



CCA IS THE NATIONAL VOICE OF CANADA'S 60,000 BEEF FARMS

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CPTPP implementation bill to be introduced before House breaks for summer recess

On June 5, International Trade Minister François-Philippe Champagne advised the House of Commons Standing Committee on International Trade that the government intends for Canada to be amongst the first six countries to ratify the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP). Minister Champagne committed to introduce the implementing legislation prior to the House rising for its summer recess, to be amongst the “first wave” of member countries to bring the agreement into force. The CCA applauds the Minister for progressing this important matter.

In the previous edition of Action News, we reported that Minister Champagne had tabled the text of the CPTPP agreement in the House of Commons. This was an important step, and CCA continued to work hard to encourage the government to quickly follow-up with the next step - to introduce a bill to implement the CPTPP agreement. Naturally we are pleased that he has listened to the needs of beef producers and committed to take the action we requested.

CCA collaborated with our Canadian Agri-Food Trade Alliance (CAFTA) partners on an [open letter to the Minister](http://cafta.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/CAFTA-Letter-to-Min-Champagne-May-29-2018.pdf) that was published on May 29, encouraging the bill to be prepared, introduced and passed as expeditiously as possible. (<http://cafta.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/CAFTA-Letter-to-Min-Champagne-May-29-2018.pdf>)

Of course, the bill will need to go through the normal Parliamentary process of being reviewed and passed by the House and Senate when sitting resumes in the fall. In an exchange during Question Period, also on June 5, between the Conservative International Trade Critic Dean Allison and Minister Champagne, the Minister again committed to introduce the bill prior to the House summer recess and the Conservative Party offered to work toward implementing the agreement quickly. It will be a top priority of CCA to work with both the government and official opposition members and senators to ensure that the process moves as expeditiously as possible.

Cattle producers from Alberta and Manitoba lobby Parliament Hill

Cattle producers representing Alberta Beef Producers (ABP) and Manitoba Beef Producers (MBP) travelled to the nation's capital recently to raise awareness on key beef industry issues with policy makers on Parliament Hill.

In this latest round of CCA Fly-In days, ABP chair and co-chair Charlie Christie and Kelly Fraser, along with Chris Israelson and Melanie Wowk, were in Ottawa for a day of meetings with Members of Parliament and Ministerial staff. Increasing market access for Canadian beef was a priority topic for the group, and in their meetings they emphasized the need for Parliament to quickly ratify the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP). Being among the first six member-countries to implement the CPTPP would give Canada a first mover advantage, enabling Canadian beef to be imported into Japan at the same preferential tariff as Australian beef and play a key part in achieving Canada's target of increased annual agri-food exports to \$75 billion by 2025.

The group also discussed Canada's Healthy Eating Strategy, highlighting the nutritional benefits beef provides, and provided evidence on how beef can be part of a healthy, balanced diet. Labour shortages in primary agriculture and meat processing was another issue that was raised. The group stressed that hiring Canadians to fill jobs on-farm and in beef processing is always the first choice for employers in the sector. However, positions continue to go unfilled and the agriculture industry's next alternative is to rely on immigration to fill these positions when Canadians are unavailable. Workers from abroad are supporting positions elsewhere in the value chain filled by Canadians and help to provide further opportunities for Canadian workers who are interested in making a career in agriculture.

On May 29, MBP travelled to Ottawa to discuss their priority issues with MPs, Senators and Ministerial staff. The group included MBP President Ben Fox, Kris Kristjanson, Mike Duguid, and staff Brian Lemon and Maureen Cousins. One policy issue the Manitoba producers focused on was proposed changes to the Transportation of Animals regulations, which is of particular interest to the province given its central geography and operating environment where cattle are often transported for processing to the west, east and south. The group underscored the positive welfare outcomes for transported cattle in Canada, where over 99 per cent of beef animals reach their destination in good condition and incident-free as evidenced in Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada research.

They also stressed that some aspects of the proposed changes to the Health of Animals regulations are concerning, as the decrease in maximum allowable time in transit for cattle may not improve welfare outcomes given the increased frequency of unloading and reloading of cattle, which is where the highest risk for injury occurs. Beef producers want to improve animal welfare outcomes and want to ensure that any amended regulations do not inadvertently move this number farther away from 100 per cent. The proposed regulatory changes were published in Canada Gazette 1 in December 2016, which allowed national and provincial cattle associations provide comments on these changes. CFIA has indicated that they are working through the regulatory process and suggested that the proposal could hit Canada Gazette 2 by the end of 2018.

Water management and infrastructure was another critical item brought forward by MBP. The threat posed by flooding and ongoing concern over water management is a key limitation around expanding Manitoba's beef herd. MBP strongly supports the commitments by the federal and Manitoba governments to the long-needed Lake Manitoba and Lake St. Martin Outlet Channels Project. Swift completion of this work is critical to the Manitoba beef industry.



ABP met with several MPs during its fly-in day, including MP Glen Motz



MBP met with MP Robert Sopuck during their fly-in day.



ICYMI: CCA welcomes new General Manager

Earlier this month, CCA welcomed David Moss to the team as General Manager, effective June 1. Moss assumes the role from Rob McNabb, who is retiring after 20 years with the CCA.

Moss joins the CCA at a transformative time in the Canadian beef industry, with the National Beef Strategy positioned to reshape the sector going forward. Moss brings a thorough knowledge of the North American beef industry to the role, offering more than 25 years of practical, hands-on experience in beef production, feedlot management, animal health, verification processes, and animal identification and traceability, the latter gained through over a decade of operational leadership at Livestock Identification Services Ltd. and an innovative integrated traceability start-up.

To see the full news release and backgrounder on Moss's career, click [here](#).

(<http://www.cattle.ca/assets/Article/9cb2231e30/CCA-News-Release-CCA-welcomes-new-General-Manager-06-01-2018-.pdf>)

EU GEP resource videos now available with French subtitles

The CCA has released a French version of its video series to help cattle producers and feedlot operators navigate the requirements of the Canadian Program for Certifying Freedom from Growth Enhancing Products (GEPs) for Export of Beef to the EU. Enrolment in this program is necessary for cattle to be eligible for the EU market.

The seven videos from CCA provide overviews of GEPs and the EU, and the Canadian Program for Certifying Freedom from Growth Enhancing Products, as well as specific information on initial enrolment, annual on-farm assessments and record keeping requirements for cow-calf operations, feedlot and backgrounding operations, and mixed operations. Find the video series, along with French subtitled versions, under 'Overview Videos' at: <http://www.cattle.ca/market-access/market-access-requirements/eu/>

CANFAX MARKET BRIEFS

Week ending June 8th, 2018

(in Cdn\$)		This wk.	Change
↓	Fed Steers	142.99	-0.73
↑	Fed heifers	142.63	+0.45
↑	Feeder Steers	---	+2.44
↑	Feeder heifers	---	+2.55
↑	Cdn Feeder Index	188.50	+3.91
↑	Cdn Calf Index	218.78	+6.79
↓	D1/D2 cows	93.25	-1.19
↑	Slaughter bulls	113.55	+1.36
(in US\$)			
↓	Cdn spot dollar	77.09	-0.14
↑	Jun live cattle	108.37	+3.32
↓	Aug feeder cattle	146.07	-1.33

Celebrating Environmental Stewardship

Celebrating Environmental Stewardship profiles provincial stewardship award recipients in the running for CCA's national **The Environmental Stewardship Award (TESA)** in 2018 (<http://www.cattle.ca/sustainability/the-environmental-stewardship-award/>), to be announced at the **Canadian Beef Industry Conference** in August (<http://canadianbeefindustryconference.com/wordpress/>). A common theme among recipients is a profound sense of obligation to care for land and animals. Through sharing their stories, insights, beliefs and values, readers can gain perspective about the relationship between stewardship and cattle production and the benefits of conservation to society.

In this issue, we feature Sandra Vos, owner/operator of a cow-calf operation in Brant County, ON and 2018 recipient of Beef Farmers of Ontario's The Environmental Stewardship Award. This is the third installment in the series which began in the **April 16 edition of Action News** with Alberta Beef Producer's 2018 Environmental Stewardship Award recipient, Shoestring Ranch, owned and operated by Ian and Carman Murray (<https://us1.campaign-archive.com/?e=&u=77960ebbac4f7a733b0b3d14d&id=1457cbad13>). In the **May 14 edition** we profiled Brian & Sonja Harper, Circle H Farms, Manitoba Beef Producers (MBP) 2018 environmental stewardship award recipient (<https://us1.campaign-archive.com/?e=&u=77960ebbac4f7a733b0b3d14d&id=a2c89025f5>).



Nurturing the land comes naturally for former nurse

By Geoff Geddes

She may be a relative newcomer to farming, but the winner of Beef Farmers of Ontario's (BFO) The Environmental Stewardship Award for 2018 brings other experience that has helped her make an immediate impact. Unlike most of her colleagues in agriculture, Sandra Vos is a first-generation farmer who completed a Master of Science in Nursing and then made an "overnight" career change. "I bought a farm which was in my uncle's family, and in my way of thinking, if I owned a farm, I better learn to be a farmer. I chose beef and hay because I thought that eventually, I could learn to handle those two things by myself, and along the way, I discovered I did like running my own business." In the process, she has faced a steep learning curve, and found an interesting connection between her past and present occupations.

"Because of my health background, I have always been focused on wellness promotion, and I felt strongly that good food starts with good soil," she said.

Though she is married (husband Leo) and has three children (Aaron (33), Jen (30) and Cory (29)), Vos is essentially the sole operator and owner of an 80-acre cow-calf operation in Brant County. Given that reality, she knows that proper management is critical for success, and this is doubly true in caring for the environment. With that in mind, she focuses on pasture management, caring for waterways and protecting wildlife habitat, and it all begins with a sound rotational grazing system.

Amazing grazing

"Before I had cattle, I went to New Zealand and was amazed at how many animals they have on a given amount of land and how often they move them. I decided that since I can't rent more acres, I must really care for the land I have and get the most out of it," Vos said.



With 80 acres to work with, moving the cattle regularly enables her to maximize the potential of her limited land base by allowing adequate recovery time for each section of pasture. In the winter, she brings in about 100 bales of hay to augment her own hay supply, allowing cattle to graze longer. She also installed above ground water lines, providing easy water access for the cattle and allowing her to fence off the creek to keep cattle out of the waterway. At the same time, fencing off the bush area has provided a space for deer and birds, while piling any downed trees and scrub in some of the pastures serves as both a habitat for wildlife and a natural scratching post for the cattle.

As Vos decided from the outset, caring for the environment begins and ends with the soil, and her approach is a feel-good story that is also good for business.

Story time

"Because I am mostly in permanent coverage and don't plant annual crops, I am getting by with minimal disturbance of the soil, and that's unusual in this part of Ontario. People buy my beef because of the environmental story and I'm proud of that. Part of the reason customers support me as a local beef farmer is that they like the idea of having cows on grass and working together with nature."

Incorporating environmentally sound practices in your operation is challenging for those with decades in the business, and even more so when you're just learning to farm. In that respect, her academic background has served her well.

"I'm big on research, so I went to workshops, did a lot of reading and prepared my environmental farm plan. I also applied for provincial government funding to help make changes. One thing I've found is that while everyone has theories about what's good or bad for the environment, some theories are based in sound science and others are just the latest trend. For me, monitoring the biodiversity on the farm tells me if the environment is getting healthier each year and if we're on the right track."



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If Vos had any doubts about her choices, The Environmental Stewardship Award should dispel them. She was both honored and humbled by the accolade and is pleased that it gives her a chance to meet likeminded farmers across Canada.

Sometimes less really is more

“When you farm mostly by yourself, it’s hard to know sometimes whether your ideas are off the wall or logical. I tell my customers in Ontario that the size of my farm is equivalent to the space most people out west need just to turn their equipment around, but it’s a place where I can experiment and adapt. I see my operation as a micro environment that demonstrates what can happen to land if you apply a few solid principles.”

While there is still much to learn for this relative rookie to farming, Vos is guided by her past and her passion.

“I learned in nursing how to read studies and I transplanted that knowledge into the agricultural community. More and more, I find myself in awe of the power of nature and its ability to heal itself. If you’re going to farm in harmony with nature, you must be patient. I never bought into the idea that you have to spray for this and fertilize for that, as I feel that if you take care of the land, it takes care of you. That means treating it with respect and working with it as much as you can; it was here before me, and it will be here long after I’m gone.”



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Pain, pain, go away

With spring brandings and calf processing in full swing, producers are thinking about which practices or products will reduce pain from these procedures. Pain control is becoming a priority among producers and scientists as anesthetics and analgesics, including non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, are more readily available.

In a past BCRC webinar Dr. John Campbell, with the Western College of Veterinary Medicine, discussed how producers can mitigate pain effectively, practical ways to manage pain in real life conditions, and what producers' responsibilities are when it comes to pain management.

Follow the link to read more, including what the requirements for pain management are according to the Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Beef Cattle, or watch the full webinar: <http://www.beefresearch.ca/blog/pain-pain-go-away/>

CCA Action News

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The Canadian Cattlemen's Association is the national voice for Canada's beef cattle industry representing 60,000 beef farms and feedlots.

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