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**Canadian Cattlemen's Association Monthly Report**  
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By Theresa Keddy, CCA Communications Manager

**Russia Opens Border to Canadian Breeding Cattle**

The Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA) welcomed the announcement on October 19, 2006 that the Russian Federation agreed to lift its ban on the import of Canadian breeding cattle. Russia also indicated that it intends to lift its ban on the importation of certain boneless beef products, subject to final approval of technical conditions.

This is great news for the Canadian cattle industry. Russia is very eager to purchase Canadian breeding animals and this gives Canadian breeders an important outlet to a significant market. Before Canada's first case of BSE was detected in May 2003, Russian imports of Canadian breeding cattle and beef were more than \$4 million. This announcement is the first step in fully restoring trade with Russia.

In addition to its agreement to lift its ban on the import of Canadian breeding cattle, Russia has conditionally agreed to lift the ban on boneless beef derived from cattle under 30 months of age. This is dependent on continued negotiations proceeding smoothly and a three-month audit where Russian officials will visit Canada to approve beef plants and shipments of live cattle.

**Five Nations Beef Conference Moves to an Alliance**

The Five Nations Beef Conference will now be referred to as the Five Nations Beef Alliance (FNBA) after members of the group, consisting of national beef producer associations from five countries, met in Australia on October 19 - 20, 2006 and decided to revise the name to better reflect the group's mission and objectives.

The five member groups, consisting of the CCA, the Cattle Council of Australia, Meat and Wool New Zealand, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (United States) and the Confederacion Nacional de Organizaciones Ganaderas (Mexico), represent over half of the world's beef exports.

“The goal of this group is to increase the overall demand for beef while eliminating non-scientific and political trade restrictions,” states CCA President Hugh Lynch-Staunton. “Its key strength is that all five countries are collaborating on industry issues and initiatives, such as animal health, and we aim to be consistent in how we approach these issues. The term ‘alliance’ is a better reflection of what we’re doing.”

The Five Nations Beef Conference has been in existence for over 25 years. Historically, it focused on trade policy and will now be extended towards expanding market access and improving market security by ensuring sound scientific based standards are adopted and all unjustified non-tariff barriers are eliminated. The group has also agreed to work together on animal health and welfare issues, ensuring they are science-based, outcome focused and do not impede trade.

“One of the CCA’s strategic goals is to become increasingly active in international standard setting. We’re working with other nations to adopt a science-based approach to animal health and trade and we believe the term ‘alliance’ and expanding the FNBA’s objectives will greatly impact its ability to influence policy and put us one step further towards meeting our objectives,” says Lynch-Staunton.

Canada will serve as official secretariat for the Five Nations Beef Alliance. The next meeting will be held in the United States in May 2008.

### **Cattle Producers Host Government BBQ**

In early October, a number of cattle producers from across the country hosted a barbecue for MPs, senators, and others on Parliament Hill in Ottawa. This was very well attended and producers took the opportunity to thank members of the Canadian government for their work on regaining trade to export markets and to remind them that further work is required. The CCA also met privately with MPs to discuss a number of current issues and priority action items. Agriculture Minister Chuck Strahl welcomed the CCA and said he was pleased to work with a group that develops constructive proposals to help government help cattle producers.