



Canadian Cattlemen's Association

News Release

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Canadian Cattlemen's Association Presents First Annual Feedlot Environmental Stewardship Award

The Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA) and Merial Canada are pleased to announce the winner of the first annual Feedlot Environmental Stewardship Award. The award was presented to Highland Feeders of Vegreville, Alberta at the CCA Semi-Annual Meeting and Convention on August 16 in Charlottetown, P.E.I. Highland Feeders is owned by Bernie and Mike Kotelko.

The award recognizes outstanding efforts of feedlot operators in implementing management practices that protect the environment. Highland Feeders' driving momentum is the principle of environmental stewardship, underlined by economic common sense. They believe good management practices mean good environmental practices, because the same resources that are important to the environment – soil, air, water – are essential for agriculture.

Highland Feeders protects soil and water through effective manure management. Highland ensures that nutrients are spread evenly across its landbase rather than overloading fields adjacent to the feeding operation. In order to prevent over accumulation of salts from manure, rations are carefully balanced with minimal levels of sodium chloride and phosphorus. Best management practices are used in the application of manure to Highland's 5,500 acres of crop-land that produce 40,000 metric tonnes of silage for the feeding operation. Their program includes manure analysis, soil analysis, crop nutritional requirements, manure application rates, application timing and incorporation.

Highland sees their cattle as sentinels of the environment in that cattle need clean, abundant water, and protecting this resource protects profitability. Wells supplying the feedlot are sampled weekly. Highland has voluntarily installed several monitoring wells between the feedlot and other neighbours to provide detailed water quality information. Pens have been constructed to take advantage of the natural slope of the land, and water run-off from rain storms and snow melt is contained in catch basins, preventing it from entering surface water bodies.

Highland Feeders contributes to the cattle industry by undertaking research for the benefit of all. Projects include trials in manure composting and harvesting energy from manure.

The CCA and Merial Canada are proud to present the first annual Feedlot Environmental Stewardship Award to Highland Feeders. Merial is an international animal health company with a focus on the development of products to keep livestock and pets healthy and productive. Merial is a Merck and Aventis company.

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CCA is the National Voice for the Beef Cattle Industry, representing over 100,000 Cattle Producers