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Canadian Cattlemen's Association Monthly Report
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Feed Ban Enhancements Announced

On June 26, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) announced that the feed ban was to be expanded to eliminate all specified risk material from animal feed, pet food and fertilizers. After the first case of BSE in Canada, an international review panel investigated BSE in Canada, and this announcement is the final step in response to the recommendations that were made at that time.

The new outcome-based approach will be effective on July 12, 2007 in order to allow the industry to make the necessary changes. Additional time will be provided to smaller establishments to achieve full compliance. The CCA had been advocating a harmonized approach with the U.S. to the feed ban enhancement. At this time, the U.S. has proposed an outcome-based system with a short list of specified risk material to be excluded from the feed chain. It is believed that these approaches are essentially equivalent measures. The purpose of the enhancement is to accelerate the eradication of BSE and to provide further assurances to a number of export markets.

Prohibition Order

When BSE was discovered in the U.S., a prohibition order was placed on imports of feeder and breeding cattle and beef products from cattle over thirty months. On June 29, 2006, this was amended to effectively expand access to all beef and beef products and cattle of all ages, excluding breeding stock born before 1999. This measure is consistent with the international guidelines set by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE).

The CCA has been advocating for this policy since the initial case in the U.S. was discovered, using a science-based approach to trade and setting a valuable precedent for the rest of the world.

The CCA continues to push for fully normalized trade with the U.S., including all beef and live cattle over thirty months of age and breeding stock. It is hoped that the change in Canada's import policy provides additional rationale for the U.S. to move forward on the next rule.

Surveillance Program Identifies BSE Case in Manitoba

Canada's BSE surveillance program, which routinely tests animals exhibiting neurological symptoms or other signs of BSE, has confirmed an additional case of the disease in a very old cross-bred beef cow in Manitoba.

The animal was at least fifteen years old, born well before the implementation of the feed ban and demonstrates the effectiveness of our surveillance program. Since Canada enhanced its surveillance program in 2004, it has tested over 115,000 animals, surpassing the recommended level of testing according to the international guidelines set by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE). In fact, Canada has already reached its target for this year, testing nearly 31,500 in the first six months of 2006.

The purpose of the surveillance program is to measure the level of BSE in the Canadian cattle herd. Other measures, such as removal of specified risk materials from all cattle slaughtered, ensure food safety.

Diagnosis of a few additional cases of BSE in Canada is not unexpected and should not impact current trade in beef or live cattle.

Convention

The CCA Annual Convention is being hosted this year by the Ontario Cattlemen's Association and will be held in Niagara Falls, August 15 - 16, 2006. Working under the theme "Trade: Our Future", the program features international industry experts exploring the current and future state of agriculture and beef trade in the international market. Specifically, CCA is pleased to welcome Darren Hudson reporting on the Future of Animal Agriculture study recently conducted; Fiona Boal of Rabobank International exploring beef trade flows; Ted Schroeder sharing his recent research on international consumer attitudes and perceptions about beef product safety; and Patty Townsend reporting on the status of international trade agreements influencing beef trade.

In addition to the speakers program, CCA will also host its annual golf tournament at the Legends of the Niagara golf club on August 15 and its annual convention BBQ event (sponsored by Cargill Foods) on August 16, 2006 where delegates can visit and network with Canadian and international industry leaders.

Full program details and information on hotel accommodations is available at www.cattle.ca (under the CCA calendar section) or by calling (403) 275-8558.