



Theme 4 | Quality Assurance Programs

As the needs, wants, and expectations of society change, so too must the supply chain change to meet them. Quality assurance (QA) programs have historically focused on food safety programs for livestock and poultry commodity groups; where, at minimum, they dictated the actions required at the farmgate to ensure food is safe to consume. However, beginning a decade ago, the mandates within these programs have shifted to also include other aspects, such as food safety and quality. While enhancements to these topics continues to be a priority, the majority of Canadian livestock and poultry commodity groups have been working to take these QA programs to the next level. This involves a more explicit focus on animal care, traceability, biosecurity, antimicrobial stewardship, and environmental sustainability; these pillars represent areas of interest across the supply chain and primary industries are taking steps to provide assurances on these matters.

Many commodity groups have established, or are in the process of establishing, more robust QA programs for their commodity groups, and have been working towards developing, implementing, and improving these programs. In particular, the case study below features successes of the QA program for Canadian dairy industry, proAction, as well as future goals for QA in the poultry sector.