

Arkansas Young Cattlemen Attend Oklahoma Beef Quality Summit.

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The Arkansas Young Cattlemen's Leadership Class (YCLC) traveled last week to Oklahoma State University (OSU) in Stillwater to attend the Oklahoma Beef Quality Summit (BQS) sponsored by the Oklahoma Beef Council, through The Beef Checkoff, in conjunction with OSU.

Using the National Beef Quality Audit as the foundation, the *Beef Quality Summit* course offered participants the opportunity to see the causes and results of quality challenges facing the beef industry. Summit attendees from ranchers to processors evaluated live cattle in an effort to predict quality and yield then followed the cattle through the harvest and grading process. Attendees actually fabricated a beef carcass into wholesale meat cuts.

The Arkansas Cattlemen's Association (ACA) was created in 1959 to serve the beef cattle producers of Arkansas. The association was formed to help create a positive, friendly environment for beef producers from all segments of the industry in Arkansas. By direction of the ACA Executive Committee, the Young Cattlemen's Committee was formed in late 2008 to help increase membership and participation of the younger producer in Arkansas. In 2011, the Young Cattlemen's Leadership Class was developed by the above committee.

The Arkansas Young Cattlemen's Leadership Class is focused on helping create profit in the beef industry and developing opportunities for the young cattle producer in Arkansas. During the year long program, YCLC participants attend quarterly workshops that cover issues pertaining to government, commodity markets, production practices and beef quality.

This opportunity was made possible by a grant from the Arkansas Agriculture Department, a founding partner of the YCLC.

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