

## WITHDRAWAL PERIODS FORM

Animals sold through the Circuit end up primarily on fed cattle operations. Even so, all producers are required to declare any animals that are subject to withdrawal periods.

If you have withdrawal periods to declare other than for vaccines, use the attached withdrawal period form. This form must be submitted along with your vaccination declaration whenever you send feeder calves that required withdrawal period to specialized auctions.

One of the major characteristics of the Circuit is selling quality feeder calves that are in good health. We ask that you ensure any animals you sell that are subject to withdrawal periods are in good health.

## POCKET CALENDAR AVAILABLE BY EMAIL

Since the 2020–2021 season, producers may opt to receive all documents from the Circuit by email rather than by regular mail.

All feeder calf producers with email addresses on file with the PBQ have been sent a link allowing them to register online to receive Circuit documents by email.

If you wish to receive Circuit documents by email, simply register at the following link: [surveymonkey.com/r/auctions-circuit](https://surveymonkey.com/r/auctions-circuit)

## ACTIVATING ATTESTRA TAGS

To ensure that actual birth dates are used when selling calves at auction, it is recommended that you install and activate Attestra tags:

- within 7 days of birth, or
- within 5 months of birth for calves born on pasture.

By making regular declarations within the prescribed timelines, you will be able to sell calves using actual birthdates.

Feeder calf producers who are also dairy producer must identify each calf born of a dairy cow with a dairy tag and declare which category the sire belongs to (dairy or beef).

As a reminder, specialized auctions are intended for feeder calves that are 100 percent of the beef category. Calves exhibiting dairy character are subject to an additional marketing charge of \$20 per calf and will be sold at the end of the auction. Furthermore, if a majority of calves in a batch exhibit dairy character, the producer must transport the entire batch back to the farm at their own expense.

### FEEDER CALF SALES AGENCY

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Les Producteurs  
de bovins du  
Québec

[bovin.qc.ca](http://bovin.qc.ca)



# Quebec Specialized FEEDER CALF AUCTIONS CIRCUIT

Hello Everyone,

I am very pleased to be sending you the new pocket calendar for the 2021–2022 season of the Quebec Specialized Feeder Calf Auctions Circuit (Circuit). In it, you'll find all kinds of helpful information on feeder calf marketing.

It goes without saying that COVID-19 has caused its share of uncertainties, changes, and challenges since it struck in spring 2020. Even amid these circumstances, the Feeder Calf Marketing Committee (CMMVE) was able to take the appropriate measures to ensure all auctions took place. For each of the auctions held behind closed doors, the Producteurs de bovins du Québec (PBQ) had a representative on site to oversee sales and ensure adherence to the feeder calf marketing agreement.

The regulatory modification requiring that herds be vaccinated with fetal protection for all feeder calves sold in specialized auctions starting on August 1, 2023, was published in the *Gazette officielle du Québec* on May 19, 2021. You are invited to read all about it in the Info-Circuit. Thanks to this change, the Circuit continues to be a major partner in purchasing quality feeder calves!

We are currently working to ensure that specialized auctions during the 2021–2022 season will be livestreamed on the feeder calf producers' extranet site.

I would like to thank our wonderful sponsors for their contribution to this important mail-out; their names appear in the pocket calendar.

On behalf of the CMMVE, I wish you a successful 2021–2022 season with the Circuit.

**Sébastien Vachon**

*President*

*Feeder Calves Marketing Committee*

July 9th, 2021





## VACCINATION OF BREEDING HERDS WITH FETAL PROTECTION TO BECOME MANDATORY FOR FEEDER CALVES SOLD AT SPECIALIZED AUCTIONS ON AUGUST 1, 2023

The regulatory changes concerning the requirement to vaccinate breeding herds with fetal protection for feeder calves sold at specialized auctions starting on August 1, 2023, have been approved by the Régie des marchés agricoles et alimentaires du Québec and published in the *Gazette officielle du Québec*.

The approval of this regulatory modification is the outcome of much work and consultation. First came the work of the vaccination committee\*, in which all recommendations were ratified by your representatives. Next, consultations took place at the 2020 regional AGMs (with 66 percent having voted in favour of the change) and at the PBQ AGM held on April 6 and 7, 2021 (74 percent in favour).

**Starting on August 1, 2023, all feeder calves sold in the Circuit must come from a breeding herd that has been vaccinated with fetal protection.**

Before establishing a vaccination program, the vaccination committee and the CMMVE set fetal protection (FP) as a protection objective in the breeding herd vaccination program. FP enables producers to achieve the following:

- help prevent abortions caused by the infectious bovine rhinotracheitis (IBR) virus
- help prevent abortions caused by the bovine viral diarrhoea (BVD) virus
- administer an annual booster with a modified live vaccine (MLV) for pregnant cows
- vaccinate calves nursed by a pregnant cow that has already been vaccinated with an MLV
- prevent or help prevent, depending on the vaccine used, BVD immunotolerance and the birth of calves that are infected with the virus before birth (congenital infection [CI]) but not immunotolerant (IT).

\* The vaccination committee is made up of veterinarians from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Montreal, representatives from the Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation du Québec, a feeder calf producer, a fed cattle producer, and a consultant veterinarian.



Based on current knowledge, the following two scenarios for implementing a herd vaccination protocol for FP are presented here for the purposes of selling feeder calves at specialized auctions starting in the 2023–2024 season:

### Scenario 1

1. All calves are vaccinated with an MLV after 5 months of age (required by the PBQ for marketing within the Circuit).
2. Heifers are revaccinated with an MLV FP at least one month before their first breeding.
3. All cows in the herd are vaccinated during the post-partum period with an MLV FP or an FP-approved inactivated BVD vaccine.
4. An annual booster is administered according to the label instructions in order to obtain the FP.

### Scenario 2

1. All calves are vaccinated with an MLV after 5 months of age (required by the PBQ for marketing within the Circuit).
2. Heifers are revaccinated with an MLV FP at least one month before their first breeding. They are revaccinated with an FP-approved inactivated BVD vaccine during gestation (at the time of the annual herd vaccination).
3. Cows receive an MLV FP at least one month before their first breeding and are revaccinated with an FP-approved BVD vaccine during gestation (at the time of the annual herd vaccination).
4. An annual booster with the FP-approved BVD vaccine is performed to maintain the herd's FP status.

After this vaccination scenario is implemented, cows that are newly arrived within the herd with no known vaccine status must receive an MLV FP before breeding in order to be integrated into the vaccination program.

These scenarios are not static. However, they do reflect current knowledge. Scenario 2 is based on a recent study. Since the main objective is vaccinating the breeding herd with FP, any other vaccines or protocols that can meet this objective may be eligible.

**Be sure to contact your veterinarian promptly in order to include, upgrade, or continue the vaccination of your breeding herd with fetal protection.** Decisions made by feeder calf producers will benefit the entire sector.

In the next few months, the feeder calf sales agency will send a number of communications out to producers and veterinarians, who are key partners in the improvements currently being made.

The sales agency will also prepare the verification and sampling protocol to be implemented on August 1, 2023.

