



JAN 16 2013

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0C5

Quote: 184478

Dr. Melodie Chan
President
Canadian Association of Bovine Veterinarians
112G-116 Research Drive
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7N 3R3

Dear Dr. Chan:

Thank you for your letter regarding the control of *E. coli* O157:H7 in cattle and beef products. I appreciate the time you have taken to share the Association's comments about this matter.

The Government of Canada recognizes the importance of this food safety concern, which is a shared responsibility among several federal departments and agencies. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada is involved through its responsibility to promote the productivity and sustainability of Canadian agriculture and food production. The Public Health Agency of Canada provides direction about potential public health issues. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is involved through its delegated regulatory responsibilities for meat inspection, disease control, and licensing cattle vaccines, with the ultimate objective of protecting human health, food safety, and animal health.

I was pleased to learn that the Association shares our understanding about the control of *E. coli* O157. Specifically, the CFIA agrees that managing the threat of *E. coli* O157 is a complex matter, and that a full suite of measures will be required to achieve it.

As you are likely aware, an *E. coli* O157 vaccine was licensed for use in cattle in Canada by the Canadian Centre for Veterinary Biologics of the CFIA in October 2008. This vaccine has demonstrated some efficacy when used as part of a comprehensive herd management program to reduce potential sources of *E. coli* O157:H7 contamination. That said, like the Canadian Association of Bovine Veterinarians, we recognize that no solution currently exists that would single-handedly eliminate the presence of all *E. coli* or eliminate the risk of contamination of food.

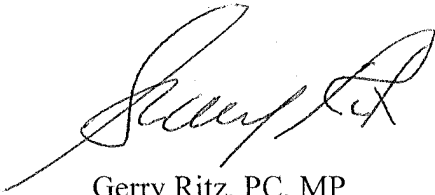
Given the variation in factors that contribute to the prevalence of *E. coli* O157, the Government of Canada will continue to focus its efforts on working with national animal health and commodity organizations, the food processing industry, and other departments to minimize the

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potential for *E. coli* contamination during production, transportation, slaughter, and food processing and handling. Input from the Association would be a valuable contribution to this work.

Again, thank you for writing on this important subject.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerry Ritz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and "R".

Gerry Ritz, PC, MP