**Humane Euthanasia of Cattle**

Euthanasia should be utilized when an animal’s condition is such that additional treatment options are unlikely to offer sufficient remedy. In many cases euthanasia is the only practical way to prevent unnecessary suffering. To that extent, it is the responsibility of all who own or work with livestock to have the proper equipment and knowledge to conduct this procedure effectively. “Euthanasia” is a Greek term meaning “good death”. In this context, its objectives are met when death is induced which causes a minimum of pain and/or distress to an animal. Avoidance of pain and distress requires that euthanasia techniques cause immediate loss of consciousness followed by cardiac and respiratory arrest that ultimately results in loss of brain function. Persons who perform this task must be technically proficient and have an understanding of the relevant anatomical landmarks and the protocols used for humane euthanasia of animals.

For information regarding proper euthanasia please refer to BQA and AABP guidelines regarding

Humane Euthanasia *(see page 18 of the Feedyard Assessment Guide).*

**Protocol for the Humane Euthanasia of Cattle**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is/are the person(s) responsible for the euthanasia of cattle, and making the final determination of the need to euthanize a particular animal.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_has/have been trained in proper euthanasia techniques by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. These include: the anatomical landmarks used for proper euthanasia and signs used for confirmation of the death of cattle.

Confirmation of death includes:

• Checking for a lack of heartbeat

• Checking for a lack of respiration, and

• Checking for a lack of corneal reflex by the animal

Our feedyard will utilize the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_for euthanizing cattle. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_is stored in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

If the primary tool for euthanasia fails or does not work properly use the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ which is stored in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Maintenance of the euthanizing equipment is done by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.