



January 2008

Changes to Regulation 54 of the Beef Cattle Marketing Act What you Need to Know

Why the changes to Regulation 54 of the BCMA?

For the past 5 years, OCA has been working for changes to Regulation 54 of the Beef Cattle Marketing Act (BCMA) and for the federal provincial agreement (FPA) that will allow the OCA to legally participate in the national agency, the Canadian Beef Cattle Research, Market Development and Promotion Agency.

Not only do the changes give us legal participation in the national agency, but the check-off increase will provide OCA with long term resources to allow us to plan for the future. The additional funds will be used to promote market development initiatives for Ontario beef, as well as to defend market access rights, as was voted overwhelmingly at the February 2005 OCA AGM.

The OCA membership has been consulted extensively on the amendments to Regulation 54 of the BCMA and the FPA. In fact, the request for change came from our grassroots membership. We have also received endorsement from the Ontario Cattle Feeder's Association, Ontario Livestock Dealer's Association, Ontario Auction Market Association, Cargill, Ontario Independent Meat Processors Association, and Ontario Veal Association, each one an important stakeholder that form our industry.

When will the changes come into effect?

The changes became law and are enforceable beginning on **January 2, 2008**.

What are the Changes to Regulation 54 of the Beef Cattle Marketing Act?

1. Check-off on Ontario cattle is increased from the current \$2.25 to **\$3.00**. Of this, \$2.00 will fund OCA and other national organization activities and \$1.00 will go to the National Agency to fund the Beef Information Centre, the Canadian Beef Export Federation and the Beef Cattle Research Council.
2. Check-off deducted from out of province cattle sold in Ontario will be different rates for those provinces that have also entered into agreements with the National Check-off Agency. Currently, this includes British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia. See below for a chart detailing the different rates for each province. Only when Quebec, Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island enter into agreement with the National Check-off Agency, will check-off need to be deducted from cattle from those provinces.
3. Any cattle sold for export will only be deducted \$2 per head. The extra dollar for the national agency is not collected.
4. The person remitting check-off to OCA will now have to submit a breakdown of each class of cattle for that period. This is in addition to the full name, address and postal code of each seller that must be remitted.
5. Section 8(d) of Reg. 54 is revoked, removing the exemption for payment of license fees for cattle sold through public auction by an owner on his/her premises.

6. The seven day licensed dealers exemption is now in effect. An exemption from check-off is applicable if cattle are resold within seven business days of purchasing them, and documentation verifying the reselling is provided.

Check-off deducted from out of province cattle:

Cattle from:	Check-off to be deducted:
British Columbia	\$2.00/head
Alberta	\$3.00/head
Saskatchewan	\$3.00/head
Manitoba	\$3.00/head
Quebec	\$0/head
New Brunswick	\$3.00/head
Nova Scotia	\$2.00/head
PEI	\$0/head
Newfoundland	\$0/head

Please call the OCA Office at (519) 824-0334 if you have any questions about the changes that will come into effect on January 1, 2008.