



For Immediate Release

August 28, 2013, Urbandale, IA - Validus is proud to announce its ISO 65 accreditation to certify farms and egg processing facilities to Safe Quality Food standards levels 1, 2 and 3. There are multiple certification programs that exist to ensure safety and quality on the farm level or the processing level but the Safe Quality Food (SQF) Code, created by the Safe Quality Food Institute (SQFI), addresses both. The SQF standards are internationally recognized by the Global Food Safety Initiative. Food safety and food quality are two of the most important areas in the food world today, whether you're a consumer, retailer or producer.

Validus, an ISO 9001: 2008 certified company is committed to the implementation of a robust food safety and quality system in the production and processing of agricultural goods, making SQF the perfect program in which to pursue accreditation. Validus is accredited to perform audits for farms and processing plants that are trying to achieve SQF Certification or those that are already certified and are working to maintain certification.

"Our experienced SQF Certified auditors have an extensive background in agricultural production and processing," said Earl Dotson, Validus CEO. "Their focus areas vary and all have solid on-farm expertise as well as in-plant knowledge," he stated. Outside of the SQF program the Validus auditors conduct audits and assessments on animal welfare, traceability, the environment and on-farm security.

Validus' scope of certification includes:

Module 02: System elements

Module 05: Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) for farming of animal products

Module 09: Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) for pre-processing of animal products

Module 11: GMP for processing of food products

Module 12: GMP for transport and distribution of food products

Module 13: GMP for production of food packaging

Module 16: Requirements for SQF Multi-site Programs Managed by a Central Site

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