



FACstracs

Farm Animal Council of Saskatchewan Inc.

Fall 2006

Representing the livestock industry in advancing responsible animal care in agriculture

FACS Sessions Deliver Anthrax Facts to Public

Submitted by: Myrna MacDonald

An unusually wet spring followed by nearly four weeks of hot weather created ideal conditions for a record outbreak of anthrax in Saskatchewan and Manitoba during the summer of 2006.

The first cases occurred in early July when Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) officials confirmed that 106 animals on two farms near Melfort, SK, had died from the bacterial disease.

By September 13, 922 animals in Saskatchewan and Manitoba had died from the disease and CFIA had declared 174 premises in the two provinces as positive for anthrax. Most cases occurred in north central and northeast Saskatchewan where CFIA reported 785 dead animals and 153 positive premises in 45 rural municipalities by late August.

In late August, Alberta reported its first cases of anthrax after eight dead bison near Bonnyville, Alta., tested positive for the disease

Anthrax is a reportable disease in Canada that's caused by the bacteria *Bacillus anthracis* whose spores can survive in soil for decades. Herbivores like cattle, bison or deer can ingest anthrax when they graze in areas where flooding or digging have brought the bacterial spores to the surface. Once ingested, the spores germinate and grow in an animal's intestinal tract - releasing potent toxins that cause the animal to die if left untreated.

Although anthrax is a non-contagious disease, the bacterial spores can "spread" to other areas through scavengers, migrating birds or even flies. Excessive moisture and flooding can also wash anthrax spores from one area to another.

As cases of the disease became more widespread in Saskatchewan, the Farm Animal Council of Saskatchewan Inc. (FACS) collaborated with CFIA, the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM), Saskatchewan Health, and Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food to organize a series of public information sessions across the province.

From late July to mid-August, hundreds of concerned producers attended free sessions in Nipawin, Saskatoon, Naicam, Regina, Prince Albert, Foam Lake, Spiritwood and Melfort. At each location, veterinary and public health representatives provided background information about anthrax, news about the outbreak and more details about CFIA's regulatory policies.

As well, FACS' web site (www.facs.sk.ca) became "Anthrax Central" that provided concerned producers with regular updates on the anthrax outbreak, maps showing the location of quarantined farms, facts about the disease and presentations by veterinary and public health experts.

"Part of our mandate is to provide livestock producers and the public with timely and accurate information about critical animal health issues when the need is the greatest," explained Adele Buettner, executive director of FACS.

"As the only provincial organization that's supported by livestock and poultry industries, we've worked quickly with our partners to respond to producers' concerns and questions about other major issues like BSE (bovine spongiform encephalopathy), avian influenza and West Nile virus. Ultimately, our goal is to ensure that Saskatchewan producers have all of the information they need to ensure the health and welfare of their animals."

The largest anthrax session was held on July 26 at WCVM in Saskatoon, SK. Nearly 200 people attended the seminar - including an audience at the University of Calgary who watched the live event through a videoconference link.

One of the session's three speakers was Dr. Chris Clark, assistant professor in WCVM's Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences, who described the clinical signs of anthrax: "You may see bloody discharge from the animal's nose, mouth, anus or vagina."

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There might be some swelling on the belly, and you may notice that the carcass decomposes very quickly." He added that the mortality rate in the early stages of an anthrax outbreak is nearly 100 per cent.

To control the spread of bacterial spores, both Clark and co-presenter Dr. Sandra Stephens of CFIA stressed that producers and veterinarians shouldn't open the carcasses of any animals suspected of dying from anthrax. Once a diagnosis is confirmed, all animals on infected premises are placed under a 21-day quarantine, explained Stephens, a disease control specialist with the federal agency.

"Carcass disposal is extremely important, and it's crucial that it's done very quickly by incineration or by deep burial," said Stephens. If disposal must be delayed, dead animals should be covered with tarps and sprayed with formalin to protect them from scavengers or birds. After disposal, producers should use lime or formalin to decontaminate the soil in case of any leakage.

Later in an outbreak, Clark and Stephens said that producers and veterinarians may witness a prolonged version of the disease that lasts over one to two days. Affected animals may appear listless, go off their feed, have high fevers or have diarrhea. If caught early, these animals can be successfully treated with antibiotics.

A highly effective vaccine is available for cattle, horses, pigs, goats and sheep (with off-label use for bison, elk and deer). However, Clark cautioned that it takes between seven to eight days for animals to build up enough immunity against the disease.

"If an animal is already exposed, the vaccine may not work fast enough. In those circumstances, it's better to treat the animal with antibiotics such as oxytetracycline or penicillin, then vaccinate the animal later. But what's important to remember is that you can not give the vaccine and treat with antibiotics at the same time."

Stephens added that CFIA vaccinates all animals on quarantined farms and recommends revaccination for at least three years on anthrax-positive premises. Producers on neighbouring farms aren't required to vaccinate their animals, but during this summer's outbreak, Stephens said veterinarians advised producers to vaccinate all herds within 10 kilometres of anthrax-positive premises.

While human cases of anthrax are rare in Canada, Dr. Mohammad Khan told the Saskatoon audience that the cutaneous type of the disease can occur among people who work with animals - including farmers, veterinarians and people who handle wool or animal hides.

Two human cases were reported in Saskatchewan during this summer's animal outbreak. One was confirmed by the laboratory, while the other was a suspected case that couldn't be confirmed.

"The cutaneous type occurs when a person who has a cut or abrasion on his hands or arms comes into contact with an infected animal. At first, it looks like a small pimple that's itchy, then it turns into an ulcer that has a black centre surrounded by red," described Khan, medical health officer for the Kelsey Trail Health Region.

Humans diagnosed with anthrax can be successfully treated with antibiotics. However, Khan stressed that the best way to prevent the disease is through common-sense measures: thorough hand-washing, proper food handling practices, care of cuts and skin abrasions, and the use of personal protective gear like gloves, overalls and rubber boots when in contact with diseased animals.

"Anthrax is primarily and predominately an animal disease that's non-contagious," said Khan. "Essentially, we control the disease in humans by controlling the disease in animals."

Fortunately, livestock producers took that advice to heart: by the end of August, more than 500,000 doses of anthrax vaccine had been administered to Saskatchewan livestock. The industry's positive response to vaccination, combined with cooler weather, helped to reduce the number of new anthrax cases in the province.

But, as Stephens and Clark warned at the end of their presentations, livestock producers in areas that were affected by anthrax this year must be vigilant in their vaccination plans for the next several years.

"Anthrax is different from other reportable diseases: we consider it to be an environmental disease since its spores are in the soil and they're available in a wide, geographic region," emphasized Stephens. "It's a disease that isn't going to go away."

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Livestock Anthrax Facts Sheet

by Brandy A. Burgess, DVM and Alisha M. Janzen, DVM; Large Animal Medicine, WCVM

WHAT IS ANTHRAX? Anthrax is a disease caused by the bacterium *Bacillus anthracis*. It has been reported for thousands of years and is found worldwide. There are 3 forms: gastrointestinal, cutaneous, and inhalation. The most common form in animals is the gastrointestinal form. Anthrax is a reportable disease in Canada under the Health of Animals Act. Animal anthrax is a naturally occurring disease, which is a very different disease than the "white powder" made in a laboratory and used for bioterrorism.

HOW IS ANTHRAX TRANSMITTED IN ANIMALS? Anthrax is not a typical contagious disease. Animals must ingest the spores from the environment. It is, therefore, called an "environmental disease" and not a contagious disease. It is not transmitted from animal to animal and there are not healthy carriers of the disease. The spores are already in the environment from cases of deadly anthrax decades ago.

WHO IS SUSCEPTIBLE? Most mammals are susceptible, including humans. Herbivores (plant eaters), such as cattle, horses, sheep, goats, bison, elk and deer, are most susceptible.

IS THERE A VACCINE? Yes, it is made by the Colorado Serum Company and is available through your local veterinarian. The vaccine is labeled for use in cattle, horses, sheep and goats. It is given subcutaneously (under the skin). See vaccine label for instructions. Withdrawal time, according to the label, for meat is 42 days after the last dose of vaccine and there is no withdrawal time for milk. Do not treat animals (with antibiotics) within 8 days before or after administering the anthrax vaccine. The vaccine is a modified live bacteria and antibiotics will inactivate the vaccine. The manufacturer indicates the vaccine to be protective 8-10 days after vaccination.

IS THE VACCINE SAFE TO USE? Yes, if used according to the label instructions. Reported side effects of the vaccine are anaphylactic reactions (rare) and local tissue swelling. The manufacturer suggests that dividing the vaccine dose between both sides of the neck in horses will decrease the local reaction.

WHAT ARE THE COMMON SIGNS OF ANTHRAX IN LIVESTOCK? Animals are typically found dead and may have bloody discharge from body openings. Occasionally, animals will be depressed, off feed, with diarrhea and a high fever for a couple days preceding death.

WHAT DO I DO IF I HAVE SUDDEN DEATHS OF LIVESTOCK? Do not touch or move the carcass. Try to prevent scavenging of the carcass and do not open the carcass for an autopsy. Call your local veterinarian and they will contact the CFIA to test for anthrax.

WHAT IS THE RISK TO HUMANS? Minimal. The cutaneous form is the most common form in humans and is usually not fatal. This form is the result of spores entering the skin through existing cuts/abrasions during contaminated carcass handling. Typical lesions appear as black ulcers on the skin. If you are suspicious of being exposed to anthrax please contact your medical doctor.

WHAT HAPPENS IF MY FARM HAS A POSITIVE CASE OF ANTHRAX? All animals on the farm will be vaccinated for anthrax. The first dose is paid for by the CFIA and any boosters are at the expense of the producer. A quarantine on animal movement will be in effect on the premises for 21 days after the last animal is vaccinated or 21 days after the last positive anthrax case on the premises. However, milk will not be quarantined. An indemnity is paid by the CFIA for animals confirmed by the CFIA to have died due to anthrax. The anthrax positive carcass will be disposed of under the guidelines of the CFIA including deep burial (8 feet or deeper) or incineration and decontamination of the area and equipment used to handle the carcass with lime or formalin.

LIFE CYCLE OF ANTHRAX: When an animal dies of anthrax the tissues are loaded with the bacteria. If the bacteria are exposed to oxygen from the carcass being opened they form spores. The spores are very hardy, surviving in the environment for many decades allowing cases to occur sporadically. The spores are brought up to the soil surface by digging and flooding and can be spread by scavengers. Herbivores ingest the spores and they are reactivated in the intestines and release a toxin causing death of the animal.

DO ANIMALS SURVIVE ANTHRAX? Prognosis for animals with anthrax is very poor. Some may be treated with antibiotics and supportive care if diagnosis and treatment begin early in disease.

WHEN IS IT RECOMMENDED TO VACCINATE MY LIVESTOCK? Vaccination is required for those premises with a confirmed positive anthrax case and will be administered by the CFIA. It is recommended that all livestock within 10km of the positive premises also be vaccinated. Producers should contact their local veterinarian for advice on vaccination.

References:

www.inspection.gc.ca

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Farm Animal Care Has Come a Long Way in 20 Years

Submitted by: Leslie Ballentine
Ballentine Communication Group

If you had said "welfare" to farmers 20 years ago most would have thought you meant a government cheque. If you had spoken about farm animal care to most retailers, you would have been met with a blank stare. Animals certainly weren't a matter considered by world trade groups. And "animal friendly" food was unheard of. Fast forward to 2006 and "animal welfare" is part of the agri-food lexicon. Just as the world has changed when it comes to attitudes about animals so too has the industry's mindset.

Responsible animal care is what most farmers have always done or at least tried to do; but today, how animals are raised and handled is becoming increasingly relevant to farmers, processors, marketers, governments, and to at least a small segment of consumers. We hear endlessly from a vocal and demanding minority and from retailers on the frontlines of those activist campaigns. We hear from researchers wanting to advance animal welfare science and from government wanting to advance our trading position. But, it is really farmers who are quietly making change happen.

Canadian farmers have been leaders in advancing animal care though we never seem to get deserved recognition for our unique industry-led initiatives. Unlike some other countries, farmers here recognized early on that it's to their advantage to be driving the issue. Take for example, Canada's Recommended Codes of Practice for the care and handling of farm animals that began in 1983. What makes them unique is that they were initiated by commodity groups (unlike in other countries) with the involvement of a wide range of outside parties and cover all stages of production, from birth to death. By 2002, there were Codes of Practice in place for every major farm species. The Codes were designed to reflect current best practices. This means they have been reviewed and revised where necessary over the years, as changes in the industry or accepted practices occur. Today, these voluntary codes are being used in various ways and for various purposes by every link in the food chain, something not envisioned 20 years ago. The Codes of Practice are now being reviewed by the recently formed National Farm Animal Care Council -- of which the provincial FAC groups are active members. The Codes have been identified as an important component to national farm animal care that should be retained.

Since the federal government started promoting on-farm food safety programs, most farm groups have developed quality assurance programs that include animal care components. Begun in 1995, voluntary animal care assessments based on Code recommendations are now in place for pork, beef, dairy, veal, chickens, layers and turkeys. They are also reviewed and updated. Administered by each respective provincial commodity group, these programs are reportedly being used by more and more producers who want to document or improve on the good care they provide their animals. Processors have incorporated animal care protocols in their day-to-day operations above and beyond regulatory requirements. And more recently, some retailers such as MacDonal'd's and KFC and trading partners in the European Union have begun to include animal care components as part of their purchase agreements.

Formalized training on animal care and handling is also something new. With an agri-food workforce increasingly coming from non-farm backgrounds, ensuring they know how to humanely handle and care for animals only makes good sense. And re-training even seasoned veterans on new, or improved, handling methods is having both economic and animal paybacks. Programs now offered by Ag Colleges, agri-businesses and producer groups give practical training on humane handling, animal behavior, facility design, equipment safety, medical treatment, proper euthanasia and disposal of dead livestock- for nearly all farmed species.

Meanwhile producers continue to help each other through animal care initiatives they themselves have developed. One example is Animal Care Help Lines /Farm Stress Lines. They didn't exist 15 years ago. Today, these "farmer-helping-farmer" services operate in all three Prairie provinces. Designed to assist farmers who are not giving their animals adequate care, these services have benefited animals and the industry as a whole.

Producer information on animal care topics has exploded over the past decade. Generally in concert with or on behalf of individual commodity groups, provincial Farm Animal Councils have developed a wide array of information and education materials, workshops and web sites. Commodity groups, agri-businesses and governments have done the same, and some have even added specialized staff assigned to the issue. Animal care is now a regular agenda item at most producer meetings and a topic of regular discussion in industry publications. Meanwhile future farmers are being targeted through 4-H programs and mandatory courses at Ag Colleges across Canada.

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Producer groups, particularly in the Prairies, have also helped advance animal care beyond the farm gate. Recognizing that livestock transport can impact on animal wellbeing and product quality, certification programs such as the pork industry's Trucker Quality Assurance program are being picked up across the country. And producer groups are sharing their animal care expertise with enforcement agencies, front line response and rescue teams, and legitimate animal welfare groups.

All of these efforts to advance farm animal care rely on two things: sound science and proven on-farm results.

Animal behaviour and welfare sciences are relatively young research disciplines in Canada, but Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta have helped lead the way. Saskatoon's Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization, The Prairie Swine Centre and Alberta Poultry Research Centre were some of the first joint ventures between producer groups and researchers in Canada. Since 1989 we have seen the establishment of animal research centres in four other provinces plus the soon-to-open National Centre for Livestock and the Environment at the University of Manitoba. All have industry backing and are becoming world recognized for their work in animal wellbeing.

Some of this research has proven useful. It has led to better animal disease prevention, detection, and treatments. Animals are more comfortable (and productive) due to research-backed housing modifications such as better stall and cage designs, advancements in loose housing systems, improved flooring and better ventilation systems. Research has supported less stressful and more effective methods of moving animals helping reduce the incidents of bruising, injury and even death. Pain reduction strategies for routine tasks like early castration and laser beak trimming, more humane and lower cost euthanasia methods, and new ways to manage animals are finding their way onto farms. And on-going studies of animal behaviours and cognitive abilities may lead to more advances in the future allowing producers to cut production costs and losses by adjusting their practices.

In 2002, research information was made easier for farmers to find when the Prairie Swine Centre launched Canada's first-ever on-line searchable animal welfare database. Funded and supported by industry groups including the Farm Animal Councils, both the database and the research it reports are proving to be indispensable to today's commercial livestock or poultry farmer who wants to meet the needs and demands of a changing global world.

So the next time someone tells you that farm animal welfare has not advanced, remember to tell them that improving animal care is a process not an event and has led to the quality of care we have today.

HOW THINGS HAVE CHANGED IN 15 YEARS

Did you Know?

- In 1991 there was nothing on the internet about "animal rights". Today there are nearly 14 million sites and references.
- Fur and animals in research were the primary activist targets 15 years ago, today the majority of campaigns are targeting agriculture.
- In 1991 there was one animal law course in the US, today there are 67 plus at least three in Canada.
- People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), which opposes all uses of animals, has grown from a \$9.2 million organization with 350,000 members in 1990 to \$31 million with 850,000 members today.
- In 1992 the US was the first country to pass laws protecting animal facilities from animal extremists. Today 38 states as well as England, France, Australia, New Zealand and Holland have so-called "eco-terrorism" laws.
- Fifteen years ago there were no "Humane" food labels. Today, SPCA certified label programs are run in BC and Manitoba and there are various private labels across Canada. The CFIA is considering establishing standards for such labels.
- Since 1991, 2 provinces (Manitoba, Nova Scotia) have referenced the Codes of Practice in their animal cruelty laws.
- Fifteen years ago there was one university animal welfare centre in Canada, today there are three (Ontario, B.C. and PEI).
- The number of Canadians who describe themselves as vegetarian has not changed in 15 years and remains at 3%.
- The number of Canadians who believe farmers treat their animals humanely has remained unchanged since 1991 at 66%.

Animal Care Issues During a Disease Outbreak

Submitted by: Kevin Hursh
Hursh Consulting and Communications

More than 30 of the top swine veterinarians from across Canada got more than they were expecting from an educational event in early June. Rather than just learning about the theory of a foreign animal disease outbreak, the vets were thrust into what they thought was a genuine outbreak of Classical Swine Fever.

While touring the Prairie Swine Centre's Pork Interpretative Gallery located east of Saskatoon near Elstow, the vets were quarantined at the facility due to a simulated outbreak of the serious disease.

The event was organized by Schering-Plough Animal Health with the full cooperation of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), Prairie Swine Centre, Western College of Veterinary Medicine and Sask Pork.

"We hinted at some disease symptoms during the tour, and then the CFIA arrived to deliver the dramatic news," explains Gordon Roger of Schering, a past president of FACS. "The vets were told the animals at the centre had a suspected case of Classical Swine Fever, something that would have serious ramifications for the entire Canadian pork industry."

CFIA staff cordoned off the centre and Sandra Stephens began reviewing the epidemiology of the disease with the vets. Stephens is a specialist in Foreign Animal Disease emergency response with the CFIA.

"We're always looking for opportunities to increase Canada's preparedness for an event of this nature," says Stephens. "We hold many training sessions, but this event organized by Schering provided a unique opportunity for an educational event with a lot of impact."

Classical Swine Fever is a reportable disease in Canada because it is of significant importance to animal health and to the Canadian economy. After confirmation, control and eradication measures would be applied immediately.

Although Classical Swine Fever has never occurred in Canada, it is present in other parts of the world. Several common and much less serious swine diseases have similar symptoms so it's important for swine veterinarians to be extra alert.

There are a whole host of issues that need to be dealt with during a disease outbreak. While disease containment, carcass disposal and even media relations are critical components of an action plan, there's also a need to be aware of animal welfare issues.

"Producers respond in different ways to the difficult news that their herd or flock will have to be depopulated," notes Stephens. "Some individuals may become so depressed they are unable to care for their animals."

Producers caught in this difficult situation need the support of their peers. In some cases, they need outside help in order to cope.

Overall, however, it's clear that producers are committed to the care of their animals. As Gordon Roger notes, "Even during the darkest days of the BSE crisis, the care provided by cattle producers was better than many observers expected."

Roger believes animal welfare would be enhanced by individual producers having an emergency plan in the event of a disease outbreak. For instance, is there a plan for the removal of mortalities from among the living stock? This can be an animal welfare issue since the process can be disruptive to the normal flow of the operation.

Sometimes a livestock operation will need extra labour to handle all the additional tasks while still performing all the regular jobs.

Within Saskatchewan, FACS can serve an important role by providing coordination among the various producer groups. FACS also has a strong role to play in the education of producers.

"Good information from someone other than government is sometimes internalized better," notes Sandra Stephens. Stephens is currently serving on the board of FACS.

Information is one of the major roles FACS is playing. In late July, FACS held an information session on the anthrax outbreak. As well, FACS is involved in poultry discussions, as that industry develops emergency management capabilities in order that it can respond to and recover from a major animal health emergency.

Funding for the Anthrax Sessions was provided in part through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food Program. This is a collective outcome partnership with the Agricultural Adaptation Council in Ontario, the Manitoba Rural Adaptation Council, the Saskatchewan Council for Community Development and the Alberta Agriculture and Food Council."



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Canada's Veterinarians Prepare for Animal Disasters

Submitted by: Dr. Curt Hagele

Registrar, Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association

CORPORATE MEMBERS

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Buyers Association

Wyeth Organics

The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) recently held a workshop to explore establishing a Canadian Veterinary Reserve Program that would deal with future large scale animal health and animal welfare emergencies.

The CVMA has been involved in preliminary meetings aimed at formulating an emergency plan to coordinate effective responses to Canadian animal health emergencies similar to plans currently in place to deal with human health emergencies.

The Canadian Veterinary Reserve (CVR), organized through the CVMA, would be made up of veterinarians volunteering to be available on short notice when an emergency occurs. Teams of veterinarians, trained to respond to large scale animal emergencies, would assist federal and provincial officials and local emergency management organizations deal with natural disasters, foreign animal disease outbreaks or deliberate acts involving animals

The CVMA is developing an All-Hazards Emergency Plan in order to give veterinarians an emergency management policy framework that deals with the key issues involved in responding to an emergency. The plan will coordinate the efforts of individual veterinarians with those of provincial, federal and possibly international counterpart associations and veterinary colleges in the event of a large scale emergency. The CVMA's plan will also address the roles, responsibilities and accountabilities of the CVMA and its stakeholders in a response to an emergency as well as provide a speedy, safe and effective recovery to normal operations.

Federal and provincial governments, including CFIA and the Canadian Animal Health Coalition have well developed emergency plans in response to foreign animal disease outbreaks and other emergencies in Canada. The role of the CVMA and its member veterinarians in the Canadian Veterinary Reserve is to provide scientific and technical support and manpower wherever needed. Reserve members could also be asked to assist other countries deal with large scale animal emergencies.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The Farm Animal Council of Saskatchewan Inc. is pleased to present its 15th Annual General Meeting and Conference, "Fence Lines to Corporate Board Rooms," to take place at the Saskatoon Inn, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan on December 12 & 13, 2006.

Watch for the brochure in the mail or check our website at www.facs.sk.ca for more information.

SUPPORT

A membership in FACS holds many benefits, including membership recognition, a quarterly newsletter, notification of special events, access to the FACS library, FACS publications, and much more.

Associate memberships are available for contributions of \$50 to \$199.99 (plus GST). Active (or voting) memberships are available for contributions of \$200 and over (plus GST). Receipts are issued for all contributions. Please complete the form to the right and return it with your contribution to:

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ANTHRAX BY THE NUMBERS

- 1 ml: recommended dosing size of anthrax vaccine that's delivered subcutaneously (under the skin) to cattle, horses and other domestic farm animals.
- \$1.80 to \$2.30: cost range for a single dose of the anthrax vaccine.
- 2: number of Saskatchewan residents who were suspected of having the cutaneous form of anthrax. One human case was confirmed by laboratory testing.
- 10 km: this summer, local veterinarians recommended that all herds within 10 kilometres of anthrax-positive premises should be vaccinated.
- 10%: percentage of formaldehyde used in a disinfectant solution for covering an animal that has died from anthrax or for decontaminating the ground where the carcass has rested. Quick lime or a five per cent solution of lye can also be used.
- 21: the number of days in a Canadian Food Inspection Agency-related anthrax quarantine. The quarantines are in place until 21 days after all animals have been vaccinated or 21 days after the last case of anthrax on the premises.
- 42: number of days that anthrax-vaccinated animals should not be slaughtered after the last dose of vaccine.
- 42°C: a high fever is one of the clinical signs of the prolonged version of anthrax - the type that is seen in the latter stages of an outbreak. Animals may recover from this form of the disease if they're treated successfully with antibiotics.
- 48 to 72: range of hours (in warm weather) when the natural decomposition process will destroy most of the anthrax spores inside an animal that has died from the disease.
- 50 to 250: range of years that the tough-coated, environmentally -resistant anthrax spores can remain viable in soil.
- 70-19 B.C.: lifetime of Roman poet Virgil who described a disease much like anthrax that was wreaking havoc among animals and humans in ancient Rome.
- \$500: CFIA's maximum indemnity rate for a cow that has died of anthrax. The federal government will pay \$350 per horse and a maximum of \$100 per sheep, goat or pig that has died from the disease.
- 1881: year that Louis Pasteur created the first engineered vaccine for anthrax.
- 500,000-plus: The number of anthrax vaccine doses that were distributed in Saskatchewan by late August 2006.

AWARDS OF DISTINCTION

FACS WORKING WITH THE SASKATCHEWAN PORK DEVELOPMENT BOARD

The Farm Animal Council of Saskatchewan Inc. (FACS) and the Saskatchewan Pork Development Board wish to honour individuals, companies or organizations who demonstrate a positive contribution to the objectives of responsible animal care in the pork industry.

We are looking for nominees who recognize the importance of advancing responsible animal care and handling of hogs in Saskatchewan. They apply new, innovative ideas and management practices to improve and ensure high standards of animal well-being. They understand the public's need for assurance for responsibly raised animals and can be showcased as examples of those who are making a difference!

For more information please call FACS at 306-249-3227 or the Saskatchewan Pork Development Board at 306-244-7752.

FACS WORKING WITH THE SASKATCHEWAN HORSE FEDERATION

FACS together with Saskatchewan Horse Federation (SHF) are offering "Awards of Distinction for Equine Welfare." This program is designed to recognize excellence in equine animal care.

FACS and the SHF seek to honour individuals, organizations and companies who:

- Develop a new process, product or source of knowledge that has made a significant impact on the improvement of the welfare of horses in Saskatchewan.
- Integrate animal welfare into their core business strategy and set their own bars higher for expectations regarding animal welfare.
- Take an active role in effectively conveying equine welfare issues and raising awareness of equine welfare with the general public and the agri-food industry.
- Recognize a young person between the ages of 13-25 who demonstrates through practices as a horse owner or interaction with others, the importance of a commitment to responsible equine care.

For further information please call FACS at 306-249-3227 or SHF at 306-780-9244.

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