

Training and Communication



This is an important component of VBP+ because people who complete tasks at the farm or feedlot need to know what to do in day-to-day operations. From feeding, pasturing or running complex equipment in a feedlot, people who understand why things are done are more likely to complete it in an optimum and safe manner.

Training through communication and mentoring help beef producers control risk. It is a proactive approach to manage inadvertent errors that can sometimes happen.

VBP+ outcomes:

- ✓ People know what to do in everyday tasks
- ✓ If a mistake occurs, communication takes place
- ✓ People are mentored on quiet animal handling
- ✓ At least one person has been trained in VBP+
- ✓ People understand what is needed for safe working conditions

At least one person needs to be trained in VBP+ and many have completed workshops in on-farm food safety, animal care, environmental farm plans and biosecurity. This is important and if you have already done so, great!

If that is not the case for your beef cattle operation, please take in a VBP+ training session. Options include an in-person workshop, online training available via internet, tele-workshop if phone connection is the only option, video conference or webinar. Please contact the provincial VBP+ coordinator for your region to arrange for an optimum format for training if you have not already taken a workshop or completed online training.

The food safety module continues to have an annual check on important procedures (section 9 in food safety manual). This means someone on the operation reviews the *Must Do* VBP+ requirements, and signs/dates an existing farm record to show this was done. Many use the VBP+ summary checklist [[link here](#)] to do this annual check. This is required by CFIA to indicate maintenance of the program, and a reminder of expectations at the farm or feedlot.

Communication daily and mentoring for 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 appropriately 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 stewardship of resources