



Increased Collaboration for Farm Animal Care

Dec. 30, 2004: The four farm animal council groups in Canada met in Saskatoon to discuss issues and develop a collaborative strategy for both livestock welfare extension and initiatives to help the public better understand animal agriculture in Canada.

“We recognize the value in building on each other’s resources, especially when our mandates are the same: to advance responsible animal care and reach out to consumers,” said Stewart Stone Chairman of Farm Animal Council Saskatchewan (FACS). Executive board members and staff from Ontario Farm Animal Council (OFAC), Manitoba Farm Animal Council (MFAC), Alberta Farm Animal Care (AFAC) and FACS identified several projects that can be expanded and delivered jointly. These include:

- Livestock handling training resources for youth, farmers, transporters and others in the industry;
- Livestock emergency response resources for police, RCMP and firefighters;
- Livestock welfare information handouts;
- Sharing of activists/issues details and responses;
- Web based resources on welfare research, media information, farm issues and virtual farm tours.

“Each of our organizations must respond to the specialized needs of our respective provincial livestock members, but the time has come to share resource development and expertise across our groups,” said Garry Tolton, Chairman of MFAC. “This is a significant step forward and one that I know will benefit our organization and its members by being able to offer excellent resources with a shared investment.”

The four groups will continue to work together in the cooperative spirit of which they were formed to make the best use of resources on behalf of animal agriculture.

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