



THE PRODUCER'S RESPONSIBILITY related to withdrawal periods (waiting period)

In the VBP+ program, certified producers are required to inform the buyer of the withdrawal periods still in force on the animals they market. The purpose is to ensure that an animal that may still have drug residues will not be sent for slaughter before the end of the withdrawal period. Moreover, the members of the Marketing Committee were apprehensive when asking for legal advice, to know if this mandatory declaration applied to all producers who market Feeder calves whether VBP+ certified or not.

MAIN ELEMENTS OF THE LEGAL ADVICE

Two *Animal Health Protection Act* (LPSA) requirements, from the provincial jurisdiction, are important to the potential liability of Feeder calf producers:

“55.6 The owner or the person having custody of an animal which has been administered a medication or has consumed a medicinal food who sells the animal or causes it to be sold before the expiry of the waiting period indicated in the prescription of the veterinary surgeon or, in other cases, on the packaging of, or in a document provided with the medication or medicinal food, shall notify the buyer thereof in writing.

55.7. No person may deliver or send to a slaughterhouse, for the purposes of human consumption, an animal whose tissues are not totally free of any trace of metabolite of a medication or of medicinal residue other than those allowed by the *Food and Drug Regulations* or whose quantity or concentration in the tissues of the animal exceeds that permitted by those regulations.”

In general, vaccines, antibiotics and medicated foods are included in the definition of drugs and are subject to regulation. Also, Pour-Ons, such as deworming, are thus included.

Article 55.6 of the LPSA obliges the producer to inform the buyer in writing at the time of marketing if withdrawal periods are still pending on animals.

On the federal side, the related requirements for withdrawal periods are, in a way, integrated in the provincial legislation through article 55.7 of the LPSA, where it refers to permitted residue limits and/or prohibition of certain products.

The seller's desired end result for the animal he is marketing does not exempt him from his responsibility. Even though Feeder calf producers market their calves for fattening purposes, they are required to declare animals' withdrawal periods.

DECISION OF THE FEEDER CALF MARKETING COMMITTEE

The Feeder calf Marketing Committee decided to create a form, available to all Feeder calf producers, to declare animals that are still subject to withdrawal periods.

The form must be remitted only when the producer delivers Feeder calves that are still subject to a withdrawal period. It must be presented when the animals are unloaded at the auction, along with the Vaccination Statement.

The form should not be submitted if the calves are not subject to a withdrawal period.