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Farm Animal Council of Saskatchewan Inc.

Update April 2006

Representing the livestock industry in advancing responsible animal care in agriculture

The Farm Animal Council of Saskatchewan Inc. continues to be the collective voice for animal agriculture, specific to animal care issues. As Saskatchewan's first and only industry led welfare organization, FACS works on behalf of our provinces livestock and poultry industries.

The majority of FACS' efforts are resource directed towards positive and proactive programs for producers, our youth and consumers. Although there will always be a need for FACS to respond and react, agriculture will not advance if we focus on the defensive. Thus FACS provides a range of services with the majority focussed on positive initiatives.

The following is a summary of some of our most recent and ongoing success. Many of these are made possible due to your continued support, and for that we are grateful!



Some of you may not have met our newest staff member, FAITH - a Farm Animal Care Specialist. Faith helps FACS to meet our educational mandate by interacting with kids, teachers and adults at various trade shows, school programs and exhibitions around the province.

Since joining the FACS team, FAITH has been very busy and has reached nearly 10,000 people from across the province. Much appreciation is extended to Prairieland Park and Big Sky Farms, who have come on side with a three year sponsorship commitment for Faith.

Do you know a teacher, media person or non ag consumer who is looking for information on farm issues? If so, you may want to direct them to www.farmissues.com a new and interactive website which serves as a gateway to information about farming and food. Play games, give your opinion on issues or search for pictures of your favourite farm animals.

farmissues.com received 1.5 million hits and almost 30,000 visitors in 2005!!



Launched by our sister group the Ontario Farm Animal Council, FACS and Ontario Pork are partners in this project.

We are excited about this new venture as it is an excellent way to get info out to educators.

Take a moment and look through the site....and let us know what you think!

*FACS: Promoting Responsible
Animal Management*

Over the years FACS has developed a reputation as the organization to host world class welfare-related conferences and workshops...2005 was no exception.



We began the year with the annual FACS - WCVM Stock Person's School in May. As with past years, this event drew in registrants from across the three prairie provinces. In September we held two new evening events titled, "The Backyard Horse Seminar". They were held in Saskatoon and Regina and brought in nearly 300 registrants. To conclude the year, FACS held our AGM and Annual Animal Care Conference in December. As with past years, our conference features renowned presenters addressing timely topics and attracting registrants from across Canada.

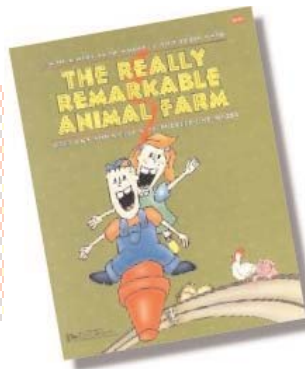
In March 2006 FACS offered two new seminars showcasing the "Bud Williams Way" featuring Richard McConnell. Held on March 23 in Saskatoon and March 24 in Regina, these two low stress handling seminars brought in registrants from BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.



Take care out there.

Thank you to SGL for their corporate sponsorship of FACS events.

The Really Remarkable Animal Farm continues to be in hot demand from educators and parents alike. Designed for children in grades 1 - 3, it is filled with puzzles, mazes, word searches games and coloring pages. It is a fun way to teach children all about animal agriculture. Topics range from learning about auctions to learning about veterinarians to learning about by-products. If you know someone who would like a copy, please contact our office.



Much appreciation to ADF for their financial support of this project.

Thank you ...

FACS is a membership based organization that operates on a very small budget. Membership support mainly comes from individual producers, commodity and breed organizations, marketing board and ag business. As well, support is also given by way of sponsorship dollars, through partnership opportunities and grants.

We appreciate each membership and all the support we receive. We recognize the importance of having collective and ongoing support from the livestock and poultry industries. It is through your ongoing interest that we are able to continue with our many programs. **Thank you!**

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Wyeth Animal Health

Getting our message out is a vital part of our program. When we are not conducting interviews or helping our members with media relations, we are monitoring what is happening around our country and across the globe.



A new service launched in 2005 is our daily e-updates. Working with a specialized media service, FACS receives approximately 10 e-updates per day all focussing on welfare/rights issues. Once reviewed, the FACS office selects the most timely articles and forwards them on to members. Since FACS introduced this program nearly 500 e-updates have been sent to our members and supporters in efforts to keep our industry updated.

“I felt compelled to respond to your e-mails, to let you know just how much we appreciate you sending information like this to us. There is always interesting news items and pertinent industry information in them. I want to extend my appreciation to you for taking the time to forward the information on to us as you do. Thanks!”

Rick Johannesson, Plant Manager - Wynyard Sask,
Acting Plant Manager - Mirabel Quebec
Lilydale Inc.

As well, the media and industry news play an important role in getting **our** message out. Through regular press releases and supplying our industry with timely articles, FACS works hard to be ‘top of mind.’ SAF - Food For Thought, Saskatchewan Cattle Feeders, Saskatchewan Horse Federation, Regina Leader Post, Saskatoon Star Phoenix, Animal Net are just a few of the many places FACS information was featured in print this past year. As well, special recognition is given to the Western Producer who has joined FACS as a major in-kind supporter. Thank you to the Western Producer!

Last but not least, we are grateful for our many radio partners who regularly work with FACS and either showcase FACS events or contact FACS for industry information and feedback.

SUPPORT FACS

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:

Farm Animal Council of Saskatchewan Inc.
502-45th Street West, 2nd Floor, Saskatoon, SK S7L 6H2

Name _____

Address _____

City/Town _____

Prov _____ PC _____

Tel _____ Fax _____

For more information, contact FACS by phone at (306) 249-3227 or fax at (306) 244-4497 or by email at facs@sasktel.net

What's in the FACS job jar in the next few months

Read on and find out!



FACS has a busy spring planned....keep an eye out for us!

- May 3 FACS and the WCVM are pleased to once again offer the Stock Person's School at the U of S.
- Watch for FAITH at numerous events around the province from the Western Canadian Livestock Expo in April to Buffalo Days in August.
- Plans are underway to host another Back Yard Horse Conference in Saskatoon and Regina.
- Although we just held two low stress handling workshops last month, we may host another one in early fall.....stay tuned!



Thanks to financial support from Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food, FACS will be providing truckers, auction markets, feedlots and producers with a newly printed Humane Transportation of Beef and Dairy Animals. This will nicely compliment the Humane Handling of Compromised Pigs resource Sask Pork and FACS produced in 2003.



Working closely with our sister groups, OFAC, AFAC and MFAC, we have secured a three year commitment from the Agricultural Adaptation Council to provide the industry with:

- 1) Workshops and a Welfare Speakers Bureau
- 2) Improving the Farm Animal Welfare Communications
- 3) Providing Farm Animal Handling Training

This is an exciting partnership which will benefit our entire industry. Watch for details on our website.



FACS is pleased to support OFAC's great new resource, "Get The Dirt On Agriculture." Originally produced in the mid 1990s and called "Food For Thought" this booklet has received a much needed face lift to better reflect current and modern farming practices across Canada. Please check out our website or contact us if you would like a copy.

Watch for updates to our trade show booth. Efforts are underway to add some compact and interactive elements to it.

The primary function of FACS is to promote the responsible care and use of animals in the livestock industry. The material in this publication may be used with proper acknowledgment to the source. All information contained herein is deemed to be reliable and accurate to the best of the publisher's knowledge. (Publications Mail-Agreement Number 40845514, Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to 502 - 45th Street West, Saskatoon, SK S7L 6H2)