



Canadian Cattlemen's Association

News Release

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Alberta Cattle Ranch Receives National Environmental Stewardship Award

Last Sands Ranch at Milk River, Alberta has been honoured with receiving The Environmental Stewardship Award (TESA), presented each year by the Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA) to a cattle producer doing a particularly outstanding job of protecting and enhancing the environment. Last Sands Ranch is operated by Roy and Christy Audet.

The award was presented to the Audets at the CCA Semi-Annual Meeting and Convention, held August 9 – 11 in Midland, Ontario.

Roy Audet has taken farmland in this moisture-poor region of south-east Alberta out of grain production and seeded it back to grass to better manage the sensitive ecosystem. This has helped prevent soil erosion and the spread of alkali (salt) patches. He grazes his native and tame pastures in a rotation to minimize erosion and maximize soil stability. He is also involved in management practices to enhance the natural green zones along the riverbank on his property.

To share his knowledge Audet became a founding member of the Milk River Ranchers Association, promoting water conservation and pasture management. He was also instrumental in helping develop public access points on the river to build good relationships with boaters who also share the Milk River ecosystem.

In accepting the award Audet noted that caring for the environment makes good business sense for ranchers and their families as only through sustainable management will new generations be able to continue the farming and ranching tradition.

At the award presentation Merial Canada announced a 3-year commitment to sponsor the TESA award. Through Merial's support the Environmental Stewardship Award will be expanded next year to include an award for feedlot environmental stewardship.

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