

# AABP POSITION STATEMENT

## RAISED-WITHOUT-ANTIBIOTICS PROGRAMS



**Regardless of the intended marketing channel, the first priority must always lie with the welfare and health of the cattle in our care. Programs that seek to market cattle as “raised-without-antibiotics” (RWA) must not compromise cattle health and well-being in order to maintain animals in an RWA status.**

- Within the context of a written Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship (VCPR), there must be documented strategies in place that allow for responsible use of antibiotics, in addition to, or in place of, non-antibiotic treatments as a rescue therapy available in a timely fashion. This should include training and oversight by the veterinarian on how to assess prognosis and when intervention with antibiotics, or in some cases euthanasia, is necessary.
- Although our primary goal should always be to develop strategies to prevent disease or injury in the cattle in our care, responsible RWA programs should recognize that some cattle will still develop diseases or sustain injuries that require antibiotic treatment.
- Responsible RWA programs must also include alternative marketing plans for those animals that do require antibiotic treatment. In addition, no compromised cattle should ever be marketed in an effort to maintain an RWA status.

For guidelines on establishing and maintaining a VCPR, visit: [http://www.aabp.org/resources/aabp\\_guidelines/vcprguideline\\_final11-2013.2.pdf](http://www.aabp.org/resources/aabp_guidelines/vcprguideline_final11-2013.2.pdf).

(Approved by the AABP Board of Directors on March 1, 2018)