgeries.
10. Can a ranch manager sign off on the qualify form?
 - a. Yes. In some instances, ranches have absentee owners and managers are hired to conduct ranch business. There must be indication that the person responsible for the daily management and care is BQA certified (person signing the affidavit). Managers may act on behalf of the ranch as long as those actions are within the job expectations. It is not the responsibility of Extension to verify manager job descriptions.

Tags and Ordering Tags

1. Can counties purchase tags prior to distribution?

- a. Yes, counties are welcomed to pre-purchase tag sets through their county depository accounts. Advance purchases will help ensure early funds to build tag supplies and availability of tags at the county level.
2. Can counties receive tags without purchasing?
 - a. **Maybe. We are no longer sending tags for general county inventory. However, if a county is working with a lot of producers in anticipation of a special sale, we will place a large number of tags in the county for distribution. The county is responsible for the value of all tags distributed. We will work with each county to reconcile the number of tags we've shipped, payments received, and remaining undistributed inventory. It is imperative that counties use the online database (<https://gogreen.uaex.edu>) and a desktop spreadsheet to keep track of funds received and tag sequences distributed.**
3. How are tag payments handled between the county and state office (modified September 2019).

We will no longer be issuing invoices or accepting checks at LRSO for GoGREEN payments. Instead, we will be using FIN-216 budget cash transfers and going through the business office to transfer money from the counties.

When distributing tags or enrolling producers in the future, please use the following payment process:

Producers will write checks directly to the county for tags and enrollment.

Counties will deposit producer checks into their county accounts.

Animal Science will submit FIN-216 paperwork to the business office at the end of each month, transferring money out of your county accounts for that month's outstanding inventory.

4. Why does the enrollment form ask for estimated tag needs?
 - a. This will help gauge county demand. It is important for counties to communicate estimated tag need to animal science to ensure tags are ordered and distributed timely.
5. What type of tagging pliers is needed?
 - a. Z-tag applicator
6. Will animal science provide tagging pliers?
 - a. No, producers can purchase their own set of pliers or county offices consider asking farm stores to donate pliers to the program. Pliers are cheap and vulnerable to not being returned or returned quickly.
7. Do farm stores stock Z-tag pliers?
 - a. Not necessarily; while Z-tags are popular, visit with your local farm store about stocking Z-tag applicator pliers.

TO ENSURE ADEQUATE TAG AVAILABILITY

1. **Enroll producers early.**
2. **Provide animal science with copies of all enrollment and qualifying forms for tracking demand and distributions.**

3. Purchase tags with county funds when feasible to build state level funds to complete tag re-orders early.
4. Encourage producers to PLAN when they are going to market and COMMUNICATE when and how many tags will be needed well in advance of picking up tags.

Recommended Program Modifications

Weaned and Vaccinated Tag – It was proposed at the stakeholder meeting in April, 2019 we offer a weaned and vaccinated program that does not require a 45 day separation from dam before marketing.

- 8/19/19 – The steering committee voted down this proposal. Justification included:
 - Logistics for extra tag management
 - Increase chance for producer program confusion
 - No market evidence for sufficient premiums
 - Feedback from some cattle buyers is 45 days isn't long enough

EID 840 traceability tag – Has been proposed by several in the industry (farm bureau, livestock and poultry, producers).

- 8/19/19 – The steering committee voted to look further into this suggestion including
 - Visit with salebarns attending LMA meeting in March 2020
 - Followup visit with Livestock and Poultry on logistics
 - Can we order and distribute tags
 - Requires access to 840 database (we have a vet on faculty)
 - Study cost
 - EID and visual combo will double cost; is there money through Livestock and Poultry to help with cost?
 - Some producers already complain about \$2/tag.
- **2/9/21 – The committee revisited about coordinating with interested salebarns to have 840 compliant special sales in 2022. Follow up will include visiting with Livestock and Poultry Commission about tag availability and distribution and visiting with LMA about special sale opportunities.**

Company Tag Sponsorship – Some salebarns are reimbursing producers for tags. We were asked on 10/10/19 if a particular feed company could sponsor tags for producers that fed their product and the tag have their logo.

- 10/11/19 – Committee member response by email all indicate that
 - This can create logistic problems because it opens an opportunity for others
 - Anyone one is welcomed to pay for tags, some salebarns are already doing it, but no modifying the tag.
- **NOTE THAT TAGS ARE ONLY TO BE DISTRIBUTED THROUGH COUNTY OFFICES. COMPANIES OR INDIVIDUALS NOT AFFILIATED WITH UA DIVISION OF AG SHOULD NOT BE PROVIDED A LARGE QUANTITY OF TAGS TO DISTRIBUTE AS THIS DISTRUPTS THE ABILITY TO TRACK PARTICIPATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY.**

Mannheimia haemolytica

- **1/24/20 – Committee members voted to include Mannheimia as a required vaccine beginning September 1, 2020. The decision to include M. haemolytica include recommendations from veterinarians, alignment with other protocols, and research indicating M. haemolytica vaccination can reduce odds of bovine respiratory disease complex. This should add additional protection for both programs including killed vaccine as well as additional risks associated with commingling small sale lots.**

Minimum Days From Last Vaccination to Marketing

- **1/24/20 – Committee members voted to require a minimum 14 days from last vaccination until marketing. The decision to include this withdrawal includes vaccines, in addition to antibiotics have a withdrawal statement. In the event a producer needs to provide a booster to qualify for green tags, this provides time for the booster to mount an immune titer prior to being marketed.**

Heifers open

- **1/24/20 – there remains concern over the use of guaranteed open. Need to communicate the importance of not marketing pregnant heifers as feeders.**
- **Suggested as - avoid bull exposure after 6 months of age, any suspected pregnant or exposed should be given lutalyse or not tagged in the green tag program).**

Committee Structure (established 2021)

- **The program committee was initially created by county agent input to establish the program. The program was governed by 2 committees**
 - **Program Steering Committee – Nominated UADA employees. This committee convenes 2 or 3 times per year to discuss and vote on program education and logistics. The committee receives comment and feedback from stakeholders and producers throughout the year and discusses these in meeting.**
 - **Stakeholder Committee – All UADA employees interested in the program, allied industry partners, industry associations, and government agencies. The goal is to create an opportunity for open dialogue about preconditioning in the state and direction programs need to go. This committee as met once per year but there is no requirement to meet every year. Information gathered is reviewed by the steering committee and voted on for adoption or tabled for further discussion.**
- **Program Steering Committee**
 - **Chairperson, at least 3 county agents from each district with program interest, additional agents nominated by peers that demonstrate success in growth precondition marketing, additional UADA employees including livestock station directors, livestock economists, veterinarians, animal scientists to fulfill duties of**

overseeing the program and making recommendations regarding animal health, welfare, and economic impact.

- Terms are for 3 years with the option to renew.
 - At the end of a term, the person leaving the committee is encouraged to make a recommendation on who should fill the vacancy. If an individual is not recommended, the recommendation will come from the committee.
- Nominating committee members.
 - UADA employees can nominate others or self-nominate if they wish to serve on the committee. The current committee will vote on adding additional members to the committee.