



# Canada British Columbia Feeder Calf Set-Aside Program Questions and Answers

## Eligibility Criteria

### **1. How does the 2004 calf set-aside program work?**

The Canada-British Columbia Feeder Calf Set-Aside Program provides cow-calf producers with the option of holding a portion of their 2004 eligible calf inventory from slaughter. Producers can choose to hold their calves from slaughter until **October 1, 2005**, for a per head payment of **\$176**, or until **January 1, 2006**, for a per head payment of **\$200**. These per head payments are intended to cover the additional costs incurred in holding these animals from slaughter. The difference between the two payments reflects the increased feed costs of holding the animals an additional three months.

### **2. Who is eligible to receive a payment under the program?**

Applicants must be British Columbia taxpayers and Canadian residents who own beef cows that calved or will calve in 2004.

### **3. What about leased cows?**

Only the owner of the cows is eligible to set aside 2004 calves.

### **4. What animals are eligible to be enrolled in the set-aside program?**

Eligible livestock are beef calves that can be set aside based on either 30% or 40% of the beef cows that calved in **2004**. Calves may be replacement heifers or destined for slaughter. If a producer is purchasing calves to enter into the program (see also Question 11), the calves must have been born in 2004 to qualify.

### **5. Are calves from dairy cows eligible?**

No, only calves from beef cows are eligible to be set aside.

### **6. How many calves can be set aside under the program?**

A cow-calf producer must set aside eligible calves equivalent to either 30% **OR** 40% of their beef cows that calved or will calve in 2004.

Spot audits will be conducted to verify registration numbers.

### **7. How long is the set-aside period?**

Producers will have a choice of holding their **2004** calves that are enrolled in the program from slaughter until either:

**October 1, 2005** (payment will be **\$176/animal**, RFI tag backs **pink**);

**OR**

**January 1, 2006** (payment will be **\$200/animal**, RFI tag backs **red**).

Set-aside animals will be released prior to these dates if the United States border reopens to live young animals less than 30 months of age.

**8. Do I have to enroll all the animals I am setting aside for either October 1, 2005 or January 1, 2006 or can I enroll some for each date?**

A producer can only choose **one** hold date for all of his set-aside animals.

**9. Why is the set-aside period so long?**

Delaying the finishing of a portion of the 2004 calf crop will help to balance the supply of market ready cattle with the anticipated slaughter capacity. Additional slaughter capacity is anticipated in late 2005 and 2006, so by holding back a portion of the 2004 calves, the supply of cattle will be better matched to available slaughter space. By better aligning supply with slaughter space, market prices should be supported.

**10. In 2004 I calved out 100 cows. How many calves can I set aside if:**

Question	Answer
I still have all of my calves	Either 30 OR 40 calves (not a number in between)
I sold 20 already this fall	Either 30 OR 40 calves
I sold 70 already this fall	Either 30 OR 40 calves. However, since you have only 30 calves left you would have to buy 10 calves to claim the maximum amount
I still have all my calves and purchased 30 more?	Either 30 OR 40 calves
I didn't calve any cows out but I purchased 100 calves?	Not eligible to claim any calves as you must calve the cows in order to participate in the program

**11. Can a producer sell animals that have been enrolled in the set-aside program?**

Enrolled calves can be sold. The purchaser needs to be advised of the set-aside status of the calves and the seller should enter into a purchase agreement whereby the purchaser is bound to hold these animals from slaughter until either October 1, 2005 or January 1, 2006 depending on the alternative the applicant chose.

The applicant will be held responsible to repay program payments for calves slaughtered prior to the end of their Set-Aside Period.

Contact the BCMAFF if you require a sample purchase agreement.

**12. Can a producer who has already sold 2004 calves participate in the program?**

If a producer with cows that calved in 2004 has already sold his or her 2004 calves, but still wishes to participate in the program, the producer must purchase eligible calves to enroll in the program (these calves would then be tagged with the mandatory electronic ear tags with the special back).

**Electronic Tags**

**1. How will animals be identified under the program?**

Eligible animals must be tagged with an electronic ear tag. This will allow the set-aside animals to be tracked even if they are sold. The electronic ear tag must have the designated back (special program colour) that will indicate that the animals that bear these RFI tags are set-aside animals. For

calves that are being set aside to **October 1, 2005**, the designated tag back colour is **pink**. For calves that are being set aside to **January 1, 2006**, the designated tag back colour is **red**.

Producers can purchase CCIA approved Radio Frequency Identification (RFI) tags as usual; however, for the animals that are set aside, the special tag back must be used. Arrangements are being made to have the special electronic ear tags available at the same locations where producers currently acquire CCIA tags.

## **2. When do I tag the calves that I want to set aside?**

Animals to be set aside under the program must be tagged, with the appropriate coloured back, as soon as the RFI tags are available with special coloured tag backs. The CCIA RFI tag numbers used on set-aside animals are to be recorded on the Tag Information Appendix (part of the application form). Computer generated listings are also acceptable. The complete listing of tag numbers for set-aside calves must be provided to BCMAFF before the application deadline. Payments will not be processed until the list is provided.

BCMAFF will be completing random audits of applicants under the program to ensure that the set-aside animals are tagged with the correct coloured back and that the appropriate number of animals has been entered into the program.

## **3. What if all my 2004 calves have already been tagged with the new CCIA electronic tags or another CCIA identifying tag (i.e. bar code tag)?**

All calves that a producer plans to set aside must be tagged with a CCIA tag in the front with a set-aside back. These animals must be tagged with an additional tag under the program, with the tag numbers cross-referenced and reported to CCIA. Part of the program payment is intended to cover the cost of this unique CCIA RFI tag. Do not remove any CCIA tags.

## **Application Process**

### **1. When and where will application forms be available?**

Application forms along with background information on the program will be mailed to producers who enrolled in the Canada British Columbia Cull Animal Program. The forms and information are also available on the BCMAFF website at [www.agf.gov.bc.ca](http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca) and through regional agricultural offices in British Columbia. Return application forms to:

**Canada British Columbia Feeder Calf Set-Aside Program**  
**BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries**  
**4607 23<sup>rd</sup> Street**  
**Vernon, BC V1T 4K7**  
 Fax: (250) 260-3025

### **2. When must I have my application submitted by?**

Producers must submit their application by January 15, 2005.

### **3. Do I have to tag my eligible calves before applying?**

No, you can apply by submitting Page 1 and 3 of the application form. However, producers must tag their set-aside calves with the approved CCIA RFI tags and the appropriate coloured backs, record the tag numbers and then provide the list to BCMAFF to register the animals. This will complete the application and initiate payment.

### **4. When will I get paid for my set-aside calves?**

All producers, whether they select the 30% or 40% set-aside option, will receive payment based on 30% of their cows that calve in 2004 soon after BCMAFF receives fully completed applications, including the list of RFI tag numbers for all set-aside animals. The amounts will be \$176 per set-aside animal for the October 1, 2005 hold date and \$200 per set-aside animal for the January 1, 2006 hold date.

Producers who select the 40% set-aside option will receive the balance of their payment after the application deadline and the total number of set-aside animals for BC is finalized. Payment will be \$176 per set-aside animal for the October 1, 2005 hold date and \$200 per set-aside animal for the January 1, 2006 hold date for the portion of set-aside animals above 30% that the provincial funding allocation allows.

### **5. Who can producers contact for additional information on the Canada-British Columbia Feeder Calf Set-Aside Program?**

Producers can visit the BCMAFF website at: [www.agf.gov.bc.ca](http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca) or call **1-877-702-5585**

## **Miscellaneous**

### **1. Why are there two release dates when calves can go to slaughter?**

British Columbia is participating in the national program, which established the January 1, 2006 release date, but wants to ensure BC producers are treated as consistently as possible with Alberta producers which have an October 1, 2005 release date. Offering two release dates, with prorated Federal funding for early release, is a reasonable compromise. The calf set-aside program is designed to delay the finishing and slaughter of a portion of the 2004 calf crop to balance supply and demand and increase cattle prices.

### **2. What programs are, or will be in place for other ruminants?**

Other ruminant producers will have access to the CAIS special cash advance program. The application deadline is March 1, 2005. In addition, the federal and provincial governments are working on program options to meet the needs of the other ruminant species.

### **3. What if calves are butchered by an abattoir and 'direct marketed' before the set-aside period is up?**

The licensed processor will read and report the CCIA tag numbers to CCIA as required by *The Health of Animals ID Regulations* (Canada). BCMAFF, with the assistance of CCIA, will monitor the tags to determine when the set-aside calves were slaughtered. If a set-aside animal is slaughtered prior to the end of the set-aside period, BCMAFF will require the applicant to pay back the benefit provided under the program. This is why applicants who plan to sell their set-aside livestock are encouraged to obtain a purchase agreement when the animals are sold.