

Thorough and Transparent Scientific Evaluation is the Foundation of the Beef Nutrition Research Program

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"NCBA's recent "Red Meat and Processed Meat Consumption and Cancer: A Technical Summary of the Epidemiologic Evidence" was recently criticized by the World Cancer Research Fund (WCRF)/American Institute of Cancer Research (AICR) so we'd like to address some of their misinterpretations of the scientific summary.

First and foremost, as responsible food producers, we have an ongoing commitment to science-based nutrition information and engaging in a thoughtful scientific dialogue, which includes determining what the science says about the role of red meat and cancer. Our commitment to accurate scientific information involving the role of beef in a healthful diet and providing a wholesome, nutritious food to our nation's families is firmly rooted in our [Statement of Principles regarding Nutrition and Health](#) which has been in place since 1984.

For the past three years, our nutrition research program has been committed to better understanding the inconsistencies in the evidence surrounding red meat and cancer. In 2007, we commissioned a team of leading independent experts to examine the weight of the scientific evidence on this topic. While just the first step, this initial assessment of the available scientific literature was a systematic and comprehensive review of every single red and processed meat study evaluated by WCRF/AICR in their report. The conclusion of this comprehensive, independent assessment was that the available scientific evidence is not supportive of a causal association between red meat consumption and cancer.

As a next step, we commissioned several meta-analyses to quantify this body of science using rigorous methodology that is objective and transparent. To date, three peer-reviewed manuscripts related to this research have been published and all remaining research manuscripts have been submitted for peer-review in top medical and scientific journals. While WCRF calls their report peer-reviewed, it is self-published and has not gone through the blinded peer-review process necessary for scientific journal publication. In addition to our peer-reviewed manuscripts, the methodological approach and results of our research are being presented at scientific meetings.

WCRF/AICR is mistaken about the Technical Summary purpose; it was not intended for peer review nor was it issued in response to the 2007 WCRF/AICR report on diet and cancer or any of their other research efforts. The Technical Summary is an information resource for broad audiences, providing a general overview of the current evidence on red meat and processed meat and cancer. This point is stated clearly in the Technical Summary Author's Note by Dominik D. Alexander, PhD, MSPH, senior managing epidemiologist for Exponent, Inc., 'this report is not intended to systematically address all the components of causation,' rather its intent is 'to synthesize scientific information pertaining to cancer types for which intake of meat has been evaluated.'

We continue to believe the research dialogue on this topic should be preserved for the scientific channel. Along with producing wholesome and nutritious food, America's farmers and ranchers have always believed in conducting thorough, transparent science that makes a meaningful contribution to the nutrition and scientific community and to families around the world."

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To speak with NCBA representatives and/or other scientific experts who can offer a perspective on red meat and cancer risk, please contact: Michele Peterson Murray at 303-850-3343 or 303-725-5126.



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