



**Canadian Association of Bovine Veterinarians /
Association Canadienne des Vétérinaires Bovins**
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Rick Culbert
Bioniche Life Sciences Inc.
P.O. Box 1570
Belleville, Ontario
Canada K8N 5J2

Dear Rick:

Let me begin by once again expressing our appreciation for being invited to participate in the June 25th meeting in Toronto. We were impressed by both your hospitality and the quality of the scientific program. It is also gratifying to see that more organizations, such as yours, are recognizing the CABV/ACBV as the national voice on veterinary and production issues associated with dairy and beef cattle.

The CABV/ACBV represents approximately 650 veterinarians having a particular interest in dairy and beef production. As such, we are attuned to the need to be proactive in all areas relating to food safety. We fully appreciate that food safety is a complex issue and there is no single 'magic bullet' that will eliminate the risk of *E. coli* 0157 entering the human food chain. Rather, the ultimate solution will be a constellation of strategies implemented at the farm, feedlot, and packer levels. The CABV/ACBV endorses all strategies and products that lead to the elimination or mitigation of *E. coli* 0157, and all other potential food pathogens, from the human food chain, with the proviso that they be founded on science and have passed all the necessary Canadian regulatory requirements.

In regards to the positioning of your vaccine, multiple studies have shown that veterinarians continue to be the primary source of information for producers and hence it is only logical that veterinarians should be involved in the distribution of your vaccine. We also foresee the need for veterinarians to oversee the proper transport, storage and administration of your vaccine, which again places us in an ideal position to educate our clients in these respects. Lastly, we would expect that over time feedlots, packers and retailers will want to have some assurances that the vaccine is being administered appropriately. Veterinarians already play a key role in protecting the human food supply and therefore we could function as independent auditors in an *E. coli* vaccination program.

All the above will demand veterinary resources and some form of compensation. Once you have resolved your funding and distribution issues with the federal government then we would be pleased to enter into a dialogue on how best to implement a successful, fair and equitable program for the distribution of your vaccine.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'T. Perrett', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr. Tye Perrett
President, CABV/ACVB