



Consultation on minimum antibiotic withdrawal times (Dairy)

At the present time there are a range of standards governing the withdrawal times for antibiotic use in dairy animals in Canada depending on the region and the certifying body:

British Columbia - (COABC) – 30 days
Ontario - (OCPP –Pro Cert) – lifetime
Quebec - 14 days

Individual farms may certify to other standards than the dominant one in their province as listed above.

The Organic Council of Ontario has been advised of the confusion being caused by this situation and is conducting a poll to determine the position of those affected.

The Canadian Standard now stands at 14 days and is being reviewed by the Livestock Working Group of the Technical Standards Committee. OCO recognizes the importance of this issue and will use the results of this poll to advise their representative on the committee.

Please indicate which category best describes your connection to the issue:

- certified dairy producer
- dairy producer in transition to organic
- certified producer of other organic food items
- other industry connection (marketing, education, etc.)
- consumer

Assuming that the other rules relating to antibiotic use presently contained in the Canadian standard remain (veterinary supervision, written records, limit of 2 treatments / animal / yr.) - please indicate your preference of the following choices for minimum antibiotic withdrawal times in organic dairy production in Canada:

- 14 days
- 60 days
- one year
- lifetime of the animal treated

Comments :