

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		

