



**Canadian Cattlemen's Association**

## **News Release**

### **Canadian Cattlemen's Association Continues Lobbying Internationally**

October 18, 2004

Officials of the Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA) have returned from international meetings at which they lobbied on behalf of Canadian cattle producers with representatives from Japan, China, Hong Kong, Korea, Australia, New Zealand, Mexico, the United States, and Central American countries.

CCA President Stan Eby accompanied Federal Minister of Agriculture Andy Mitchell on a trade mission to Asia. During the mission an agreement was signed with China to reinstate imports of Canadian bovine semen and embryos. Canada had been China's number one supplier of bovine genetics prior to the diagnosis of BSE and subsequent trade disruptions.

Eby says there were other positive developments out of the mission. "Representatives of the Japanese government indicated that there would be one trade deal for North American beef, not separate agreements for the U.S. and for Canada. Japanese importers and distributors are anxious to resume importing North American beef. Hong Kong importers are if anything even more aggressively anxious to resume imports. Korea appears to be watching what decisions will be made by other countries, particularly Japan.

"While in Japan the Canadian delegation promoted the fact that Canada has a mandatory identification program for cattle. The Japanese showed a great deal of interest in our ID program."

CCA Vice President Hugh Lynch-Staunton and other CCA representatives attended a 5 Nations Beef Conference in Guadalajara, Mexico. The 5 Nations Beef Conference brings together cattle industry leaders from the beef exporting nations of Canada, the United States, Australia, New Zealand and Mexico. A representative of an alliance of the Central American countries was also in attendance.

Outcomes of the meeting include plans to hold an international health and trade policy summit prior to the next meeting of the OIE (World Organization for Animal Health). Senior animal health officials, senior government trade policy officials and senior industry representatives will be invited in an effort to positively influence global trade practices and

outcomes at the OIE. The 5 Nations group will also spearhead joint activities for consumer food safety and quality assurance promotions internationally. The 5 Nations group will also continue to work together to ensure cattle identification programs are consistent between countries.

“Leaders of the cattle industry groups from all the countries involved in the meeting expressed sympathy for Canadian cattle producers,” says Lynch-Staunton. “I believe we can count on their support in our efforts to normalize trade and to stop countries from overreacting to BSE.”

**For further information:**

Cindy McCreath, CCA Communications Manager 403-275-8558

**[www.cattle.ca](http://www.cattle.ca)**

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