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## **CCA Announces Winner of the National Environmental Stewardship Award**

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CALGARY, AB – The Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA) would like to congratulate Brian and Shaunere Lane of Claresholm, Alberta, as the winners of the 2007 National Environmental Stewardship Award (TESA). The award was presented at the CCA Semi-Annual Meeting and Convention in Halifax, Nova Scotia on August 15, 2007.

Brown Creek Ranch has a commercial cattle herd, raising both red and black purebred Angus cattle. The Lanes have worked hard over the years to implement a variety of changes to improve the condition of the soil, grass and water sources. Swath and rotational grazing are the basis of those improvements. Eliminating the need for equipment to bring feed to the cattle in the winter and take the manure away has resulted in large energy savings costs.

Water is often scarce in the Claresholm region and the Lanes are committed to protecting the natural springs existing on their land. Their system of cattle watering takes the importance and fragility of the springs into consideration while managing the ranch's riparian areas. These areas are also very important areas for a wide variety of wildlife.

Brian and Shaunere have also developed the Lane's bed and breakfast service and Brown Creek Ranch Vacations considering it an opportunity for Canadian and international guests to see how environmentally friendly and humane animal practices exist in the ranching community.

"It is very exciting and an incredible honour," said Shaunere Lane. "Everyone that was nominated was a worthy recipient."

Also nominated for the award and winners of their provincial competitions were the Milton Family from Valleyview Ranch in Malakwa, British Columbia, Mark Johanson and Deb Hauptstein from M&D Cattle Enterprises Ltd. in Stockholm, Saskatchewan, and Dave and Connie Spencer from Rife Creek Farm in Guelph, Ontario.

"All four of this year's candidates for the national award were outstanding. It was a very tough decision for those of us involved, but I am pleased that the Lane family efforts and dedication are being recognized at the national level," says the CCA's Environment Committee Chair, Lynn Grant.

The National Environmental Stewardship Award is presented by the CCA each year to an operation that exemplifies the initiatives that producers across the country undertake in their role as stewards of the land. While the award is only presented to one recipient each year, it recognizes that many producers across Canada are undertaking important and innovative stewardship initiatives.

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**For further information:**

Peggy Strankman  
Manager, Environmental Affairs  
Canadian Cattlemen's Association  
403-275-8558  
[strankmanp@cattle.ca](mailto:strankmanp@cattle.ca)