



CCA Welcomes First Steps to Increased Interprovincial Beef Trade

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Calgary, AB – The Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA) is pleased with the progress made regarding interprovincial beef trade at the meeting of Federal/Provincial/Territorial (FPT) Ministers of Agriculture in Saskatoon.

The creation of pilot projects aimed at expanding inter-provincial trade in meat is an important step in maintaining the competitiveness of the beef business in Canada, especially as the USDA made changes to allow interstate trade of state inspected beef last year.

The CCA hopes the proposed plan leads to more viable options for farmers and ranchers to market their cattle.

"This type of project, along with the Government of Canada's announcement of details for the offsetting of SRM costs earlier this week, should help to ensure meat processors continue to choose to process cattle in Canada," said the CCA President Travis Toews.

Increasing opportunities for marketing provincially-inspected beef was one of several requests the CCA made to FPT Ministers of Agriculture prior to their July 8 meeting in Saskatoon.

The CCA is encouraged to see the Ministers' commitment to continue working on insurance-based business risk management ideas, acknowledgement of the benefits of market access expansion and a commitment to science-based regulation. The CCA stressed the need to address these concerns to a round table of Agriculture Ministers, Deputy Ministers and industry representatives.

During the meeting, Toews underscored the importance of an ambitious commitment to the ongoing Canada EU Trade negotiations. Toews also highlighted the need for provincial action where the federal government has acted to offset the extra costs of SRM regulations, and for preventing traceability requirements from becoming another regulatory cost to producers.

The Ministers also heard from Toews on the subject of AgriStability improvements and a request to ensure AgriRecovery and other programs do not discourage seeding of late crops to be used as livestock feed.

The recent announcement of funds to address the unprecedented rains in the prairies is welcomed by producers struggling to make management decisions. The CCA is pleased that AgriRecovery is working quickly and looks forward to further details.

"This quick response is impressive. If provinces can ensure late seeding is not discouraged and that hay and pasture land is treated equitably, this will be a feather in the caps of all the Ministers involved," said Toews.

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