



FACstracs

Farm Animal Council of Saskatchewan Inc.

Year In Review Edition - December 2005

Representing the livestock industry in advancing responsible animal care in agriculture

Fence Lines to Corporate Board Rooms

FACS is pleased to once again host its 14th annual conference, 'Fence Lines to Corporate Board Rooms.' This one day event has earned a reputation as Canada's premier farm animal welfare conference. As with past events, FACS has brought together industry leaders to share their experience with the common goal to improve farm animal welfare and communication skills.

From border and transportation issues to Avian Influenza and drought, the livestock and poultry industries continue to face many challenges. Because of these many challenges, the interest for FACS materials, articles, input and feedback has reached an all time high. Effective communication of industry facts & improvements in practices has become increasingly important. To this end, unique at this years' conference is a panel of industry experts who will share their experiences, challenges and successes in dealing with public issues and campaigns. We encourage all participants to engage in the discussion and learn from others today, so we can work towards a stronger industry tomorrow.

We are grateful to this years 27 sponsors who have identified FACS and animal welfare as a key area of interest. The financial support given by this diverse group of businesses and organizations clearly demonstrates the interest, need, support and commitment the industry has towards farm animal welfare. Thank you all!

Stewart Stone, FACS Chair

Thank You to Our Sponsors . . .

Sponsors of FACS 14th Annual General Meeting and Conference, December 13 and 14, 2005 are:

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*FACS: Promoting Responsible
Animal Management*

FACS Welcomes New Staff Member

Faith an Animal Care Specialist

Introduced in January 2005 at the Crop Production Show in Saskatoon, Faith has since made several appearances across Saskatchewan. From Buffalo Days in Regina to an inner city school nutrition program in Saskatoon, Faith is busy travelling the province sharing information about animal care.



As Canada's first ever bike bot "Animal Care Specialist," she has attracted attention from across Canada. So much so that the Ontario Farm Animal Council has purchased two bike bots and recently introduced two animal care specialists in Ontario, Owen and Oprah. Together with FAITH, they have developed a new fan club!



Faith was made possible through the financial support from two long time FACS supporters, Prairieland Park and Big Sky Farms.

Information on Faith and the Fan Club can be found at www.facs.sk.ca.

FARMISSUES.COM

FarmIssues.com is a website launched by the Ontario Farm Animal Council with support from Ontario Pork and the Farm Animal Council of Saskatchewan. It is a gateway to information about farming and food. Great for educators and kids, it provides users with the opportunity to play games, give opinions on issues or search for pictures of favourite farm animals. A totally interactive, informative and fun site where you can get the facts (and give them) on complex agricultural issues.

It also serves as a wealth of information for journalists as it includes farming facts and the helpful "ask the expert" option.



Food For Thought

Another exciting project FACS is supporting is the re-writing of OFAC's original 1996 resource entitled, Food For Thought. This 30 page full colour booklet contains quotes, references, statistics and photos that illustrate and explain the facts about food and farming in Canada. The question and answer format make this an excellent reference guide for farmers and non-farmers alike.

FACS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Stewart Stone, Chair
Auction Markets
T (306) 566-4307
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Shannon Meyers
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Wyeth

Introducing Two new FACS Brochures

Following the successful format of the Cattle FACS brochures, FACS introduced our first ever Equine FACS. Addressing basic equine care, this brochure was endorsed by the Western College of Veterinary Medicine and the Saskatchewan Horse Federation.

Thanks to Elanco and Sask Pork, recently a second Pork FACS was added to the newly launched series. *Handling and Transportation of Unfit Pigs* compliments the September 2003 *Humane Handling of Compromised Pigs* resource that Sask Pork and FACS provided. Modified from the original resource created by AFAC, these resources are available to all pork producers.

Temple Grandin and FACS

Dr. Temple Grandin is a livestock handling specialist and Associate Professor of Animal Science at Colorado State University. She designs handling facilities and works with livestock producers and meat processors to use behavioral principles to reduce stress on animals during handling.



Dr. Grandin has provided FACS with permission to sell her Livestock Handling and Animal Care Audits DVD series in Canada. We have grouped the presentations into four separate DVDs and are available for \$10 each, including GST.

- DVD 1 - Beef Stockmen/Producers;
- DVD 2 - Pork Stockmen/Producers
- DVD 3 - Red Meat Processors, Feedlots, Auction Markets
- DVD 4 - Religious Slaughter

E-Briefing

Meeting requests from our membership, new for 2005 are regular e-briefings. FACS now subscribes to a clipping service which provides the FACS office with general livestock information as well as animal welfare and animal rights updates. FACS reviews the articles and daily selects up to two to send to members. This is an excellent way to keep our membership informed of the latest happenings in Saskatchewan and around the world.

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

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

Back Yard Horse Seminars Exceeds All Expectations

Thank you to our project partners, Western College of Veterinary Medicine, Sherwood Animal Clinic, Heartland Livestock Services, Master Feeds, Merial, Hi-Qual, Kane Veterinary Supplies and Powell Farrier Services. FACS was pleased to offer two evening sessions targeted at new horse owners.

Held in Saskatoon and Regina, the two seminars attracted 250 horse owners from across Saskatchewan. Focussed on basic animal care, experts provided excellent information on nutrition, herd health and food care.

FACS Announces New Industry Animal Care Awards

The Farm Animal Council of Saskatchewan Inc., in partnership with industry organizations, will be honoring individuals, organizations and companies who demonstrate leadership in animal care. It is one way to both recognize their ongoing efforts but we hope it will also encourage others in the industry to take a lead in animal care issues

Together with FACS, Sask Pork and the Saskatchewan Horse Federation have identified award criteria specific to their respective industries. This information can be found at www.facs.sk.ca/welfare_awards.htm. FACS is planning to work with other industries to offer similar type awards.

National Farm Animal Care Council Launched (NFACC)

NFACC held its inaugural meeting in August. The Four FACs groups are represented on the board and have been part of the development and consultative process since the early stages.

An Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada grant in the amount of \$314,827 has been approved for two years to assist with establishing secretariat services as well as other deliverables.

Stock Person's School

FACS together with the Western College of Veterinary Medicine held its 5th successful Stock Person's School in 2005. The objective of the school is to address animal care and management issues relevant to pasture riders and cattlemen, which improves their knowledge and performance level.

The 2006 Stock Person's School is tentatively scheduled for May 3rd.

Many thanks to our long time supporters: Westway Feed Products, Schering Plough Animal Health and Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food.

Canadian Western Agribition

Each year During Canadian Western Agribition (CWA), in Regina, Saskatchewan, FACS is on hand at the Agri-Ed Display to help children learn about the wonderful world of animal agriculture. The award winning Agri-Ed program has been a part of Canadian Western Agribition since 1987 and has seen over 100,000 school



children visit the area. The program was developed to provide an educational forum for school tours. Displays have a grade four to six target, but the information and interaction can be enjoyed by all ages. You can pet a sheep, touch cattle, watch chicks hatching, see hazardous situations on farms, and learn about the food retailing system, just to name a few.

FACS is pleased to be a part of this event!!

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)