

Korea FTA and TPP Negotiations

- The Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA) supports an ambitious entry into the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiation. We ask you to ensure that exporting industries are not sacrificed before negotiations even begin.
- The TPP could be very good for beef and cattle especially if Japan participates and removes their 38.5% tariff to beef imports.
- The Canada-Korea Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations need to be finalized to ensure Canada is not left behind by countries that have FTAs with Korea, including the U.S.
- A letter to the Minister of Agri-Food and Agriculture Canada, Minister of International Trade and Prime Minister indicating support of both these issues would help to move these files along.

Country of Origin Labeling – Next Steps

- Early in 2012, the U.S. must decide whether to appeal the World Trade Organization (WTO) ruling on Country of Origin Labeling (COOL). MPs must help Congress see that it would be best to forego the appeal and move toward resolving this issue.
- The solution to the COOL issue is surgical and does not require a complete repeal of COOL. We are seeking a resolution that eliminates the need for segregation of imported livestock and meat during US processing.
- The current U.S. focus on exports and Canada's status as a high value destination for beef and other products provides an opportunity to improve border flows with the U.S. All opportunities to work with lawmakers in the U.S. need to be seized to maximize ways of integrating the border for North American industries like the beef and livestock sector.

Beef Cattle Sector Objectives for CETA

- The Canada-Europe Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) may represent the most significant opportunity in a generation to create new market access for Canadian beef exports.
- There are many layers of barriers preventing Canadian beef realizing the potential of the EU market, including both tariff and technical barriers. All layers must be addressed to produce meaningful access.
- The CCA strongly supports the CETA negotiations. Whether we support or oppose the final agreement will depend on whether it provides meaningful access for beef.

Costs and Competitiveness

- The Canadian Food Inspection Agency's (CFIA) mandate includes safety of Canadians and authority for export certification. The lack of a VP for Exports means accountability for the export function is lacking. MPs can help to ensure this function is handled in the same excellent way consumer safety is managed.
- Cattle transport and usage of antimicrobial agents in the cattle industry are well managed under the current regulatory and legislative framework. Changes to a well functioning system need to be carefully considered as harm could arise as easily as benefit.
- Removing government participation from the ethanol industry (tariffs, subsidies and mandates) will allow the most profitable, sustainable use of feed grain to prevail.

Investments in Beef Research

- Federal funding for beef research needs to be increased and industry:government leverages maintained in order to ensure continued improvements in beef production efficiency and industry competitiveness.
- The Beef Cattle Industry Science Cluster provides a strong foundation to improve industry competitiveness. The program must continue under Growing Forward 2 over five full years, with a seamless transition from the current Cluster in order to maintain and enhance research programs.
- Industry has increased its funding of research by 150% in recent years.
- Increased funding and better rules for research funding are part of CCA's request for Budget 2012.