

## Self-Assessment Question Master List

### **Sector: Feedyard Operator**

#### **High Priority Indicator: Air & Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

Q 1: Are pen surfaces managed for both wet and dry conditions?

- A: Yes, there are full management practices for both wet and dry conditions.
- B: There are limited management practices or for only one condition.
- C: There are no specific management practices in use.

Q 2: Are road and alley management strategies in place?

- A: Yes, there is full management to reduce or eliminate dust and emissions.
- B: We implement minimal management.
- C: There are no specific management practices in use.

Q 3: Are feed processing dust management strategies in place?

- A: Yes, there is management of the feed mill and loading area and unloading area.
- B: There are minimal management or processes used.
- C: There are no specific management practices in use.

Q 4: Are growth-promoting technologies utilized during the finishing phase to optimize growth?

- A: We utilize technologies extensively to reduce resource usage.
- B: We utilize some technologies.
- C: We do not utilize this type of technology.

Q 5: Are energy uses reviewed periodically looking for opportunities to gain efficiencies or reduce usage?

- A: We actively seek out opportunities for reducing energy use.
- B: As items wear out some attention is given to picking more efficient replacements.
- C: No, we just pick based on price and availability.

#### **High Priority Indicator: Animal Health & Well-Being**

Q 6: Are all employees that work with animals BQA certified?

- A: Supervisors and employees are fully trained by certified trainers.
- B: The principles of BQA are followed and there is some training provided.
- C: No training is given and the topic is not addressed.

Q 7: Does the facility utilize professionals to create training and provide oversight for medical treatment and rations?

- A: Yes, we contract or employ a licensed veterinarian or nutritionist.
- B: We sometimes use a vet or a nutritionist but don't have one regularly providing oversight or training.
- C: No, we only use specialists in rare circumstances.

Q 8: Is there proper training and oversight in place to prohibit animal abuse?

- A: Yes, we have the training and we empower our employees at all levels to watch for issues.
- B: We have some training but there isn't any process for reporting or even what to report.
- C: No training is given and we live by don't ask, don't tell.

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Q 9: Is there a plan for antibiotic use and effective review and oversight to ensure proper use?

A: Yes, we have a vet prepare our protocols, provide training and provide oversight.

B: We have a veterinarian create our protocols but there is no follow up or training.

C: No review is made and no training is given.

Q 10: Does the feedyard have a SOP for non-ambulatory animals and euthanasia protocols?

A: Yes, only persons trained are allowed to euthanize animals.

B: We don't have a SOP but we do report down animals to our supervisor and they take care of it.

C: No SOP and it is up to the supervisors to take care of these issues.

Q 11: Are the proper records of animal treatment and all associated medicines being maintained?

A: Yes, we have a robust medical system keeping records of all treatments given.

B: We have a medical system but it isn't always used or isn't very robust.

C: No system is maintained, we try to write down what we have done at the end of the day.

### High Priority Indicator: Efficiency & Yield

Q 12: Are closeout metrics and performance tracked and compared over time?

A: Yes, we are continually looking through the data and attempting to get more efficient.

B: We look through the data looking for problems and attempting to correct big problems.

C: No attempt to review the data is made and only minimal effort is made to improve.

Q 13: Are feed rations formulated to optimize resources and performance?

A: Yes, rations are optimized to improve nutrition and/or performance, while minimizing cost and resources.

B: Yes, we attempt to provide basic nutrition at the cheapest cost for the performance.

C: No, we meet basic needs and rarely review our formulas.

Q 14: Are feed ingredients stored to prevent or minimize spoilage and is loss prevention practiced?

A: Yes, we use multiple methods of protecting our feed ingredients depending on ingredient.

B: Yes, we use some protection for our ingredients.

C: Other than keeping the feed from going bad, no effort is made to protect the ingredients.

Q 15: Is energy consumption measured and is there a process to look for more efficient utilization?

A: Yes, we review energy use in all areas and look for ways to reduce usage and be more efficient.

B: Yes, when we replace equipment we look to upgrade to more efficient equipment.

C: No real effort is made to review/reduce energy use other than price.

Q 17: Is feed delivery monitored for efficiency and reviewed for improvements?

A: Feed delivery is reviewed multiple times and we are always looking for ways to improve through advanced technology, training and practices.

B: We train the drivers when they start and update equipment only when old equipment needs replacing.

C: We deliver the feed as best we can, but do not have the resources for updates or trainings.

### High Priority Indicator: Employee Safety & Well-Being

Q 18: Does the feedyard have a written safety plan and is it provided to the employees?

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- A: Yes, we have a fully developed plan that is updated regularly along with mandatory training.
- B: We have a written safety plan that we got from a state or industry labor group.
- C: Nothing written but accidents are strongly discouraged.

Q 19: Are regular safety meetings held and is job specific training provided?

- A: Regular mandatory meetings are held and additional area-specific training is provided.
- B: We have training and some specific training is done but it isn't mandatory.
- C: A few times a year someone comes by and talks about safety.

Q 20: Are accidents and injuries documented and reported to OSHA if needed?

- A: We are fully compliant with OSHA reporting, have robust records, and review internally.
- B: We report our required OSHA accidents and have a compliant system for reporting.
- C: We report our serious accidents if Worker's Compensation is needed.

Q 21: Are benefits provided to full-time employees? (Medical, retirement, etc.)

- A: Yes, full and comprehensive benefits are provided.
- B: Yes, we have some benefits like medical and retirement.
- C: We have worker's compensation but nothing else.

Q 22: Does the feedyard or parent organization support community activities and encourage employee involvement?

- A: We have a structured support/donation policy and encourage our employees to participate/donate.
- B: No formal process but we support our local community, and allow employees to take time to take time to participate.
- C: We buy a sign at the school gym or buy and FFA animal but employees take their own time to participate.

### High Priority Indicator: Land Resources

Q 23: Does the feedyard have applicable state and/or federal water and/or environmental permits?

- A: Yes, we have all the applicable licenses and are fully compliant.
- B: We have the EPA water permit or state equivalent as required.
- C: We currently are exempt or do not have a permit.

Q 24: Are all records required for the permit(s) being properly maintained and reported?

- A: Yes, we have a robust records system and trained personnel managing them.
- B: Yes, we have the minimum required records and have passed our annual reviews.
- C: Records are on my notepad on my dash or no permit required.

Q 25: Is there a documented Nutrient Management Strategy or Plan?

- A: Yes, we have a professionally developed plan that we adhere to strictly.
- B: We have a plan that is generic or minimal but meets the requirements.
- C: No formal plan has been documented.

Q 26: Do you have SOPs for measuring the required items in the Nutrient Management Plan?

- A: Our plan has SOPs and we follow it to the letter.
- B: We have SOPs for the items that are required for our plan and permit.
- C: I try to be consistent when and where I can but no one knows the plan but me.

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- Q 27: Is the feedyard current on reporting requirements for the regulatory permits?  
A: Our system makes reporting easy and we meet/exceed all required reporting for permits.  
B: We meet the reporting requirements for our permits but it is a lot of work.  
C: We report when prompted to by regulators.
- Q 28: Is there an employee or employees assigned the responsibility for assuring compliance?  
A: We have trained and dedicated staff, or, we utilize outside experts who assure compliance.  
B: I believe we have permits or are exempt from them but haven't really checked.  
C: No particular person is assigned this duty but parts are assigned as needed from time to time.

### **High Priority Indicator: Water Resources**

- Q 29: Does the feedyard have all required water permits and is it fully in compliance with permits and required management practices?  
A: Fresh water is permitted, requirements documented and compliance is assured.  
B: Fresh water is permitted and most requirements are met or corrected if deficient.  
C: I believe we have permits or are exempt from them but haven't really checked.
- Q 30: Does the feedyard have a waste water permit and is it in compliance with the permit?  
A: We have a permit and compliance is assured by our trained staff.  
B: We have a permit and with help we keep the permit in compliance.  
C: I believe we have permits or are exempt from them but haven't really checked.
- Q 31: Does the feedyard have a nutrient management plan and is it being followed?  
A: Yes  
B: No
- Q 32: Is there a documented water management strategy that is updated regularly?  
A: Yes, we have an extensive strategy that we track and update  
B: We have a water strategy and we try to check it periodically.  
C: No real strategy.
- Q 33: Are employees with environmental responsibilities regularly trained?  
A: Annually  
B: Less than annually  
C: Rarely or not at all