



## Beef-Cattle Value Chain Round Table

November 20, 2008

The Honourable Gerry Ritz  
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food  
Sir John Carling Building  
930 Carling Avenue  
Ottawa, ON, K1A 0C5

Dear Minister Ritz:

I am writing to you in my capacity as the Industry Co-Chair of the Beef-Cattle Value Chain Round Table (BVCRT). On behalf of the BVCRT industry members, I wish to report a number of important decisions from the November 5-6, 2008 meeting.

1. The BVCRT industry members unanimously supported the report submitted by the Canadian Cattlemen's Association entitled "**Enhancing Canada's Technical Market Access Capabilities for Agriculture**". We recommend its timely adoption and implementation.

On November 4, 2008, this report was presented to senior officials from Agriculture & Agri-food Canada, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, and the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade at a full day workshop that involved both the beef/cattle and pork/hog industries. The report outlines a number of important recommendations to establish Canada as the world leader in technical market access negotiations. Between \$8 and \$16 billion in additional benefits could be realized in Canada's red meat sectors depending on our ability to recover and sustain full market access.

2. The BVCRT industry members unanimously agreed on the need for a strong and immediate Government of Canada response to the new mandatory country of origin labeling (COOL) requirements in the United States of America. We unanimously recommend the Government of Canada take steps to initiate either a WTO or NAFTA challenge.
3. The BVCRT industry members strongly support all possible efforts to obtain timely and commercially meaningful access into our key export markets. Although our belief is that we should be given full OIE access, we do not believe this is possible in a number of these markets in the short term. The industry is willing to accept partial but commercially meaningful access as a step to eventually reach the goal of full access. A short summary of market access priorities is attached.



The next meeting of the BVCRT is scheduled for February 2009 and will focus on a number of important regulatory priorities including the timely approval of products and plant varieties used in the production of cattle and processing of beef. We are pleased that

the Deputy Minister and the President of the CFIA have indicated they plan to attend those important discussions.

We also wish to extend an invitation to you to attend the next meeting and to share the Government of Canada's priorities for your new term.

Given the prominence of international trade issues in this report, I am taking the liberty of forwarding a copy to the Minister for International Trade.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis Laycraft", written in a cursive style.

Dennis Laycraft  
Industry Co- Chair  
Beef-Cattle Value Chain Round Table.

Cc: Hon. Stockwell Day, Minister of International Trade  
Cc: BVCRT Members  
Cc: Canadian Pork Council



## **Non-US Market Access Priorities: Beef and beef products – November 2008**

In all markets, our ultimate objective is to regain full access for all SRM-removed beef and beef products from cattle of all ages. In the short term, we would seek staged market access according to the following commercially meaningful steps:

### **South Korea**

- Step 1 Trade in all edible beef and veal products derived from cattle under the age of thirty months.
- Step 2 Trade in all SRM-removed rendered beef and veal products derived from cattle of all ages and protein-free tallow.
- Step 3 Trade in all edible beef products derived from cattle of all ages.

### **Japan**

- Step 1 Expansion of the existing protocol to allow trade in all edible beef products derived from cattle under the age of thirty months.  
  
Registration of federal plants that do not own slaughter facilities.
- Step 2 Trade in all edible beef products derived from cattle of all ages.  
  
Trade in SRM-removed meat and bone meal derived from cattle of all ages and protein-free tallow.

### **Indonesia**

- Step 1 Trade in SRM removed meat and bone-meal and protein-free tallow.
- Step 2 Expansion of the existing protocol to allow trade in bone-in beef products derived from cattle of all ages.



### **Taiwan**

- Step 1      Expansion of the existing protocol to allow trade in bone-in beef derived from cattle under the age of 30 months.
- Trade in offals derived from cattle under 30 months.
- Step 2      Trade in all edible beef products derived from cattle of all ages.
- Trade in SRM-removed meat and bone meal derived from cattle of all ages and protein-free tallow.

### **Hong Kong**

- Step 1      Accept and implement Hong Kong's existing offer to expand trade to include bone-in rib cuts derived from cattle under the age of 30 months.
- Step 2      Implement the remaining phases of Hong Kong's four-stage market normalization offer, with specific effort to establish time lines for implementation of each subsequent step.

### **Mexico**

- Step 1      Obtain system approval for establishments exporting bone-in beef.
- Step 2      Trade in all edible beef products derived from cattle of all ages.
- Step 3      Trade in SRM-removed meat and bone meal derived from cattle of all ages and protein-free tallow.

### **The Peoples' Republic of China**

- Step 1      Trade in all edible beef and veal products derived from cattle under the age of thirty months.
- Step 2      Trade in all SRM-removed rendered beef and veal products derived from cattle of all ages and protein-free tallow.



Step 3 Trade in all edible beef products derived from cattle of all ages.

### **Russia**

Step 1 Registration of all original applicant beef processing establishments for export approval to Russia (without requiring that each company first nominate a Russia importer).

Step 2 Trade in bone-in beef derived from cattle under the age of 30 months.

Step 3 Trade in all edible beef products derived from cattle of all ages.

Step 4 Trade in SRM-removed meat and bone meal derived from cattle of all ages and protein-free tallow.

### **Saudi Arabia**

Step 1 Obtain equivalency with US beef access to Saudi Arabia.

Step 2 Trade in all SRM-removed rendered beef and veal products derived from cattle of all ages and protein-free tallow.

Step 3 Trade in all edible beef products derived from cattle of all ages.

Other priority markets for trade in SRM-removed tallow and meat and bone meal include the United States, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Thailand and Malaysia.