



*For immediate release*

March 18, 2005

## **Animal Shippers Meet in Calgary**

**Calgary, AB., March 18, 2005:** Traceability & Security — two issues that affect everyone involved in transport of animals - will be the theme for the international Animal Transportation Association (ATA) Conference to be held in Calgary May 1 – 4, 2005 at the invitation of the Calgary Airport Authority. In cooperation with Alberta Farm Animal Care (AFAC), a Livestock Truckers Workshop will be held on final day of the Conference.

Traceability is a key issue in the live animal industry as countries develop means of permanently identifying all species of animals, their source of origin and tracking them during transport. In Europe, TRACES will be a main component of the EU's traceability plan. In addition, the traceability requirement and increased security during all steps of a shipment place new responsibilities on all parties involved in the animal transport chain.

Attendees at ATA's 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference will learn about the latest procedures in security and recent changes required of the airlines, the port authorities, the forwarders and anti-terrorism training programs available for companies. They will learn about a new satellite-tracking program for animals and about varying countries' animal identification programs.

Attendees will learn how international organizations are now jointly cooperating on creating a standard Code of Practice to serve as a guideline for transport of all animals. They will learn about the changes countries have made to control the spread of disease following an outbreak such as BSE or Avian Influenza as well as the economic and animal welfare impact of such outbreaks. Presentations will focus on dealing with animal incidents through advance planning, cross training and statistical reporting.

Presentations on unique transports will give an inside look at the challenges of grizzly rescues, whooping crane transport, transporting cold water and tropical fish, performance horses, non-human primates and dealing with sheep that are stranded at sea for two months.

A special invitation is being extended to truckers, feedlots and auctions by AFAC who is organizing and sponsoring the **Wednesday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, Livestock Trucking Workshop focusing on The Commercial Transport of Livestock in North America**. Presentations will address:

- ✓ factors that contribute to **stress and recognizing signs of stress during transport**;
- ✓ liability, responsibility and insurance for animal handlers, their equipment and the animals in their care;
- ✓ defining of overloaded versus overcrowded when loading animals;
- ✓ the definition of an unfit animal;

- ✓ use of on-board disinfection systems for trucks;
- ✓ the price of bruised animals upon arrival at market;
- ✓ special needs cargo such as the sensitivity of swine and poultry;
- ✓ the latest regulations on transport of slaughter horses;
- ✓ commercial livestock trucking accidents;
- ✓ training of livestock transporters and;
- ✓ a look at the similarities and differences between the North American, European and Australian trucking industry.

For the May 4<sup>th</sup> Livestock Truckers Workshop Agenda and Registration, click on <http://www.afac.ab.ca/careinfo/transport/transport.htm>. The fee for this one-day portion of the Conference is \$90 CAD, payable to AATA.

The AATA Conference will be held May 1 – 4, 2005 at the Sheraton Suites Calgary Eau Claire in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. The conference and workshop are open to anyone involved in any aspect of the animal transportation industry and provides a unique opportunity to personally discuss what's happening in the industry today, what can be expected in the future and to meet industry leaders around the world. Check AFAC's site for complete conference details and registration information.

- 30 -

**For further information, contact:**

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The Animal [Air] Transportation Association (AATA) is an international membership trade association with over 300 members in 30 countries. AATA's mission is to serve as a resource for those concerned with the humane handling and transportation of animals and to initiate and encourage related organizations to develop "best practices" for animal transport. For more information, contact AATA, 111 East Loop North, Houston, Texas 77029 USA - Tel: +1-713-532-2177, Fax: +1-713-532-2166, [info@aata-animaltransport.org](mailto:info@aata-animaltransport.org) / [www.aata-animaltransport.org](http://www.aata-animaltransport.org)

The Alberta Farm Animal Care (AFAC) Association represents Alberta's livestock industry. Its mandate is to promote responsible animal care.