Canadian Cattlemen’s Association

News Release

Canadian Cattle Industry Overcomes Major Hurdle in BSE Recovery

(April 5, 2006) The request by U.S. trade-protectionist group R-CALF for a permanent injunction against Canadian live cattle and beef has been denied by the U.S. District Court in Billings, Montana. The case had been pending before Judge Richard Cebull of that court since last July. Today Judge Cebull issued his order denying R-CALF’s motion for summary judgment.

“This is great news for cattle producers, and one that we’ve been awaiting a long time,” says Canadian Cattlemen’s Association (CCA) President Hugh Lynch-Staunton. “When the border reopened to under 30 month of age feeder and slaughter cattle last July, many Canadians thought the BSE issue was over. We in the cattle industry were well aware that a decision against us in the court in Montana could have shut the border again. It’s a great relief to have the decision announced in our favour.”

R-CALF has the right to appeal Judge Cebull’s decision to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. However, it was the Ninth Circuit that reversed the preliminary injunction ordered by Judge Cebull that temporarily halted the border re-opening to Canadian live cattle imports last year. The Ninth Circuit also denied R-CALF’s request for a rehearing of that reversal.

Lynch-Staunton notes that several issues remain to be resolved before North American trade is completely normalized, especially reopening the border to over 30 month cattle and beef and breeding cattle. The CCA continues working to achieve normalized trade in all markets.

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CCA is the National Voice for the Beef Cattle Industry, representing over 90,000 Cattle Producers