



OCA Weekly Update – February 5, 2010



**Ontario
Cattlemen's
Association**
Committed to Cattlemen

2010 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

PROGRESS STARTS WITH PARTNERSHIP

"Committed to Cattlemen"

AGENDA

February 24 and 25, 2010 - Doubletree International Plaza Hotel, 655 Dixon Road, Toronto, ON

7:30am - 9:00am *Registration (South Lobby)*

Wednesday, February 24, 2010 – Plaza AB Room

- 9:00am *Welcome and Convene*
 Adopt and Approve Agenda and Elect Scrutineers
 Approve Minutes of 2009 Annual Meeting
 2009 Audited Financial Statement - Curtis Royal, OCA Vice-President
- 9:30am Nominations/Election of Cow/Calf Rep. to 2010 OCA Board of Directors
- 9:45am Executive Director's Report - Dave Stewart, OCA Executive Director
- 10:00am Nominations/Election of Feedlot Rep. to 2010 Board of Directors
- 10:15am *Coffee Break – sponsored by Bio Agri Mix LP*
- 10:35am Nominations/Election of Southern Rep. to 2010 Board of Directors
- 10:40 am OFAC Update
- 10:50am Announcement re: CCA Nominations and Feedlot and Cow/Calf Committee Nominations
- 10:55am Nominations/Election of At-Large Rep. to 2010 OCA Board of Directors
- 11:10am President's Message - Gord Hardy, OCA President
- 11:25am Nominations/Election of balance of Cow/Calf Committee
- 11:30am Presentation of TESA Award – *sponsored by RBC Royal Bank*
- 11:40am Nominations/Election of balance of Feedlot Committee
- 11:55am Presentation of the Ontario Pasture Award – *sponsored by MAPLESEED*
- 12:15pm *Lunch - Plaza C Room*
- 12:15pm Board of Directors Meeting – Ottawa Room (election of President/Vice-President)**
- 1:15pm *Reconvene – Plaza AB Room*
- 1:15pm Nominations/Election of CCA Representatives
- 1:25pm Debate on Resolutions
 Announce Directors to CCA and Request Motion to Destroy Ballots

2:30pm Debate on Resolutions (cont'd)
Coffee Break - **sponsored by Elanco Animal Health**
2:50pm Debate on Resolutions (cont'd)
4:00pm **Adjourn**

5:30pm **Cocktails - Plaza Foyer**

6:30pm **2010 OCA ANNUAL BANQUET – Plaza AB Room**
“It’s a Kinda Magic”
After-Dinner Performer: **Brian Michaels, Illusionist**

Thursday, February 25, 2010 – Plaza AB Room

7:00am **OCA Board of Directors ANNUAL MEETING - Ottawa Room**
7:30am **OCA Advisory Council and Board Meeting/Breakfast - Montreal AB Room**
7:30am **Voting Delegate Breakfast – Plaza C Room**

9:00am **Reconvene Annual Meeting – Plaza AB Room**
Keynote Speaker: Peter Chapman – “Connecting with Our Customers: Trends in Retailing”
9:45am CCA Update
10:15 am **Coffee Break – sponsored by: RBC Royal Bank**
10:30am **Panel Discussion: “The Power of Partnerships” - moderated by Dan Ferguson, OCA**
11:30am **Guest Speaker – Dr. Al Mussell, George Morris Centre – “Cost of Production”**
12:00pm **Lunch – Plaza C Room**
1:00pm Environmental Issues Update – Chris Attema, OCA
1:20pm Board Q and A
2:20pm Debate on Resolutions (cont'd)
Adjourn (late afternoon)

Doubletree International Plaza Hotel, 655 Dixon Road, Toronto

RESERVATIONS: 1-800-222-8733

Call by February 12th and ask for the “Ontario Cattlemen’s Association” block of rooms

15th Annual Pfizer Cattlemen’s College

Sponsored by Pfizer Animal Health in conjunction with the 2010 OCA Annual General Meeting.

Doubletree International Plaza Hotel, 655 Dixon Road, Toronto, Plaza C Room
7:00pm

- Welcome
- Greetings from Pfizer Animal Health Canada
- Julie Stitt, Beef Information Exchange Program - “The Value of Information Sharing in the Beef Industry”
- Dr. Derek Haley, Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph - “Strategies to Reduce Weaning Stress”

**Please note that the Cattlemen's College is an optional program for the 2010 OCA Annual General Meeting. There is no registration fee and no pre-registration is required for this event.

In Brief Index:

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- M) Ontario's New Animal Health Act**

A) Ministers Called on to Sustain Local Food

Ontario's new Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA), Hon. Carol Mitchell and her federal and provincial colleagues are being called on by Ontario farmers to deliver investments they need to ensure the industry remains strong and can continue to grow when they attend this week's meeting of federal, provincial and territorial agriculture ministers in Toronto.

Ontario farmers have a strong focus on immediate investment and new Business Risk Management Program implementation as identified by the Ontario Agriculture Sustainability Coalition (OASC). The coalition has members from the livestock, grains and oilseeds, and edible horticulture sectors.

"Our coalition of non-supply managed associations has developed this package to address the short-term needs and long-term sustainability of our members," said Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) President Bette Jean Crews in a letter to Minister Mitchell on behalf of the OASC.

The OASC notes that the BRMP "adheres to the basic principles and precepts of the RMP (Risk Management Program)" put in place as a pilot project for grains and oilseeds producers based on cost of production.

"We recommend adoption of the BRMP for all sectors with immediate implementation of the grain and oilseeds RMP in time for the 2010 crop year. Other sectors will come on stream as development and testing (of the programs) is complete" retroactive to January 2009, the letter to Minister Mitchell stated. The letter also listed five recommendations developed by the Ontario Agricultural Commodity Council to retroactively improve the AgriStability program. A recent survey of OFA members found that the vast majority criticized AgriStability as an unpredictable program that was not serving their needs.

"AgriStability, in its present form does not deliver its intended results. It is incumbent on governments to make it work as intended. We cannot wait another three years for the next version of Growing Forward to deliver predictable and bankable farm programs. Governments must act now to stabilize and sustain our industry." said Crews.

OASC's letter to Minister Mitchell stated "We are committed to working with you to bring the federal government to the table as a full partner. The upcoming meeting of Federal, Provincial and Territorial Ministers is seen as the opportunity to initiate this necessary change....."

B) Agriculture Ministers Focus on the Economy, Growth and Market Opportunities for Canadian Producers

Federal, provincial and territorial Ministers of Agriculture met today on a range of issues critical to the long term success of farmers and the agricultural and agri-food sector across the country.

The meeting, co-chaired by the Honourable Gerry Ritz, federal Minister of Agriculture, and the Honourable Bob Bjornerud, Saskatchewan's Minister of Agriculture, focused on the economic situation, the competitiveness of the sector and ongoing efforts to strengthen Canada's food safety and livestock traceability systems.

"Canadian agricultural products are among the best in the world," said Minister Ritz. "With the Market Access Secretariat now fully up and running, we are working with provinces and territories, and with industry, to identify their market priorities, both domestically and abroad, to ensure we seize every opportunity to sell our products."

Ministers discussed the Business Risk Management (BRM) strategic review, recognizing the need to look to the future. FPT governments will initiate consultations with producers and agricultural groups on the challenges facing the sector, BRM programs and the opportunities that lie ahead. The results of those consultations will be reported back to Ministers at their next meeting.

"Governments have a responsibility to listen to producers," Minister Bjornerud said. "Farmers and ranchers are the first people impacted by the policy and programs we create. We need to engage our producers as we work to improve our Business Risk Management programming."

Governments are also determined to ensure that programs continue to respond to the sector's needs, including the examination of options such as livestock insurance, to help producers secure a stable and prosperous future.

The federal, provincial and territorial agriculture ministers will hold their annual meeting in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, July 6-8, 2010.

C) Safeguarding Ontario's Food Supply and Animal Health: Government Cost-Share Programs Support Best Practices On Ontario Farms

Ontario's agri-food sector is getting additional support to improve biosecurity on poultry farms and to boost food safety and traceability through the development of educational and training programs. The Farm Biosecurity Program will provide funding to individual poultry producers to help them implement or improve biosecurity measures that are based on the National Avian On-Farm Biosecurity Standard. Strong biosecurity helps reduce the risk of disease, pests and pathogens.

In addition, the Food Safety and Traceability Education Program will help organizations to develop and deliver educational and outreach programs to promote best practices to Ontario producers and processors. Both programs are part of the Best Practices Suite of programs under Growing Forward, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative.

"Farmers across Ontario can take pride in their animal handling practices. Our Governments are working together so that farmers have access to the latest and best farm animal care techniques. This investment will help farmers build new trade opportunities and boost their bottom line and Canada's economy."

— MP Dave Van Kesteren, on behalf of Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz

"These programs give producers and processors the tools they need to produce safe healthy food. They are part of our ongoing investments to encourage innovation, competitiveness and sustainability on Ontario farms and throughout the entire agri-food sector."

— Carol Mitchell, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

QUICK FACTS

- Canada and Ontario will fund these programs through Growing Forward, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative to support the development of a profitable, innovative agriculture sector that is adept at managing risk and responsive to market demands.
- The Farm Biosecurity Program is part of a \$9.3 million investment in biosecurity under Growing Forward.
- In Ontario, Growing Forward supports best practices in four key areas: environment and climate change; food safety and traceability; business development; and biosecurity.

D) OFA, CFFO Urge Government to Invest in Agriculture

LONDON – Acknowledging the difficult economic state the Ontario government currently faces, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) is urging the government to invest in agriculture for the best return on its investment. “These investments in agriculture will pay dividends in our rural and urban economies,” Bette Jean Crews, OFA President, advised Hon. Dwight Duncan, Ontario finance minister, in the federation’s pre-budget submission.

President Crews noted in OFA’s submission to the Ontario Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs, that the document represents the combined wishes and expectations of a broad base of the province’s agricultural organizations under the Ontario Agricultural Sustainability Coalition (OASC). The coalition came together last October to develop and take a single message to governments for farmers.

The submission to Minister Duncan said “an investment in agriculture pays significant dividends and will avoid catastrophic job losses across the agri-food sector.....it is critical the province of Ontario make agriculture, one of our largest employers, to be an economic priority.” President Crews said.

OFA and all the other OASC partners joined in the call for a premium-based Business Risk Management Program (BRMP).

Stevens, in the CFFO presentation, urged the provincial government to “step forward and provide the leadership and support that our agriculture industries need to thrive in the coming years. We believe that a healthy primary agriculture system will result in a healthy and prosperous Ontario.”

“There is no question the economic strength of our agriculture sector has weakened over the past year and further erosion will occur if left unchecked,” Crews said in the OFA presentation. The OFA brief urged the government to “continue to fund research and technology transfer as a priority in the 2010 budget.”

E) Liberals are Working to Bridge Rural-Urban Divide

Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff is taking part in a daylong roundtable meeting focused on bridging the rural-urban divide by strengthening economic opportunity and access to critical services in rural communities.

“I believe in a strong Canada, a Canada in which economic opportunity and quality of life can be achieved in all regions, urban and rural,” said Mr. Ignatieff. “The road to prosperity in rural Canada starts here – by addressing the real priorities that rural Canadians have told us to pursue.”

Liberals addressed four priorities for rural Canada during the Guelph roundtable event:

- Working with provinces and municipalities to help get doctors in rural communities
- Creating a National Food Policy
- Achieving 100% high-speed internet connectivity
- Creating new green jobs in rural Canada

“Part of bridging the rural-urban divide is finding solutions to improve access to healthcare services in

rural Canada,” said Mr. Ignatieff. A key part of finding the healthcare solution in rural Canada is an open discussion with the provinces and rural communities – something we don’t see the Harper government doing.”

The roundtable discussions at Ignatius College in Guelph were hosted by Liberal Agriculture Critic Wayne Easter and local Guelph MP Frank Valeriote and featured representatives from the food, health, rural infrastructure and clean energy sectors.

“Canadian farmers produce the highest quality of food in the world, but we need to do more to link farmers with the consumer,” said Mr. Easter. “We need to address farm incomes in a serious way. That’s why we need to build a National Food Policy from the ground up.”

“Canada’s farming communities also have a bright future because of agriculture’s potential to capture energy and turn it into renewable materials,” said Mr. Valeriote, Liberal Critic for the Southern Ontario Economic Development Agency. “Embracing innovation will help to reduce the disparity between rural and urban employment opportunities.”

“Rural infrastructure like internet, roads and water services in every rural town needs to be modernized,” said Liberal Rural Caucus Chair Mark Eyking. “That’s why we’re setting a goal of achieving full high-speed internet connectivity in every corner of the country.”

F) Intensive Grazing School Sponsored by Ontario Forage Council (OFC)

*Steve Kenyon
Greener Pastures Grazing Management Ltd.
Busby, Alberta*

*February 16th & 17th at Douro, Ontario
February 18th & 19th at Markdale, Ontario*

This Intensive Grazing School by Steve Kenyon will focus on a number of areas, including economics, finances, human resources and cell design. Steve has a major focus on grazing principles to develop more sustainable pastures to maximize greater profitability on a per acre basis. Steve has a proven track record of delivering an amazing program and has a technique of passing on the knowledge he has demonstrated on his own ranch. Steve does a great job of localizing the information and techniques to encompass the local situation here in Ontario.

This course has been approved for Cost/Share Funding through the Growing Your Farm Profits (GYFP) Program. Contact your local GYFP Program Rep or the Ontario Forage Council (OFC) for details.

This Intensive Grazing Course will certainly provide a practical take-home message that can make a difference. *“Weaning a couple of extra calves off the pasture this year will more than compensate for the investment in this course”.*

Registration will be limited, so please enroll early to avoid disappointment. To register or obtain more information, contact the OFC Office. 1-877-892-8663 or 519-986-1484

G) Better Business Decisions with BIO

It’s a fact that informed beef producers make intelligent decisions. The amount of information you need to know in order to run your business effectively continues to grow - and it can become overwhelming to manage this information effectively.

So let BIO help! Our new bioTrack system, developed with OCA support, lets you capture and use information on an animal – from pedigree to cooler - easily and the way you want to!

bioTrack not only let's you manage data, it provides: easy and automatic age verification with linkage to the CCIA database every 6 hours; the ability to easily get information (within herd indexes or across herd EPD's) on your cows; help with sire selection; and feedlot health, management tools and carcass data . Another important benefit of bioTrack is that you don't have to worry about losing information if your computer crashes.

If you would like to learn more about bioTrack, please call Brittney Livingston at (519) 767-2665 Ext. 316 or Jamie O'Shea at (519) 400-8974. Ask for a free demonstration of bioTrack either by phone or in person and enjoy special introductory pricing.

H) Farm Credit Canada Forum – "Big Ideas for Your Future"

March 9
Woodbridge, ON
The Royalton
10:00am - 3:00pm

March 11
Kingston, ON
Kingston Gospel Temple
10:00 am - 3:00pm

Cost: FREE

Deadline: February 28, 2010

Sponsored by: Farm Credit Canada

Join us for this special event. FCC Forums are an opportunity to learn, inspire big ideas and network with business owners and operators just like you. Peter Mansbridge, award-winning anchor and interviewer, is keynote speaker at this year's FCC Forum. Lunch is provided.

Contact: 1-800-332-3301

I) Profitable Pastures

Profitable Pastures will be held in Elmwood March 29th, Elmvale March 30th and Cobden March 31st.

Key Speakers: Duane McCartney recently retired from Agriculture Canada in Saskatchewan and Alberta &

Bill Gallagher from Gallagher Animal Management Systems

Their vast experience will provide a practical take home message

Call 1-877-892-8663 to register by March 26th

Visa or Mastercard Pre-registration is necessary to ensure dinner. Conference registration is \$35 and includes a hot roast beef dinner. For more info visit www.ontarioforagecouncil.com

CEU Accredited

J) BIC Partners with White Spot's 'Comfort Foods' Promotion

The Beef Information Centre (BIC) is partnering on a promotion with White Spot Restaurants called 'Comfort Foods 2.0'. Featuring Canadian beef, the promotion runs at 59 White Spot locations across B.C. and Alberta between January 18 and March 21, 2010.

Highlighting traditional comfort foods with a unique twist, the promotion features braised Canadian short ribs simmered in red wine and served over pasta or as a sandwich.

“White Spot is a leader in the foodservice industry in these markets, with an impressive number of guests in their restaurants daily,” says Judy Nelson, BIC vice chair and a cow-calf producer near Lundbreck, Alta. “Promoting Canadian beef on their menu not only drives sales, but also enhances the reach and recognition of the Canadian beef brand mark.”

White Spot’s signage and menus highlight the Canadian beef content of these menu items and features the Canadian beef brand mark.

“White Spot understands the value that highlighting Canadian beef on the menu brings to their business,” says Nelson. “They know their guests recognize and desire the quality of Canadian beef.”

Late last year, BIC partnered with White Spot Restaurant’s Triple O’s 31 high-volume locations in B.C. and Alberta, to feature the Giant Cheese Bacon Burger made with 100 per cent Canadian beef. During the promotion, which ran between November 23 and January 17, 2010, Triple O’s promoted the fact they use 100 per cent Canadian beef, demonstrating their long-term commitment to the product.

BIC’s efforts to maximize demand for Canadian beef and optimize the value of Canadian beef products is funded in part by cattle producers through the National Beef Check-Off, and through beef industry market development funds provided by the Government of Alberta and the Government of Canada.

K) Date Changes: OnTrace Producer Traceability Workshops

OnTrace has adjusted its Producer Traceability Workshop series dates for the remainder of the spring, so as not to interfere with spring planting season and to better serve their producer audience.

The new schedule has all workshops ending by the end of March 2010.

Please see attached the revised ads, one with location detail information and one with workshop detail information.

Please be aware that the Guelph and Kemptville sessions are very close to being at capacity, so please sign up without delay.

L) FIT Program

Posted as a Service Announcement to Producers

Pioneer Solar is now offering to lease your roof space, or land for up to \$40,000. The new solar (FIT) program offered by the Ontario Government has made it possible for Pioneer to give farmers a guaranteed lease payments if their land, or roof space qualifies. You will be given a 20-year contract that is transferable.

The more lucrative way to go is to purchase the system. We have a turn- key solution for the 2.5kw to 10KW solar system.

Rate of return for 10KW is \$11,319 per year. Total earnings of \$226,380 over 20-year contract with OPA/ Ontario Government (at \$0.80 per kW).

Larger roof mounted systems:

<i>Size</i>	<i>Annual earnings</i>	<i>Total earnings (20 years)</i>
100kw	\$85,000	\$1,700,000
250kw	\$212,000	\$4,250,000

The system will pay for it’s self in 5 to 6 years. These figures are based on the annual sunlight for Southern Ontario, given by the Ministry of Natural Resources Canada.

- A 25-year warranty on panels.
- Referral fee eligible.
- TD Bank financing.

Please contact Steve Fox at 1-888-314-3677, steve.fox@bellnet.ca or visit our Website at www.pioneersolar.ca

M) Ontario's New Animal Health Act

See attached information sheet

News Index:

- A) U.S. Cuts Animal-Tracking Plan Created After Mad Cow (Update3)**
- B) MNR official's comments about coyote problem 'insulting' to farmers**
- C) JBS buys downtown Greeley building**
- D) Beef imports to Australia risks jobs, BSE-free status**
- E) Cattle industry meltdown' drawing ranchers together**
- F) Cattlemen's group calling for risk management plan**
- G) Farmers stand up for local abattoirs**
- H) Meat not linked to prostate cancer recurrence risk**

This report prepared with the assistance of Dr. Doug Powell's team at Kansas State University. 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

A) U.S. Cuts Animal-Tracking Plan Created After Mad Cow (Update3)

By Daniel Enoch and Whitney McFerron

Feb. 5 (Bloomberg) -- The U.S. is scrapping a national system to track livestock from birth to slaughter as industry opposition led to the failure of a voluntary program created after cases of mad cow disease emerged starting in 2003.

The program will be replaced with a plan involving only livestock moved in interstate commerce, U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said. The secretary will convene a meeting of animal-health leaders to develop the plan, which will be administered by the states and by American Indian nations and will encourage the use of lower-cost technology.

"It is apparent that a new strategy for animal-disease traceability is needed," Vilsack said today in a speech at a meeting of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture in Washington. He said he's acting after receiving thousands of comments from the public, industry groups and farmers.

The USDA proposed a mandatory national plan a week after the U.S. disclosed its first case of mad cow disease, a fatal brain-wasting illness, on Dec. 23, 2003. That animal was born in Canada. The USDA said the goal of the system was to trace a sick animal back to its birth site within 48 hours and to promote confidence in the U.S. meat supply.

Voluntary System

The agency changed to a voluntary system in April 2006 after implementation delays and complaints from some ranchers and farmers that the program would provide competitors and the government with access to privileged information. Three years later, only about 37 percent of the country's 1.4 million livestock-raising sites were registered under the program, the USDA said in May.

"This one may have a chance of sticking," said Rich Nelson, the director of research at Allendale Inc., a consulting company and brokerage in McHenry, Illinois. "Producers were vehemently opposed to the previous attempt."

U.S. beef exports plunged by 82 percent in 2004 following the 2003 mad cow case, when countries including Japan, China, Taiwan and South Korea placed restrictions on the meat, according to USDA data.

The U.S. exported about 886,000 metric tons of beef in 2009, still 30 percent less than the 1.274 million tons shipped in 2003, according to the U.S. Meat Export Federation.

Mad Cow Losses

The Denver-based trade group estimates that the lack of market access because of mad cow disease led to more than \$12 billion in losses for the U.S. beef industry from 2004 through 2009, or about \$75 per animal slaughtered.

A new animal-ID system "will not likely lead to an increase in exports by itself," Nelson said. "It may help track down disease or disease scares quicker."

Other regions and countries have more comprehensive animal- identification systems than the U.S. The European Union maintains a central database to track the movement of livestock, and all animals must be tagged with details of their origin and stamped with a traceability code when slaughtered. The system has been in place since 2004. Australia began tracing its cattle in the 1960s to help fight bovine tuberculosis. The U.S. beef and dairy herds totaled 93.701 million cattle as of Jan. 1, the fewest since 1959, the USDA said on Jan. 29. Producers have slashed animal inventories after feed prices jumped to a record in 2008 and the recession curbed beef demand in the past year.

To contact the reporters on this story: Daniel Enoch in Washington at denoch@bloomberg.net; Whitney McFerron in Chicago at wmcFerron1@bloomberg.net.

B) MNR official's comments about coyote problem 'insulting' to farmers

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture is troubled by a recent article in the Brockville Recorder and Times about the serious coyote problem in Ontario.

Most troubling is the attitude of a Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) official quoted in the article that demonstrates a lack of understanding of Ontario agriculture, and the numerous steps undertaken by Ontario's livestock producers to minimize predator losses.

To tell farmers and the general public that simply using "good farming practices and common sense" to mitigate losses and personal injury is trite and demeaning.

Ontario's livestock producers are already employing every legal option at hand to minimize predator losses - losses that are seriously impacting their income.

Rural residents are extremely anxious about the very real possibility of being attacked by coyotes. To then be told that all would be well if they simply used "good farming practices and common sense" is arrogant and insulting.

The assertion that "protecting newborn lambs and calves, getting rid of deadstock, installing fences and employing dogs and donkeys" will solve the problem is naïve.

Farmers already take these steps to protect their animals from predator attacks. It is a very significant expense for our farmers. And yet predator losses continue to increase at an alarming rate.

Fences do not offer the degree of certainty implied. To provide any degree of certainty, fences must be buried below ground level to keep coyotes from digging under the fence to gain access to livestock.

Furthermore, fences need to be higher than conventional (4.5-feet) to deter coyotes. The OMAFRA Factsheet "Fencing Options in Predator Control" recommends fences higher than five feet to "discourage coyotes from jumping over."

In any case, the factsheet repeatedly notes improved fences may help to reduce predator losses, but never eliminate them.

Our Predator Task Team recognized this potential, but also recognized the significant cost of such specialized fences. We have called on the government to assist farmers in alleviating this cost.

Guard dogs or donkeys can be effective, but like fencing, they do not prevent losses to coyotes. AU. S. Department of Agriculture publication on predator management unequivocally states "guard animals don't solve the problem, however; they just prevent isolated attacks".

Only certain species of dogs are effective as livestock guard dogs, and they are expensive to acquire and costly to maintain. Multiple dogs are required as flock or herd size increases, adding to their cost.

Coyotes have learned how to lure dogs away from the livestock they are guarding, to allow others from the pack to attack the unguarded livestock.

Donkeys only work for small flocks, as multiple animals tend to bond with each other, not the livestock they are intended to protect.

The official further suggests that coyote culls will not be effective due to the "robust reproductive biology" of coyotes. And yet, we are also told that sarcoptic mange will soon devastate the population.

How so? We have been told for over two years now that mange would solve the problem. It has not.

Our farming community is suffering losses and fear from an increasing coyote population. The Ontario Federation of Agriculture has developed several solutions to deal with the growing coyote population in Ontario.

If only MNR would listen and act.

Bette Jean Crews, president, Ontario Federation of Agriculture

C) JBS buys downtown Greeley building

MCT Regional News

Fri Feb 5 2010

Section: Construction

Byline: By Sharon Dunn, Greeley Tribune, Colo.

Source: McClatchy-Tribune Regional News

Feb. 5--Greeley's meatpacking giant has just put down more permanent roots in downtown Greeley.

Public records show that JBS USA, with headquarters in Promontory, just paid \$2.3 million for a building that used to house a roof and floor truss manufacturing plant.

Company officials wouldn't comment about the purchase late Thursday night, but growing speculation is that the building will house its growing JBS Carriers division, a fleet of roughly 300 trucks the company started two years ago. The deal closed in late January.

At present, the carrier division is operating at 2600 2nd Ave., which is about two blocks south of the new building.

The new facility, at 2401 2nd Ave., used to house Structural Components Systems, which came to Greeley in spring 2002 offering 125 jobs and a boon to the job market. The company vacated the building in 2007 after the fall of the construction industry.

The 104,000-square-foot building previously housed Con-Agra Inc., which vacated it in 1999.

JBS' substantial investment in the area began in July 2007, when it bought the Greeley meatpacking plant.

Months later, it returned a second shift to the plant.

A year later, JBS acquired an Australian beef packer, Tasman, as well as Smithfield Beef Co. and Five Rivers Cattle Co., which expanded not only the company's beef packing plants, but its feedlots. Its parent company, JBS S.A. (South America), based in Brazil, has acquired other holdings throughout the world.

Last fall, the company also got into the chicken industry, purchasing a majority of Pilgrim's Pride. The company had planned to offer \$2 billion in stock in an initial public offering in January, but it has held off to wait for better conditions.

On Tuesday, JBS S.A. opened a hamburger patty plant in Moscow to supply Russia's growing number of McDonald's restaurants -- about 140 restaurants in 37 cities, according to Meatingplace.com.

D) Beef imports to Australia risks jobs, BSE-free status

English News Service

Fri Feb 5 2010

The Australian federal government's decision to allow beef to be imported from countries that have had outbreaks of mad cow disease could put 300,000 people out of work in a week, a Senate inquiry has heard. The upper house's Rural, Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee is examining the government's decision to relax beef import restrictions, the Australian Associated Press reports on Friday.

In October last year, the government announced from March 1, 2010, it would import beef from countries that are able to demonstrate they have appropriate controls in place to ensure beef products coming into Australia are free of BSE (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy) -- or mad cow disease.

"Such a move would put 300,000 out of work in a week," a submission from the Australian Beef Association to the inquiry says. "No government in the world did this when BSE broke out within their borders," the association said.

Australia has made much of being free of diseases like FMD, BSE, Blue Tongue and Scrapie and had gone further to promote the nation's image with its National Livestock Identification System (NLIS).

"By allowing in beef from BSE-affected countries, we are relinquishing this much-touted selling advantage," the association said.

Veterinary surgeon Bob Steel told the inquiry once countries that have BSE were allowed to export beef, there was uncertainty surrounding how effective and thorough the overseas testing would be.

"The only requirement for these 22 countries is that if they have a cohort of BSE cattle, that they test them, not all the others," Dr Steel said. "Without identification, how can we possibly know what's coming into the country."

E) Cattle industry meltdown' drawing ranchers together

The Daily News (Kamloops)

Tue Feb 2 2010

Page: A4

Section: News

Source: The Daily News

Unprecedented hard times in B.C.'s cattle industry are bringing cattlemen to Kamloops next week for panel discussions on ranching economics.

Kamloops Stockmen's Association is hosting the meeting on the "current cattle industry meltdown."

Speakers include bankers as well as representatives from the cattle marketing agency Canfax.

Discussions are set on the potential for a B.C. beef marketing board as well as the future of agri-support programs that ranchers say don't work for their unique industry.

"There's no cycle anymore. That's the trouble," rancher and organizer Peter Phillip said of the downturn, which started with discovery of BSE in Canadian cattle seven years ago.

The discussion starts with a lunch at the Kamloops Convention Centre at noon, Feb. 10.

Presenters include Nicola Valley rancher Dave Chutter, a former Liberal MLA who is pushing for a marketing board that would set beef prices.

"It's worth the discussion," Phillip said. "It's hard not to look at dairy people. They're doing quite fairly, them and poultry -- the only agricultural commodities in a healthy position."

A marketing board that would control prices and production was rejected in the 1970s. Despite the attractions today, Phillip said most ranchers doubt such a system can be adopted because international trade rules severely limit the use of price controls.

F) Cattlemen's group calling for risk management plan

Posted By John Phair

Today's Farmer

The development of a business risk management program has been a hot topic across Ontario as county cattle organizations hold their annual meetings.

The Lambton Cattlemen's Association is no exception and its president says his organization is working in collaboration with its provincial counterpart to develop a program that would assist producers when the market is not returning the cost of production.

Peter Kerrigan made the comment at the association's annual meeting, held Jan. 13 in Wyoming.

"This program is in the early stages of development and as Ontario moves ahead on this item, other provinces will be consulted via the Canadian Cattlemen's Association," Kerrigan said.

He said over the past year the Lambton association has held many meetings and exchanges with community groups and government agencies, both formal and informal, all in the name of working on behalf of beef producers.

Risk plan urgently needed

In his report, advisory councillor Tim Fugard agreed that a business risk management program is urgently needed. He stressed that working together in an open and co-operative manner with others can and will turn challenges into opportunities.

"What our energies must be focused on is to develop an effective, predictable and bankable BRM program that will support producers through tough market conditions and ensure sustainability for our industry," said Fugard.

He noted that the Ontario Cattlemen's Association has been working with other commodity groups and farm organizations and the consensus is that agricultural producers need to move forward with a united voice and have agreed that cost-of-production must be the basis of any business risk management program that is put forth to the government.

Also speaking at the meeting was Dave Stewart, executive director of the Ontario Cattlemen's Association.

He said the provincial organization has been heavily involved in negotiating a program since last November.

He noted that in response to a motion passed by the OCA executive last fall to look at a number of proposals for a program, the OCA had initially planned to hold a series of meetings across the province to gather input from the grass-roots on a business risk management program.

However, Stewart said because of concerns some of the proposals may pose some constitutional issues for the organization, it was decided to hold one meeting in Cobourg last November.

Stewart noted that county organizations from across the province were asked to send their president and advisory councillor in attendance at that meeting.

He said that about 100 attended the meeting and looked at a number of different proposals.

"We looked at a proposal from the Peterborough Cattlemen's Association; we looked at a ledger account for cattle feeders; we looked at an index moving average type of support program," said Stewart, adding that the OCA also had a request into the federal government asking that changes be made to AgriStability.

"That's been on the books for two years and we've had no response from the federal government."

He added that if those changes were implemented retroactively it would inject much needed cash into Ontario's beef industry.

Nevertheless, Stewart said about the time of the Cobourg meeting, the OCA received a request to attend a meeting with provincial Agriculture Minister Leona Dombrowsky.

At that meeting, Stewart said the minister told them she wanted one umbrella program that would work for all sectors of agriculture and she wanted that proposal by Jan. 15.

"We're not quite there yet," he added.

Consequently, he said the OCA board and staff have been working diligently since then to develop a program in consultation with other commodity groups and organizations with the Ontario Federation of Agriculture helping co-ordinate some of the meetings.

Stewart said, in addition, the minister imposed another restriction on the negotiations: She also stated that her government would only participate if the federal government also came to the table.

"Basically, she said it's not going to be like the grains and oilseeds program, it's going to be different and the federal government will have to be a player," he said.

Stewart said since then, the various groups have reached a consensus that the business risk management program should be based on cost-of-production.

"We also settled on the fact that whether or not the federal government comes to the table we will demand the provincial government participates," he said.

"We decided as a group that is the position we would take and will drive that through to completion."

Stewart added that there's a federal/provincial/territorial agriculture minister's meeting set for Feb. 5 and suggested that many of the issues surrounding the proposal may be resolved at that time.

G) Farmers stand up for local abattoirs

Posted By DONAL O'CONNOR, Staff Reporter

Stratford Beacon Herald

A group of local abattoir owners and representatives of the National Farmers Union (NFU) are meeting with Oxford MPP Ernie Hardeman Friday to discuss food safety regulations that are threatening the future of small abattoirs.

An executive meeting of the Perth-Oxford local of the NFU is also planned for later today to consider action that could be taken in support of Mogk's Killing and Butcher Shop south of Tavistock and other long-standing local meat processors facing onerous expenditures in order to stay in business.

The developments follow Monday's visit to Mogk's by an Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs food safety inspector and a district supervisor which left the family-operated abattoir in business but having to commit to a long list of required remedial measures.

"The Perth-Oxford local of the NFU is getting involved in this because a lot of our farmers rely on these abattoirs to kill animals to provide the local market," said NFU member Allan Slater.

An organic farmer himself, Mr. Slater is one of three organic farmers in the district who rely on Mogk's for their butchering.

Mr. Slater said Mr. Hardeman immediately suggested the meeting when contacted Tuesday. A meeting has also been requested with John Wilkinson, but the NFU local had not heard back from the Perth-Wellington MPP as of Wednesday afternoon.

Ken Mogk, who operates Mogk's Custom Killing with his son Ken (Butch) Mogk, said the meeting Monday with OMAFRA officials "didn't go very good."

"I flew off the handle," he said, admitting that he swore at the inspector who visited the premises with a district supervisor.

The shop owners aren't happy about a number of remedial measures a food safety inspector is requiring them to undertake, including rebuilding of a smoke house and a lunch room/storage area.

Following audits of the premises Jan. 15 and 18, the Mogks have been directed to take action on a list of items that are considered deficiencies under existing food safety regulations.

The items are contained in a 17-page report and they have been directed to commit to dates by which time certain things have to be done.

Mr. Mogk said he agrees with some things -- for instance building a foyer so that there are double doors coming into the shop from outside. But the Mogks are more than a little upset at having to rebuild a plywood-lined lunch room that also serves as a storage area for boxes and seasonings used in the shop.

Requirements to record temperatures and cooking times of smokehouse meats and to install a sink in the smokehouse are among the measures demanded in the regulations.

The Mogks' contention is that meat from their killing floor and butcher shop and smokehouse has always met quality standards.

Mr. Mogk operated the shop for 20 years before handing over control to his son but he still works at the shop every day.

While local farmers who depend on the shop are rallying in support, farm organizations are also getting involved in calling for flexibility in how regulations are applied to smaller meat processing operations.

Rostock-area farmer Murray Brodhagen, who raises beef, is hoping the profile of the small abattoir issue will be raised at the Feb. 24-25 meeting of the Ontario Cattlemen's Association in Toronto.

At his suggestion, a resolution dealing with the issue from the Perth County Beef Producers Association is on the agenda. There's also a resolution from Middlesex producers on the agenda, he said.

"I don't disagree that they have to be clean and all that," he said, referring to smaller abattoirs, "But your chances of getting contamination are greater when you constantly put through 1,500 (animals) a day or 500 a day and you do that day after day after day."

"We need those small abattoirs. There's a purpose to them. It's part of our rural heritage."

Abattoir expansion funding is on the OCA agenda as well.

The Perth County resolution refers to the declining number of abattoirs in Ontario and to the relationship between the decline and the cost of complying with regulations that have been increasing in number and complexity.

The resolution calls on the province to "apply common sense in the creation, application and enforcement of meat inspection legislation with a goal being to create an environment which allows provincially inspected abattoirs to thrive financially and grow in numbers and maintain their high food safety standards."

With the issue before the OCA, said Mr. Brodhagen, it will get the attention of the agriculture minister and rural caucus members.

"I don't know of too many local, small abattoirs that people have got sick from ... I just know it's a lot easier for bacteria to build and create a problem in a big plant versus a small plant," said the Perth County farmer, suggesting smaller operations need a break.

While small abattoirs in Ontario have long been subject to provincial licensing, stricter regulations based on a review of the meat regulation and inspection system by Justice Roland Haines first took effect in June 2005 for provincially licensed abattoirs and large free-standing meat processors. The same rules were phased in in 2006 for medium-sized and small, freestanding meat processors.

Lisa Drabble, the district supervisor with OMAFRA's food inspection branch who attended at the Mogk shop Monday, directed inquiries to ministry spokesman Brent Ross.

In an earlier interview Mr. Ross explained: "Now that the regulations are in place, all freestanding meat plants are treated the same regardless of size. So they obviously have to meet the same rules and the same standards for food safety in all cases."

Bert Vorstenbosch, president of the Perth County Federation of Agriculture, said his daughter takes calves to Mogk's for butchering, so some of the meat on his table is processed there.

"I think the bureaucrats have a little bit too much power. I think they're overstepping their bounds a little bit"

"I think there's better ways than forcing these people out of business. And that's what's going to happen to a lot of our small abattoirs."

Mr. Vorstenbosch said he had three or four phone calls from the public expressing concerns about the future of the abattoirs.

H) Meat not linked to prostate cancer recurrence risk

By Stephen Daniells, 06-Jan-2010

Consuming processed and unprocessed red meat, fish, total poultry, and skinless poultry does not affect prostate cancer recurrence or progression, says a new study from Harvard.

On the other hand, a doubling of the risk of prostate cancer recurrence or progression was observed in men who ate poultry with the skin still on or an average of five and a half eggs a day, according to a study with 1,294 men published in the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*.

The researchers, led by Erin Richman, were careful to recommend caution interpreting the results. *"Our analyses of poultry and eggs were exploratory, because no studies have examined the post-diagnostic intake of these items and risk of prostate cancer progression,"* they stated.

The researchers noted that the saturated fat content of meat was not linked to prostate health, and that the heterocyclic amines may be responsible for the observations. Heterocyclic amines are mutagenic compounds reportedly found at much higher concentrations in well-cooked poultry than in other meats.

Meat consumption and cancer risk remains a hot topic for many consumers, with obvious implications for the food industry. A study from the US National Cancer Institute reported that high intakes of red and processed meats may raise the risk of lung and colorectal cancer by up to 20 per cent.

The World Cancer Research Fund published a report in 2007 that directly linked diet to cancer, with alcohol and red and processed meats posing particular risks.

The link between eggs and prostate cancer may be due to the high levels of dietary choline, wrote the researchers. *"Egg consumption is a determinant of plasma choline, and higher plasma choline was recently reported to be associated with a greater risk of prostate cancer,"* said the researchers.

Independent opinion

Commenting independently on the new study, Nell Barrie, science information officer at British charity Cancer Research UK told FoodNavigator: *"Importantly, this study doesn't show that eating more poultry with skin or eggs increases the risk of getting prostate cancer - it only looked at men who already had the disease.*

"There is no firm evidence that eating poultry with skin or eggs increases the risk of prostate cancer progressing in people who already have the disease. This question can only be answered with further research, and it's difficult to tease out the effects of individual types of food on cancer," added Barrie.

Study details

Richman and her co-workers recruited almost 1,300 men with prostate cancer without recurrence or progression already participating in the Cancer of the Prostate Strategic Urologic Research Endeavor (CaPSURE). Dietary intakes of meat and eggs were determined using a 127-item food frequency questionnaire. During two years of follow-up 127 prostate events were documented. However, no link between the intakes of processed and unprocessed red meat, fish, total poultry, and skinless poultry was observed by the researchers. An increased consumption of eggs and poultry with skin was associated with a two-fold increase in the risk of prostate cancer recurrence or progression, said the researchers.

"Overall, our results support the hypothesis that diet may influence the progression of prostate cancer among men with localized disease," wrote the researchers. *"In particular, consumption of poultry with skin and eggs may be associated with an increased risk of prostate cancer progression."*

"We acknowledge that our study had several limitations, including a short follow-up, a small number of prostate cancer deaths or metastases, and a lack of prediagnostic dietary data," added the researchers. *"The Diet and Lifestyle substudy of CaPSURE has yet to accrue many events of prostate cancer metastases or death."*

Source: *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*

Published online ahead of print, doi:10.3945/ajcn.2009.28474

"Intakes of meat, fish, poultry, and eggs and risk of prostate cancer progression"

Authors: E.L. Richman, M.J. Stampfer, A. Paciorek, J.M. Broering, P.R. Carroll, J.M. Chan



If you would like to post your cattle industry news or event, send your information by Thursday at 4pm to lianne@cattle.guelph.on.ca or submit through the OCA Web site: <http://www.cattle.guelph.on.ca/calendar/calendar.asp>.

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