



Canadian Cattlemen's Association

News Release

August 20, 2003

National Environmental Stewardship Award Presented at Canadian Cattlemen's Association Convention

The winners of the ninth annual national Environmental Stewardship Award for cow-calf producers are Bruce and Valve Forrest of Thunder Bay Ontario. The award was presented on August 14 at the Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA) Semi-Annual Meeting and Convention in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. Generously supported by Merial Canada (Ivomec), the Environmental Stewardship Award is presented each year to a Canadian cattle producer doing a particularly outstanding job of caring for the environment.

The national Environmental Stewardship Award winner is selected from the winners of stewardship awards presented by provincial cattle associations. Other nominees this year were Merv and Shirley Furlong of 150 Mile House in BC, Stephen and Dawn Hughes and Jim and Barbara Hughes of Longview, Alberta; Raymond and Donna Prefontaine of Lisieux, Saskatchewan; and Hugh and Robert Blair and families of Woodside, Manitoba.

Change has been a constant on the Forrest farm since they developed an Environmental Farm Plan in 1994. They began with two lagoons to catch the runoff from their barnyard. That led to a cementing of their feedlot and main corral. They also put eaves troughs on the barn to divert water away from the livestock yards.

The collection of the runoff was also an important move to protect the water quality of the on-site well. The wells were also built up with clay on the upward slope side to divert surface water away.

The Forrests maintain a grass buffer along the creek at the bottom of the barnyard and control-graze the area lightly in the summer. They have put in riparian fencing along the creek and also fenced around their bush areas and windbreaks. The pastures have been rotationally grazed for over 30 years.

Solid manure is spread on plowed land and disked under. They are in the process of implementing a plan developed through the Ontario Nutrient Management Planning course.

This is the fourth year of a successful partnership between CCA and Merial Canada to recognize and promote excellence in environmental management in the Canadian cattle industry. 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.

For further information:

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CCA is the National Voice for the Beef Cattle Industry, representing over 90,000 Cattle Producers