



NEWS LINE

For Release February 28, 2008

RCMP Livestock Investigator says message well-received

Nothing is so good that it couldn't be better but RCMP Livestock Investigator Cpl. Dave Heaslip says the message of the need for the humane welfare of livestock is being well-received. "We've advertised throughout. All the provincial agencies, Alberta Transportation, RCMP detachments, auction markets and various groups such as Alberta Farm Animal Care (AFAC) get the message out. They utilize each cent they get in a real positive way."

RCMP livestock investigators work with the livestock industry in all areas of livestock investigation which includes stolen animals, fraud and the welfare of animals during transportation. Cpl. Heaslip says a current transportation concern involves the trucking of horses from the United States. "Our group has taken a pro-active approach to inform truckers of Canadian standards. We will not tolerate deficiencies in animal welfare. The issue that gives us a bad name involves the shipment of horses in 'pots' - a pot belly trailer with various compartments at different levels. Horses can't stand up properly in their normal stance. We've seen them coming to the border and because they can't stand at a normal stance, the animals are in distress which is against the law. We take these incidents very, very seriously."

Only fit animals may be transported. Heaslip adds, "You can ask anyone around - auction market businesses, the beef industry, Alberta beef producers - they want to assure everyone in Canada that we have a good quality product. We market good quality beef. The thing I really like about the Canadian system is the fact we have an open book policy. If something is going wrong, or we detect something, we let everyone know."

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AFAC scripts and clips are also available at www.afac.ab.ca

Clip No. 1:

RCMP livestock investigators work with the livestock industry in all areas of livestock investigation which includes stolen animals, fraud and the welfare of animals during transportation. Cpl. Dave Heaslip, RCMP Livestock Investigator, says a current transportation concern involves the trucking of horses from the United States:

(22... "going in.")

Clip No. 2:

Heaslip emphasizes that only fit livestock may be transported:

(22... "know.")

Clip No. 3:

The humane welfare of livestock message is effective and is well-received, adds Heaslip:

(19... "job.")

For further information contact:

Susan Church AFAC Manager

(403) 932-8050