



Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association

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Media Release

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Stock Growers Study Issues

Cattle producers examined a broad range of issues impacting their industry during a successful 95th Conference and Annual General Meeting of the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association, which concluded in Saskatoon on Tuesday.

More than 200 members of the Association, including representatives from affiliate associations, industry and government attended the three day meeting, under the theme 'Positioning Our Industry for the Future'.

The impending Country of Origin Labeling regulations in the U.S., the recently announced livestock support program by the Alberta Government and the need to be more proactive in articulating the realities of cattle production and handling were among the key issues addressed.

The Conference opened with an address from Minister of Agriculture Hon. Bob Bjornerud, who made reference to the Alberta Farm Recovery Plan II and called upon stock growers to be cautious in their response. The Minister said countervail concerns are a big issue and producers need to know the benefits of the Plan and who is going to pay for it in the long-term. He said a committee will be set up to advise government on where the Saskatchewan cattle industry wants to be in 10 years to make sure "we walk before we run."

SSGA Members passed two resolutions relating to the Alberta plan; one stating that the SSGA lobby the provincial Minister of Agriculture to endorse a program which provides monetary parity with the new Alberta Farm Recovery Program II, and a second one stating that the SSGA Board of Directors draft an appropriate response to the Alberta government and that the SSGA request the provincial government to express the provincial industry's concerns to the Alberta government.

Guest speakers included Canadian Cattlemen's Association President Brad Wildeman, South Dakota Cattlemen's Association President Scott Jones, Agribusiness Freedom Foundation Executive Vice President Steve Dittmer and Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association Interim Chair Bob Ivey.

The stock growers agreed that the most effective representation possible is desired by all cattle producers and passed a resolution stating that the SSGA support the formation of an umbrella group known as the "Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association" under the Agri-Food Act.

Ed Bothner, a rancher from Beechy, was elected President of the SSGA. The new executive will be announced following the next meeting of the Board of Directors.

"The Business of Beef – Freedom in Strength"

The B-C Ranch of the Don Campbell family in Meadow Lake won The Environmental Stewardship (TESA) Award, which is sponsored by the SSGA, RBC Royal Bank and Ducks Unlimited Canada.

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

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"The Business of Beef – Freedom in Strength"

