

CALF IDENTIFICATION

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. Note that pure beef breeds are tagged with a different series.
- 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.

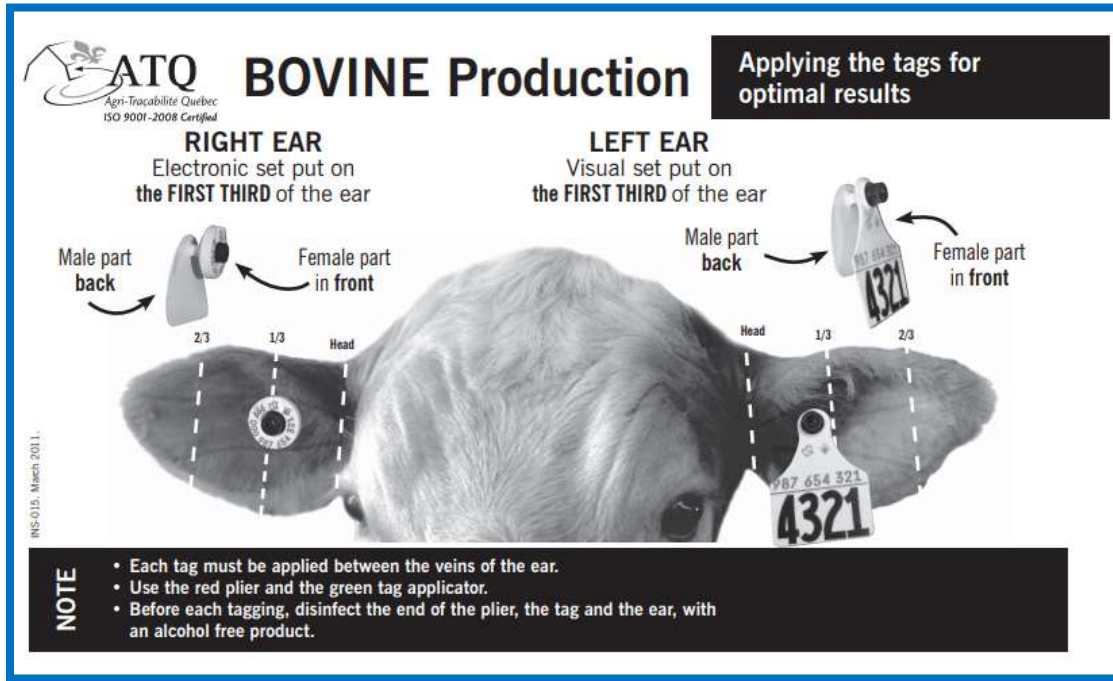
5. PROCEDURE tagging

- 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:

| | | |
|---|----------------|---|
| LEFT EAR | VISUAL SET | The largest numbered tag must be in the front |
| RIGHT EAR | ELECTRONIC SET | The button must be in the front |
| * 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).
- 5.6 Report births and deaths for males, crossbreeds, beef breeds, and multicultural female breeds online to the ATQ Agri-Traçabilité Québec and record in ATQ binder in the dairy office.



Document Status and Revision History

| DATE | PREVIOUS VERSION | NEW VERSION |
|-------------|-----------------------------|--|
| 2-May-2018 | NEW | Version 01: Mac Campus FACC approved |
| 15-Jan-2019 | Amendment 2.1 | Version 02: Added: 4.3 Mixed breed females are tagged as males since they are not kept at the farm : Mac Donald Campus FACC approved |
| 1-June-2023 | 3 rd year review | Version 03: Mac Campus FACC approved |