



Canadian Cattlemen's Association

News Release

Canadian Cattlemen's Association Commends Japanese Decision to Re-Open Market to Canadian Beef

(December 12, 2005) Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA) President Stan Eby today commended the Government of Japan on its decision to re-open its border to beef from Canada and from the U.S. The Government's decision follows a recommendation made by the Japan Food Safety Commission last week that found negligible risk between beef from Canada and the U.S. and beef from Japan.

Japan was Canada's third largest market for beef prior to the market closing in 2003 following diagnosis of BSE in Canada. In 2002 Canada exported just over \$81 million worth of beef to Japan. Japan was an important market for certain products that are difficult to sell in Canada. Selling these products into Japan helped increase the value of Canadian cattle.

Once risk assessments and final administrative procedures are complete, the Japanese market will re-open to beef from cattle verified to be less than 21 months of age. Canadian cattle producers have been registering birth dates of cattle on the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency's age verification website, which recently recorded its one-millionth birth date registration.

"I'd like to express the appreciation of Canadian cattle producers to Canada's team of negotiators that has worked hard to regain access to the Japanese market," says Eby. "I would also like to acknowledge those who were serving on the Canadian Cattlemen's Association Board at the time Canada's cattle identification system was conceived. The Canadian Cattle Identification Agency had the foresight to build a system that is flexible enough to meet the industry's changing needs. When the system was launched in 2001 we did not envision that we would need to be able to verify when our animals are born, but when the situation arose, we already had a system in place.

"Canada's age verification system may prove to be a big advantage for Canada in the Japanese market. I urge all cattle producers to register their animals' birth dates. I look forward to Canada's aggressive re-entry into the Japanese beef market."

The Canadian Cattle Identification Agency age verification website can be accessed at www.canadaid.ca

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