1. **PURPOSE**

Quebec’s agricultural system of permanent identification and traceability is managed by industry and the government. All animal births and movements must be recorded in the Agri-Tracabilité Québec (ATQ) database.

This SOP describes the procedure for identifying newborn calves in accordance to Agri-Tracabilité Québec (ATQ).

2. **RESPONSIBILITY**

2.1 All permanent and casual staff.
2.2 Dairy herd manager
2.3 Farm director

3. **MATERIALS**

3.1 ATQ Ear tags
3.2 Ear tag plier
3.3 Alcohol pad
3.4 Log book

4. **GENERAL**

4.1 Newborn calves are identified with ear tags within the first few hours of birth.

4.2 To easily differentiate the genders in the barn, male and female calves are tagged using a different series of tag numbers.

4.3 Mixed breed females are tagged as males since they are not kept at the farm.

4.4 Stillborn calves **MUST** also be identified.

5. **PROCEDURE tagging**

5.1 Determine the gender of the animal.

5.2 Select the next ear tag number in the respective series. There is a specific set of tags for each ear:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LEFT EAR</th>
<th>VISUAL SET</th>
<th>The largest numbered tag must be in the front</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RIGHT EAR</td>
<td>ELECTRONIC SET</td>
<td>The button must be in the front</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*NOTE*

For both sides, the female part of the tag is in the front and the male part in the back. (see Fig.1)

5.3 Disinfect the end of the plier and the tags using an alcohol pad. Ensure that the plier pin is not loose.

5.4 Each tag must be applied between the veins of the ear on the first third of the ear, closest to the head. (See figure 1)

5.5 Record the calf’s tag number in the “Debut de Lactation” section of the Treatment Logbook on the same line as the calf’s mother)
Figure 1: Ear tag application

Document Status and Revision History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>PREVIOUS VERSION</th>
<th>NEW VERSION</th>
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<tr>
<td>2-May-2018</td>
<td>NEW</td>
<td>Mac Campus FACC approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-Jan-2019</td>
<td>Amendment 2.1</td>
<td>Added: 4.3 Mixed breed females are tagged as males since they are not kept at the farm: Mac Donald Campus FACC approved</td>
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