



April 16, 2025

Emailed to vdd.HSD-DIH.dmv@hc-sc.gc.ca

**Health Canada
Veterinary Drugs Directorate
Health Products and Foods Branch Health Canada**

[Consultation: Proposal to amend the list of maximum residue limits for veterinary drugs in foods - Proposed MRL 2025-1](#)

Dear HC-VDD,

On behalf of the Canadian Cattle Association (CCA), and the National Cattle Feeders' Association (NCFA), we would like to extend our sincere thanks to Health Canada for its ongoing engagement with the Canadian beef industry and for its evidence-based decision-making in establishing Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for dexamethasone.

Dexamethasone is a corticosteroid that has been used safely and effectively in Canadian cattle production for decades. Despite its long-standing use, the lack of published MRLs historically required veterinarians to rely on recommendations from the Canadian Global Food Animal Residue Avoidance Databank (CgFARAD), which has advised a withdrawal period of 10 days. With the recent publication of research by Chicoine et al. (2023) and subsequent consultation with industry, the inclusion of dexamethasone in Health Canada's amended List of MRLs for Veterinary Drugs in Foods represents a meaningful advancement in veterinary drug regulation.

We commend Health Canada for undertaking the 2023 consultation process and for actively involving key industry stakeholders, including the CCA and the NCFA. The acceptance of our joint recommendation to adopt a 7-day withdrawal period for meat, based on the findings that residues were undetectable in muscle and fat by day 3 and limited to kidney and liver tissues, demonstrates your commitment to both public safety and practical veterinary application.

This decision not only ensures the continued responsible use of dexamethasone in Canadian beef production but also aligns with national food safety priorities. It provides clarity for producers and veterinarians, ensures consistent withdrawal times, and helps maintain high animal welfare standards—especially in near-to-market cattle, where treatment options are limited.

We are particularly appreciative that Health Canada recognized the safety and scientific justification for a shorter withdrawal period. Furthermore, the evidence-based adoption of a higher MRL for kidney and liver (without impacting MRLs for meat, fat, or milk) is



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suitable for the dexamethasone treatment regimen commonly used in Canadian beef cattle and minimizes both animal welfare concerns and economic impact on producers.

Thank you again for your collaborative approach and your continued support of Canadian agriculture. We look forward to ongoing cooperation in advancing science-based policy that ensures the health of Canadians and the sustainability of our food systems.

Sincerely,

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