



**OCA Weekly Update – October 17, 2008**

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**A) Ontario Young Farmers' Forum  
"Finding Stable Ground in Turbulent Times"**

Sunday November 23rd - Monday November 24th, 2008  
Doubletree by Hilton, Toronto Airport

*Open to all young farmers and people involved in agriculture age 18-40*

*~Sowing Success – Strategic Planning in Turbulent Times~  
~Young Farmers Finding Stable Ground~  
~Young Farmers – Our Role in Canada's Future~  
~Speaking Out: Finding Your Ground~  
~Farm Succession – Issues of Family~  
~Making Minds Meet – Your Farm & the Bank!~  
~Planning for Success – Developing your Farm Business~*

*~What Young Farmers need to Succeed~*

...And have a great laugh at Yuk Yuk's Dinner & Comedy show Harvest Celebration Banquet Included!

Visit [www.oyff.ca](http://www.oyff.ca) for more info and your Registration Form!

Early Bird Registration \$130.00, Friday October 10, 2008. Final Registration \$150.00, Monday November 10, 2008.

Both prices include all OYFF sessions, meals from Dinner Sunday to Dinner Monday, and evening entertainment. Registration fees do not include accommodation.

**OCA will help offset expenses incurred by young beef farmers who attend the Young Farmers' Forum this year. Up to \$700 will be applied towards registration, accommodation and travel for young beef producers, to be pro-rated, depending on the number attending. Attendance of beef producers to this event in past years has been low and we hope that with some help to cover the costs, more young beef farmers will attend. Contact Jen Snively at OCA at 1-800-370-2333 for more information.**

For more information contact the Junior Farmers' Association of Ontario at 519-780-JFAO (5326) e-mail [info@oyff.ca](mailto:info@oyff.ca) or go to [www.oyff.ca](http://www.oyff.ca)

### **B) Forage Focus Conference**

December 2 at Winchester in the Community Centre and December 3 in the Shakespeare Optimist Hall in Shakespeare.<sup>ndrd</sup>

The keynote speaker will be Limin Kung from the University of Delaware.

We will also have on the agenda and Ian MacDonald from OMAFRA and Fritz Trauttmansdorff.

For more information please check out the new OFC Web site [www.ontarioforagecouncil.com](http://www.ontarioforagecouncil.com)

### **C) Buy/Sell Hay Listing Service**

Ontario Forage Council Introduces

<http://www.ontariohaylistings.ca>

A Free Hay Listings Service for People Looking to Buy and Sell Hay and Straw

For more information, comments or questions, call 1-877-892-8663 or email

[info@ontariohaylistings.ca](mailto:info@ontariohaylistings.ca)

### **D) Canadian Young Speakers for Agriculture**

- *"Do you like a challenge?" "Would you like to share your enthusiasm for agriculture with an interested audience?"*
- *"Does the opportunity to win a substantial cash prize appeal to you?"*
- *"Are you 11 to 24 years old?"*

If you answered 'yes' to any of these questions, you may be interested in participating in the Canadian Young Speakers for Agriculture competition, held annually in November at the Royal Agriculture Winter Fair in Toronto, as part of Youth Weekend.

It's an opportunity to develop your public speaking skills and a forum to express community concerns. The competition originated in 1985 in honour of International Youth Year, and was originally sponsored by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food. Farm Credit Canada joined as a co-sponsor in 1987. There are cash prizes for the six finalists in both the Junior Competition (ages 11-15) and Senior

Competition (ages 16-24). The Senior Champion will receive \$1000, while the Junior Champion is awarded \$500. Full details available on-line at <http://www.cysa-joca.ca/english/>

### **E) In Search of Outstanding Young Farmers**

The definition of outstanding: *“having a quality that thrusts itself into attention; distinguished from others in excellence;*

We're searching for outstanding young farmers in Ontario and want your help. We're sure you know some successful farmers - people who contribute to the community, who seek new opportunities, and who generally are assets to Ontario's agri-food industry.

Please tell us about them by completing the attached form. We want you to nominate them for the title of the 2009 Ontario Outstanding Young Farmer. This award will be presented at the Regional Conference to be held next March in London, Ontario.

Anyone can nominate a young farmer/farm couple for the award. You can even nominate yourself. The eligibility requirements are simply:

- Must be between the ages of 18 and 39
- Must operate a farm
- Must derive a minimum of 2/3 of their income from farming

The process is also easy.

1. Nominations are submitted by December 1, 2008.
2. Nominees are contacted and complete an application form. Application forms are due January 15, 2009.
3. A preliminary judging committee consisting of OOF Alumni reviews the submitted application forms and contacts the top candidates. Their decision is based upon items such as the nominees progress in their agricultural career; adoption of soil, water, and energy conservation practices; financial and management practices and contribution to the well-being of the community, province, and nation.
4. The top candidates then participate in an interview and presentation process at the regional event to be held in March 9-11, 2009 in London. The winner will be announced at the final banquet.
5. The provincial winner will then compete in the National competition which is designed to recognize young farmers that exemplify excellence in their profession. The National competition for 2009 will be held in Ottawa in December.

If you know an outstanding young farmer, please nominate them! It is time to recognize their outstanding contribution to the agricultural industry. Simply fill in the attached application form and send by email, fax or regular mail to:

Karen Daynard, OOF Coordinator  
6904 Paisley Road West  
R.R. #7  
Guelph, ON  
N1H 6J4  
Phone: (519) 836-2583  
Fax: (519) 836-1733  
Email: [kdaynard@sympatico.ca](mailto:kdaynard@sympatico.ca)

More information about Canada's Outstanding Young Farmers can be found on the website <http://www.oofcanada.com>.

### **F) Livestock Transport Training Coordinator**

Do you have a keen interest in improving farm animal welfare? Would you enjoy the challenge of training and communicating with transporters across Ontario?

The Ontario Farm Animal Council is looking for a Livestock Transport Training Coordinator. The Coordinator's primary focus will be to oversee the development and offering of transport training courses such as TQA and Canadian Livestock Transporter (CLT) training in Ontario. Training can be expanded to other relevant groups who work with farm animals as well. The Coordinator will also work with several committees and groups relevant to issues involving livestock transportation, humane handling and emergencies.

#### Qualifications

About the ideal candidate:

- You have a minimum of five years experience related to livestock and/or transporting livestock in Canada; working knowledge of transporter training programs such as TQA or CLT an asset.
- You are a solid presenter; experience in adult education or training an asset.
- You successfully manage projects; work independently, on deadline and within budget.
- You will prove to be a valuable member of several dynamic teams and working groups; working well with a variety of service providers and partners.

#### Terms & Conditions

- This is a three year contract position valid from November 2008-November 2011, working up to four days a week on a flexible schedule.
- This position will primarily be based out of a home office, with some work in the OFAC office in Guelph.
- This position will require extensive travel, primarily in Ontario. You will need a valid driver's license and vehicle.

Please apply in writing, including salary expectations, by  
October 28, 2008 to:  
Crystal Mackay, Executive Director  
Ontario Farm Animal Council (OFAC)  
100 Stone Rd. Suite 106, Guelph ON N1G 5L3  
Email: [cmackay@ofac.org](mailto:cmackay@ofac.org)

#### About OFAC:

The Ontario Farm Animal Council is a non-profit education organization representing over 40,000 livestock and poultry farmers and associated businesses. OFAC is the voice of animal agriculture on topics such as animal care, food safety and the environment. For more information visit [www.ofac.org](http://www.ofac.org) or [www.farmissues.com](http://www.farmissues.com)

### **G) FarmOn.com is Bringin' Farming Back...**

Feeding the world is hard work...you shouldn't need a second job to do it! Independent family farms are the back bone of rural Canada, playing a vital role in the strength of rural economies. Yet, over the last decade, family farms have disappeared at an alarming rate.

"Finding prosperity on the farm has become increasingly difficult in recent years," said Sarah Wray, co-founder of FarmOn.com "Sadly, the cross section of young farmers under the age of 35 diminished by half in this country between 1996 and 2006."

But the family farm model is worth preserving. Creating agricultural operations that are profitable and rewarding is completely possible by equipping this generation with the knowledge, skills and resources necessary for business success.

"The family farm can survive," says Wray. "It's time for a revolution, to shake up the agricultural industry and infuse it with fresh enthusiasm and viability."

FarmOn.com is a free social networking community that connects producers to the information, resources and planning needed to sustain the family farm. FarmOn.com is leading the way for agriculture enthusiasts in Canada, offering essential tools that assist in the creation of successful operations and businesses. Members can connect and network with fellow producers through personal pages, message boards, blogs and online chats, learning from the innovation, stories and ideas of their peers. Financial & business planning, marketing ideas and sales techniques also take centre stage.

Uniquely, FarmOn.com members will soon be able to access an online marketplace, allowing producers to market their product to fellow producers and open their business to a whole new world of consumers through a personalized storefront. This powerful marketing tool will connect the rural producer with the urban consumer like never before, bringing the farm to the city with the simple click of a mouse!

“Our online farmers’ market is a marketing tool that will be revolutionary for farmers, agri-business and service providers,” said co-founder Jackie Northey. “It will connect consumers directly to their food and the information they need to actively understand where it comes from, how it is grown and, essentially, make an informed decision about who to purchase from.”

FarmOn.com feels a responsibility to ensure that the outstanding people who will shape the future of the family farm are supported on their mission to create sustainable and successful businesses in agriculture. We know that this progressive vision can bring the fresh revitalization our family farms desperately need to be healthy and stellar. We’re bringin’ farming back!

For more information or interview opportunities please contact the following:

Jackie Northey  
FarmOn.com Co-Founder  
(780) 678-9056  
[jackie.northey@farmon.com](mailto:jackie.northey@farmon.com)

#### **H) Guelph to Host Celebration of Giving Farmer and Food Banks Join to Fight Hunger: 2008 Harvest Gala Spotlights Foodbank Initiatives**

*Major agricultural announcements about helping others across Ontario*

*October 10, 2008- Guelph, Ontario* – Ontario farmers and the Ontario Food Bank Association have joined forces to help those in need and to fight hunger over the coming year.

At Thanksgiving, many Canadians think of sharing a good meal with their family and friends. Unfortunately, not everyone has the means or the opportunity to do that. Ontario farmers aim to help change that.

“Millions of dollars and thousands of tonnes of food are given to people in need by the people who grow the food each year in Ontario,” said Crystal Mackay, Executive Director, Ontario Farm Animal Council. “Even in uncertain times, farmers are able to help those in greater need and the Harvest Gala will showcase that generosity.”

A series of major agricultural funding initiatives and contributions to the Ontario Food Bank Association will be announced at the 2008 Harvest Gala.

Some food bank programs, such as the Donate-A-Hog program with the pork industry and the Milk program have been going for many years thanks to farmers and their industry partners. Other programs such as the Harvest of Hope and the Buy Local, Share local program were just launched this past year. The spotlight on the programs made at the Harvest Gala in Guelph will lead up to a larger announcement with total donations from this fall released at a major event in Toronto in February 2009.

“The Harvest Gala will celebrate Ontario’s abundance,” added Mackay. “Our farmers are giving back to those in need and the Harvest Gala will shine a spotlight on all the great food bank initiatives across Ontario.”

The 2008 Harvest Gala is a new event that celebrates the generous people in Ontario agriculture and the wonderful food they produce. This year it will be held on Thursday, October 30<sup>th</sup> at the Delta Guelph Ballroom. Doors open at 6:00 p.m., gourmet tasting stations begin at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$125 per person, which includes a \$25 charitable receipt from the Ontario Association of Food Banks and are available from the Ontario Farm Animal Council at 519-837-1326 or online at [www.ofac.org](http://www.ofac.org).

#### **I) McGuinty Government Supports Innovative Grocery Retailers**

## News

The outstanding and innovative efforts of 37 grocery retailers to promote Ontario's fresh food products are being recognized at this year's Foodland Ontario Retailer Awards. Judges reviewed thousands of photographs of display categories submitted by 900 entries - a record number for the program.

The Foodland Ontario Retailer Awards has also introduced a new category that reflects the wider range of products promoted by the program. For the first time this year, the Pick Ontario Freshness award will go to:

- Sobeys, for the "Compliments" private label promoting fresh Ontario beef, pork, chicken, and poultry
- Highland Farms, for cross-department promotions of fresh Ontario food products
- Loblaw Companies Limited, for the promotion of Ontario Corn Fed Beef
- Longo's, for the promotion of fresh Ontario pork, lamb, and veal

## Quotes

"This year's award winners have done an outstanding job promoting fresh, local Ontario products," said Leona Dombrowsky, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. "When consumers buy Ontario foods, they're helping our farmers, our economy and our environment."

## Quick Facts

- The Foodland Ontario Retailer Awards have recognized grocery retailers for 21 years.
- The Foodland program was expanded last year to include fresh Ontario foods (i.e. deli, dairy, meat and bakery products).
- Foodland Ontario brand consumer awareness is at an all time high - 94 per cent of principal grocery shoppers recognize the Foodland Ontario symbol.
- Eighty-seven per cent of shoppers say they would prefer to buy Ontario-grown produce.

## Learn More

We all know good things grow in Ontario. Find out what's available and incorporate them in any of the delicious recipes on the [Foodland Ontario](#) website.

Be in the know and get involved! Check out the [Pick Ontario Freshness](#) website to find out what you can do to support Ontario farmers.

## *Backgrounder*

### Foodland Ontario Retailer Awards

The Foodland Ontario Retailer Awards recognize grocery retailers for their in-store promotion of fresh Ontario food. Their support of the Pick Ontario Freshness strategy, which provides awareness and education to consumers about the vast variety of fresh Ontario foods, helps Ontario farmers and our local communities. Stores submit photographs of their promotional displays in order to qualify for the awards. There are five award categories.

- *The Foodland Ontario Award of Excellence*: is presented to the top-scoring Ontario retailers, in each store size category, that have won the Platinum Award two years in a row.
- *The Platinum All Seasons Award*: recognizes merchandising excellence with Ontario grown commodities through three seasons: spring, summer and winter.
- *The Gold Category Award (Gold-Seasonal, Gold-Cross Merchandised, Gold-Creative)*: is given to chain and independent stores in three specific categories: seasonal, creative and cross-merchandised.

- *The Silver Award of Merit*: honours excellence in promoting Ontario produce in a display.
- *Pick Ontario Freshness award*: is given to retailers that have expanded their in-store programs to promote a broader range of fresh Ontario foods

The awards are co-sponsored by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs in partnership with the following:

- Fresh Vegetable Growers of Ontario and Mushrooms Canada
- Ontario Apple Growers
- Ontario Asparagus Growers' Marketing Board
- Ontario Berry Grower's Association
- Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Association
- Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers
- Ontario Potato Board
- Ontario Tender Fruit Producers' Marketing Board

### **J) Farm Groups Ready to Work with New Government**

OTTAWA)--Farm groups across the country are ready to work with the newly elected Canadian government, says the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA).

"CFA members have worked hard over the election campaign to raise the profile of farmer concerns," said Laurent Pellerin, 1st Vice President of the CFA. "Now we are eager to roll up our sleeves and work with our new government toward solutions for the policy gaps we have identified."

Farmers will recognize many familiar faces among those forming the new government, as many incumbent candidates successfully secured their seats.

"CFA congratulates the many returning MPs who have demonstrated their knowledge and understanding of agriculture and rural issues," said Ron Bonnett, CFA 2nd Vice President. "This valuable experience will serve farmers well as we move forward to develop policies and programs during uncertain economic times."

For those new MPs, CFA and its members anticipate the opportunities ahead to work collaboratively on key issues, such as trade, business risk management, environmental sustainability, food safety, and food labelling.

Specifically, the immediate priorities for farm groups include:

- solidifying details and funding for increased flexibility in business risk management programs -- a commitment made in the Conservative platform -- as proposed in CFA's AgriFlex initiative.
- a continuing commitment to Canada's balanced trade position in international trade agreements
- recognition and plans to compensate farmers for their role in mitigating the effects of climate change
- an ongoing funding commitment to on-farm food safety programs
- a well-funded communications campaign, produced with industry and consumer stakeholders, to increase awareness on "Product of Canada" food labeling guidelines.

### **K) Finding a Future in Beef**

#### **Are you under the age of 40 and involved in the Ontario beef industry?**

If so, you are invited to attend any one of the following workshops where the opportunities, challenges and needs of young beef producers will be discussed.

Sudbury

Saturday November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008

Noon – 4pm

Location: Holiday Inn

1696 Regent Street, Sudbury

\$20.00, lunch included

Smith Falls

Sunday November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2008

4pm – 8pm  
Location: Civitan Hall  
Hwy 15 N., Smith Falls  
\$20.00, dinner included  
Elmwood

Tuesday November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2008

6pm – 10pm

Location: Elmwood Community Centre (basement) Bruce Road 10, Fire #38, Elmwood  
\$20.00, dinner included  
Alvinston

Wednesday November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008

6pm – 10pm

Location: Alvinston Community Centre  
3310 Walnut St., Alvinston  
\$20.00, dinner included

#### Tentative Agenda:

- Dinner/lunch and networking opportunity
- A Successful Farm Model: Adapting to Change for Survival, Betty Green, owner of a 1000 cow herd family farm. Betty is also involved with the West Hawk Lake Zoning Initiative and the Quality Starts Here-Verified Beef Production program in Manitoba.
- Planning for the Future: A facilitated discussion on opportunities, challenges and needs of Ontario beef producers.

#### Who should attend?

Anyone involved in the beef industry **under the age of 40**. This includes beef farmers, veterinarians, abattoir or processor owners, and auction mart owners.

#### Why should you attend?

If you would like an opportunity to network with other farmers and individuals involved in the beef industry, then this workshop is for you. Not only will you meet people with similar interests, but through the round table discussions you will have an opportunity to discuss your similar needs and challenges. You will be able to provide input to the facilitators about the types of resources and educational vehicles young farmers need.

#### To register contact:

Agricultural Information Contact Centre 1-877-424-1300

For more information contact:

Jen Snively, Ontario Cattlemen's Association, 1-866-370-2333

Nancy Noecker, OMAFRA, 613-258-8476

Marilyn Bidgood, OMAFRA, 705-725-7293

Eric Lawlor, OMAFRA, 613-475-5903

*Funding support for this initiative provided by the Government of Ontario*

#### **L) BIC Bits**

**Make it Beef Program Moves Beef**

A Beef Information Centre (BIC) consumer promotion initiative launched in the summer of 2007 has resulted in some excellent feedback.

The Make it Beef program aims at motivating people to purchase fresh beef for making meals at home. The program consists of a quarterly recipe booklet included in subscribers' Reader's Digest magazine, a merchandising program with a key food retailer and a monthly consumer e-newsletter. Both the booklet and the e-newsletter consist of recipes, nutrition information, and cooking and safe food handling tips.

Consumer response for the program looks good with recent consumer surveys indicating the majority of readers of the Make It Beef (MIB) booklets would prepare at least one recipe from the booklet.

According to Joyce Parslow, BIC's consumer culinary marketing manager, this translates into an incremental 473,902 lb. of beef sold for each distribution of Make it Beef.

"The formats of both the booklet and e-newsletter allow for a greater depth of consumer messaging," says Parslow. "Nutrition and health-focused articles and information around Canadian beef, and beef buying and preparation are support pieces to the recipes. At the same time, the program delivers strategic consumer marketing messages about Canadian beef."

Between July 2007 and June 2008, four issues of the MIB recipe booklets were distributed to 1.2 million consumers nationally every three months through Reader's Digest insertions. On top of that, MIB booklets were part of a seasonal, in-store merchandising program with two key retailers, and was offered at various trade shows and other events, including provincial beef producer meetings and various consumer tradeshows.

The MIB program also includes a free monthly newsletter, e-mailed to 'subscribers' who sign up on the BIC website. To date, the number of online subscribers to MIB includes 10,492 for the English version and 2,403 for the French version.

According to Parslow, the surveys show consumers ranked both the MIB booklet and the e-newsletter as highly appealing and influential.

"MIB booklets are highly appealing and influential when they get into the hands of consumers, and are thus achieving the original goals of the program," she notes.

With the MIB consumer promotion program, BIC can measure how many consumers get the MIB materials and can assess feedback. MIB motivates a purchase, influences consumer perception of beef and offers insight into consumer opinion.

Between July 2007 and June 2008, the MIB program leveraged \$200,000 in grocery product partner funds for program development and execution, allowing for expansion of BIC marketing efforts and reach, including the seasonal in-store merchandising program.

### **M) Verified Beef Production Workshops in Ontario**

There are a number of Verified Beef Production workshops happening across Ontario in the next couple of months. Please visit [www.qualitystartshere.on.ca](http://www.qualitystartshere.on.ca) or watch the Ontario Farmer for a complete up-to-date listing of workshops in your area. Completion of the 2-hour workshop is a mandatory requirement for the Age Verification Program which puts money back in your pocket! Contact the OCA office for further information.

### **N) Mapleseed Pasture Award**

The Ontario Cattlemen's Association is pleased to partner with Mapleseed and the Ontario Forage Council in sponsoring the "Mapleseed Pasture Award 2009." This is an excellent opportunity to recognize individual producers who are doing an outstanding job of pasture management. It is also a way of providing some motivation at a time when the beef industry is in need of a little encouragement.

MAPLESEED contributes a cash award of \$750 to the winner, \$250 to cover their accommodation plus a 25kg bag of their choice of a MAPLESEED Forage Mix. They will also be 2 honorary prizewinners each winning \$250 and a 25kg bag of Forage Mix. The winners will be announced at the Annual Meeting of the Ontario Cattleman's Association in Toronto, which will take place in February 2009.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact either the Ontario Forage Council office at 877-892-8663 or (519) 986-1484. To submit a nomination for this award, complete the application form below. Feel free to include pictures and or diagrams (for more, go to <http://www.cattle.guelph.on.ca/programs/OntPastureApp.asp>).

*Application Deadline: November 21, 2008.*

Send completed applications c/o Ontario Forage Council, Box 463, Markdale, ON, N0C 1H0  
*Consider nominating someone from your area for the Mapleseed Pasture Award. Nominations can be made by individuals, groups or organizations.*

### **O) The Environmental Stewardship Award (TESA)**

This marks the fourteenth year of the award, which recognizes the outstanding environmental stewardship of an Ontario cattleman. Special consideration will be given to producers who have taken innovative approaches to environmentally sustainable cattle production.

Any Ontario cattle producer or cattle farming operation can be nominated for this award by him or herself, another producer, interested individual(s) or the local cattlemen's association. TESA nominations should include:

- ◆ An outline of the goals set (long and short term) for the farm
- ◆ An explanation of the implementation of the goals
- ◆ A description of the accomplishments including benefits to the environment and to the cattle producing operation
- ◆ An indication of experience and willingness to speak on behalf of cattle producers to the public on environmental issues
- ◆ Demonstration of links with community or other groups
- ◆ An overview of the cost effectiveness/innovation of environmental solutions and management changes.

Photographs are encouraged as part of the nomination. One independent letter of recommendation should be included.

The nomination deadline is *November 28, 2008.*

Applications can be found on the OCA Web site at

[http://www.cattle.guelph.on.ca/programs/TESA\\_application.asp](http://www.cattle.guelph.on.ca/programs/TESA_application.asp)

Submit nominations to TESA, c/o The Ontario Cattlemen's Association, 130 Malcolm Road, Guelph, ON, N1K 1B1 or submit via email to [ontbeef@cattle.guelph.on.ca](mailto:ontbeef@cattle.guelph.on.ca)

### **P) Hastings County Cattlemen's Association Beef Dinner and Dance**

Saturday, October 25, 2008 Stirling Lions Hall Roast Beef Dinner - 6:30 P.M.

Music by: Guy Holloway and the Lonesome Road Band Intermissions - Grant Ketcheson, Comedian

Tickets - \$25.00 per person

Door Prizes

For tickets call 613-969-3441, or any member of the Hastings County Cattlemen's Association

### **Q) Royal Agricultural Winter Fair**

November 7-16

Visit [www.royalfair.org](http://www.royalfair.org) for details.

### **R) Lazy S Bull Power 2009**

Saturday, January 31, 2009

At the Ranch Mayerthorpe, AB

Black & Red Simmental, Angus & Beefmakers

[www.lazysranch.ca](http://www.lazysranch.ca)

780-785-3136

### **S) Willabar Ranch Ltd. Annual Long Yearling Black Angus Bull Sale**

February 17, 2009

at the Ranch, Claresholm, AB

## News Index:

**A) UGANDA: Cattle disease hits Kibaale**

**B) Nearly 20,000 tons of U.S. beef clear KOREAN customs since June**

**C) BELGIUM: EU raises BSE cattle testing age to 48 months**

**D) UK: Proposals to reduce BSE testing of cattle slaughtered for food**

**E) US: NCBA statement on WTO report on EU ban of hormone-treated beef**

This report prepared with the assistance of Dr. Doug Powell's team at the Universities of Guelph and Kansas State. This service does not allow emails to be sent by responding to this email directly. If you have questions or comments, please contact Lianne Appleby at [lianne@cattle.guelph.on.ca](mailto:lianne@cattle.guelph.on.ca)

### **A) UGANDA: Cattle disease hits Kibaale**

15.oct.08

The New Vision

Ismael Kasooaha

<http://www.newvision.co.ug/D/8/18/654771>

Three people have contracted a highly contagious disease in Kagadi town, Kibaale district, after getting into contact with infected cattle.

The district veterinary officer, Dr. Moses Amanyaa, confirmed that the people had been infected with brucellosis.

Symptoms of brucellosis include constant fever, sweating, weakness, anaemia, headache, depression, muscular and body pain.

He cautioned the residents against consuming products from cattle that have been diagnosed with the disease.

Amanyaa said there have been numerous reports that people have been eating meat of cattle diagnosed with diseases.

The disease can be transmitted, he said, through eating half-cooked meat and drinking milk from the infected animals.

Amanyaa advised all hotel and restaurant operators to buy animal products that have been inspected by veterinary officers.

He said those at high risk of contracting the disease were the abattoir workers, meat inspectors, animal handlers, veterinarians and people working in laboratories where animal products are tested.

Animals that are usually infected by the disease include dogs, pigs, camels, sheep, goats and cattle.

In February, brucellosis attacked Buyaga County, near the shores of Lake Albert.

Antibiotics like tetracyclin are effective in treating brucellosis. However, the use of more than one antibiotic is needed for several weeks, because the bacteria are able to hide within the host's cells.

The main method of preventing brucellosis is by observing strict hygiene in producing raw milk products, or by pasteurisation of all milk that is to be ingested by humans.

### **B) Nearly 20,000 tons of U.S. beef clear KOREAN customs since June**

14.oct.08

Yonhap News Agency

Asia Pulse

<http://asia.news.yahoo.com/081014/4/3qgks.html>

WASHINGTON -- Nearly 20,000 tons of American beef have cleared customs since June when South Korea reopened its beef market to the U.S., the South Korean embassy here said Tuesday, after several years of suspension due to concerns over mad cow disease.

Since June 26 when Seoul began allowing in U.S. beef, 19,986 tons have passed customs, figures released by the embassy said.

The total breaks down to 12,300 tons of new arrivals, with the rest having waited for clearance at South Korean ports.

The number of U.S. butchers processing beef destined for South Korea also rose to 48 from 30.

South Korea's pro-U.S. President Lee Myung-bak had to face weeks of street rallies and candle vigils earlier this year amid rising concerns by South Koreans over the safety of U.S. beef. U.S. beef shipments had been suspended in 2003 after the first case of mad cow disease was found in the U.S. Two more cases were also later detected.

### **C) BELGIUM: EU raises BSE cattle testing age to 48 months**

14.oct.08

guardian.co.uk

Reuters

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/feedarticle/7869562>

BRUSSELS -- EU animal health experts have raised the minimum age for testing cattle for mad cow disease in the EU's 15 'older' countries to 48 months, given fewer cases of the brain-wasting virus, the EU executive said on Tuesday.

At present, all healthy slaughtered cattle aged above 30 months and all cattle above 24 months deemed to be at risk of catching bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) must be tested.

Experts have now agreed that the new age limit for BSE testing of healthy slaughtered and at-risk cattle will be 48 months, the European Commission said in a statement.

Assuming a green light from the European Parliament, that revised rule should come into effect in January 2009.

Numbers of positive BSE cases detected in the EU have fallen significantly the past few years, while the age of those positive cases has steadily increased, the Commission says.

The older testing age will only apply to the 15 countries that were EU members before the bloc's last major enlargement in 2004 since they had complied with four criteria, it said.

For at least six years, these countries had a total ban on using animal proteins in feed for farmed animals, conducted comprehensive BSE testing for at least six years, used a full traceability and animal-ID system for six years, and had seen a "favourable" BSE situation in terms of case numbers, it said.

Some of the EU's newer member countries had also made efforts to comply with these criteria in the years before they joined the EU, the Commission said, meaning that they might soon be able to apply the raised animal testing age, it said.

### **D) UK: Proposals to reduce BSE testing of cattle slaughtered for food**

15.oct.08

Food Standards Agency

<http://www.food.gov.uk/news/newsarchive/2008/oct/bsetests>

The Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee (SEAC) has been estimating the impact to human health of actioning proposals to reduce BSE testing of cattle slaughtered for food. This will be discussed at the FSA Board meeting today.

The following statement was issued by SEAC today, before the FSA Board meeting:

SEAC considered the results from a mathematical model that had been used to estimate the number of infected cattle that may be undetected as result of raising the minimum age at which healthy slaughtered and fallen stock cattle must be tested for BSE. The model itself, produced by the Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA), was previously reviewed by SEAC1.

The increased risks to human health estimated by the model from raising the age at which healthy slaughtered cattle are tested for BSE (up to 60 months, the highest age modelled) are very small. The model estimates that much less than one BSE case would be missed annually in the Great Britain herd by increasing the age of testing to 60 months for the healthy slaughter surveillance stream. Although uncertainties are inherent in such modelling, the validation of the model that has been conducted provides assurances about the reliability of the results. Similar results from a different analysis by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)<sup>2,3</sup> provide additional confidence in the findings. The EFSA analysis estimates that less than two BSE cases would be missed annually in the whole of the EU154 by increasing the age of testing to 60 months for the healthy slaughter surveillance stream. These risk assessments hold provided the incidence of BSE in cattle remains low.

Therefore, regulations should not be modified unless effective surveillance remains in place. Surveillance is the only means of monitoring changes in the incidence and prevalence of BSE, the effectiveness of

control measures in preventing an epidemic and the possible emergence of new prion diseases. As control measures to prevent cattle and human infection are modified, continued active and passive surveillance become increasingly important to ensure that the remaining controls are effective in minimising the risk to human and animal health.

1Reviewed at SEAC 95, December 2006.

2Risk for Human and Animal Health related to the revision of the BSE Monitoring regime in some Member States. Scientific Opinion of the Panel on Biological Hazards. The EFSA Journal (2008) 762, 1-47.

3Further consideration of age-related parameters on the Risk for Human and Animal Health related to the revision of the BSE Monitoring regime in some Member States. Opinion of the Panel on Biological Hazards. The EFSA Journal (2008) 763, 1-8.

4Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom.

## **E) US: NCBA statement on WTO report on EU ban of hormone-treated beef**

16.oct.08

Cattle Network

Andy Groseta

<http://www.cattlenetwork.com/Content.asp?ContentID=261213>

“The members that comprise the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association (NCBA) welcome today’s report by the World Trade Organization (WTO) Appellate Body regarding the European Union’s (EU) unwarranted ban on beef treated with growth hormones.

“This report validates the additional duties the United States (U.S.) imposes on certain EU products in order to balance the trade disparity caused by the EU ban on hormone-treated beef. The ban, which has been in place for more than 20 years, is scientifically unjustified and fails to satisfy the requirements of the WTO agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures. The EU claims that amendments made to the ban in 2003 bring them into compliance with WTO trade requirements. However, the ban continues to prohibit beef treated with hormones, pending the availability of further scientific evidence.

“In fact, numerous U.S. and international scientific studies have shown that the U.S. cattle industry produces safe and wholesome beef. The growth promotants used in cattle production are vigorously tested by the Food and Drug Administration for safety – both for the animals’ well-being and for the trace amounts that may be in meat consumed by humans. The hormones, many of which occur naturally in other foods, have all been proven safe.

“Growth-promoting hormones help stimulate growth by increasing the efficiency in which feed is converted to muscle. Certain products, when administered to animals in very small amounts, supplement cattle’s natural hormone production and improve growth rates by allowing the animal to produce more muscle and less fat. This helps the industry produce leaner beef for consumers.

“The EU is an important market for U.S. beef products, having rapidly emerged as one of the world’s largest net beef importing countries in recent years after being a net exporter earlier this decade. Despite this unscientific trade restriction, the EU will be a key market for in 2008 with U.S. beef exports projected to exceed \$100 million.

“The cattle producers of NCBA are committed to producing high-quality, safe, and healthy beef. Consumers the world over can be confident about purchasing and consuming American beef products. NCBA appreciates the WTO Appellate Body’s recognition that trade must be based on internationally accepted, science-based standards.”

Andy Groseta is a rancher from Cottonwood, Arizona, and president of the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association.



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