

New Speaker Program Puts Farm Animal Welfare on the Agenda

January 23, 2007 - A new Speakers' Bureau program designed to increase awareness and understanding of farm animal welfare issues is being launched by Canada's Farm Animal Care Councils.

With the new Farm Animal Welfare Speakers Bureau (FAWSB), funding is available to help groups across Canada access qualified speakers for conferences and seminars on topics related to farm animal welfare and responsible animal management.

"The goal of this program is to get top-notch speakers to talk directly to those who have an impact on animal welfare in this country, including those who work with animals every day," said Shanyn Silinski, Executive Director of the Manitoba Farm Animal Council.

This program is one part of a proactive nation-wide partnership of Alberta Farm Animal Care (AFAC), Manitoba Farm Animal Council (MFAC), the Ontario Farm Animal Council (OFAC), the Farm Animal Council of Saskatchewan (FACS), and the new National Farm Animal Care Council.

The Speaker's Bureau is being coordinated by Adele Buettner of the Farm Animal Council of Saskatchewan. "In agriculture, we're committed to ensuring our animals are well cared for and we look to experts to provide us with new information which helps us to continually improve our management practices," Buettner said. "It's time to spread the word," she concludes.

For more information about how the Speaker's Bureau can help with your program and an application form, call your provincial organization or Adele Buettner at (306) 249-3227. Details and a list of speaker ideas are also posted on the website www.livestockwelfare.com. Groups are not limited to the speaker list, but it is a good starting point that will constantly evolve as new experts are identified or ask to be part of the program. "We encourage people to get to know the farm animal council groups in this project," says Buettner. "Each group is able to assist you in finding the right speaker for your audience."

This is a collective outcome partnership with the Agricultural Adaptation Council in Ontario, the Manitoba Rural Adaptation Council, the Saskatchewan Council for Community Development and the Alberta Agriculture and Food Council. Funding for this project was provided in part through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food Program.

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