



Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association

Media Release

For immediate Release

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Saskatchewan Stock Growers Address Industry Concerns

Cattle producers examined a broad range of issues impacting their industry during an informative Convention and Annual General Meeting of the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association, which concluded in Moose Jaw on Tuesday.

Association members, including representatives from affiliate associations, industry and government attended the three day meeting, under the theme 'Saskatchewan Beef – Competing in a Global Marketplace'. Consolidation of the packing industry and the closure of the Moose Jaw XL Foods packing plant, Country of Origin Labelling (COOL) regulations in the U.S., the need for effective business risk management programs and the question of age verification of calves were among the key topics of discussion.

The annual general meeting took place on Tuesday where members received updates from various industry groups including the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency, Beef Information Centre, Canadian Beef Export Federation and the Western Beef Development Centre.

SSGA Members passed resolutions dealing with a number of issues including, Sunday hunting, availability of low cost options for noxious weed control and retention of young agricultural producers in the province.

One resolution called for the SSGA to lobby the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Environment to discontinue Sunday hunting in 2010. Members were concerned that landowners were not consulted prior to the change which allowed Sunday hunting for the 2009 season. Another resolution passed to see the SSGA lobby the Federal Government to add Tordon 22K to the Grower Own Use List, which would result in this product, which is used to control noxious weeds such as scentless chamomile, leafy spurge and field bindweed, to be obtained at a drastically reduced price. Another resolution passed that the SSGA lobby the Provincial Ministry of Agriculture to endorse a program to develop and retain young agricultural producers through financial and business assistance.

Calvin Knoss, a rancher from Rockglen was elected President of the SSGA. Rounding out the Executive are the following: Mark Elford of McCord, first Vice President, Doug Gillespie of Neville, second Vice President, Ed Bothner of Beechy, Past President and Randy Clark of Rockglen, Finance Chair.

The Daryk Simonson family of Dinsmore won The Environmental Stewardship (TESA) Award, which is sponsored by the SSGA, RBC Royal Bank and Ducks Unlimited Canada. This award was presented on Monday evening at the Banquet to recognize excellence in the area of environmental stewardship within the ranching industry.

The event featured a full Trade Show and was supported by the following sponsors:

Agriculture Council of Saskatchewan through the Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food Saskatchewan (ACAAFS) program. Funding for the ACAAFS program is provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture

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