

# Canadian Cattlemen Quality Starts Here

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## LIVERS

Livers are a valuable food, worth \$9-12 per edible liver. If livers have a slight defect, they are downgraded for pet food, which is discounted by approximately \$6. Livers with severe abscesses, flukes, pigmentation, scars or other deformities are condemned.

In the 1999 beef quality audit, 72% of livers went for human food, 14% for pet food, and 14% were condemned. Approximately 70% of the condemnations were due to liver abscesses. Discounts due to severe liver problems were estimated at \$8.8 million.

## PREVENTION OF LIVER ABSCESSSES

- ✓ Manage feed changes and feed bunks
- ✓ Use feed antimicrobials for prevention of liver abscesses according to the label
- ✓ Conduct regular slaughter checks
- ✓ Consult with your herd veterinarian or nutritionist if problems persist

## HEADS AND TONGUES

Heads are the source of cheek and forehead meat. If heads are contaminated at slaughter as a result of in-plant dehorning or regurgitation of rumen content, they must be condemned. Heads may also be condemned for cancer eye and lump jaw. In the 1999 beef audit, 5% of heads were condemned; 61% from contamination, 38% from pathology, and 1% other. Losses were estimated at \$946,161.

To prevent head condemnations, contact your veterinarian on how to manage lump jaws and cancer eye; or cull them early. Dehorn calves prior to weaning or used polled bulls in your breeding program.

Tongues are condemned from contamination or pathology, such as wooden tongue or ulcers. In the 1999 beef audit, 5% of tongues were condemned and 30% were downgraded to #2. Of those condemned, 51% were from contamination, 45% from pathology, and 4% from other reasons. Economic losses were estimated at \$4.2 million.

To prevent tongue discounts, treat wooden tongues according to veterinarian advice and reduce rough feeds that could cause ulcers.

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## WHOLE CARCASS

In the 1999 beef quality audit, 0.3% of carcasses were condemned. In yearlings, 0.1% were condemned; most from disease. In cows, 1.2% were condemned; 70% from disease, 22% from emaciation, and 8% from other causes. Bulls were condemned at the rate of 0.2% from disease. Economic losses were estimated at \$8.2 million dollars.

## PREVENTION

- ✓ Market cattle in a timely manner (while healthy and in good condition)
- ✓ Avoid the use of antimicrobials for treating conditions that may delay shipment; use zero withdrawal products in animals close to slaughter
- ✓ Implement a herd health program with a veterinarian and prevent or treat disease early
- ✓ Practice good animal husbandry
- ✓ Implement humane handling and transportation protocols
- ✓ Maintain proper housing and working facilities to prevent injuries
- ✓ Use recommended practices for on-farm slaughter or euthanasia

*produced by CCA; developed by Dr. Joyce Van Donkersgoed*

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# PREVENTION OF CARCASS CONDEMNATIONS



**You can make a  
difference right now  
and improve your  
returns!**

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