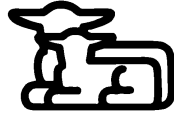


F · A · C · S
FARM ANIMAL COUNCIL OF SASKATCHEWAN INC.



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

December 2, 2003

**“Fence Lines to Corporate Board Rooms”
FACS Announces New Date for it’s 12th Annual General Meeting and Conference**

The Farm Animal Council of Saskatchewan Inc. (FACS) is pleased to present its 12th Annual General Meeting and Conference, “Fence Lines to Corporate Board Rooms,” on a new date. This year’s AGM and Conference will take place at Saskatoon’s Travelodge Hotel, on December 8 and 9, 2003.

“Public awareness of animal welfare issues is having a major impact on all levels of the value chain, from the producer, to grocery and restaurant chains, through to the consumer. Handling practices, management procedures and housing standards are all being re-examined from a humane standpoint,” states Adele Buettner, Executive Director of FACS. Ms. Buettner explains many food companies have introduced animal welfare audits to their Quality Assurance protocols, closely linking the issues of food quality, food safety and animal welfare. The aftershocks of the May 20, 2003 confirmation of a positive case of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) in an Alberta cow have continued to affect livestock commodities across the country. Along with BSE, animal welfare continues to be one of the top issues for the livestock industry, emphasizing the importance of disseminating information through forums such as the FACS annual conference, notes Ms. Buettner.

The prestigious lineup of speakers for the conference includes:

- Dr. Tina Widowski, Associate Professor, Department of Animal and Poultry Science, University of Guelph, Guelph, ON will look at “Auditing Animal Welfare on Farms: What Can We Measure?”
- Dr. Chris Clark from the University of Saskatchewan, Mr. Bruce King of Saskatoon Processing Co., Mr. Donn Farrer from Saskatchewan Agriculture, Food & Rural Revitalization, and producer Tim Oleksyn of Shellbrook, SK, will come together to form the panel “Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) Managing Your Recovery: Industry Changes After May 20, 2003”
- Mr. Barney Cosner, Director, Wyoming State Fair and Rodeo, Douglas, WY will examine “What are We Looking at in our Ag Mirror!”
- Mr. Robert D. Sopuck, Vice President, Delta Waterfowl Foundation, Brandon, MB presenting “Animal Rights and Animal Welfare: Implications for Modern Agriculture”
- Dr. Bernard Rollin, Professor of Philosophy, Animal Sciences and Biomedical Sciences, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO will discuss “Animal Production and Emerging Social Ethics for Animals”
- Mr. Greg Whalley, President, Britco Packers, Langley, BC will finish the day with “What’s For Dinner?” a look at safely and humanely raised and slaughtered food

- more -

The Annual General Meeting is scheduled for Monday December 8, 2003, at 7:00 p.m., and the Conference will take place on Tuesday December 9, 2003, with registration beginning at 8:00 a.m.

During the conference, FACS will host a silent auction, with proceeds going to fund various programs that FACS operates. FACS is currently accepting donated items for the auction.

For more information, or to register, contact the FACS office by phone at 306-249-3227, by fax at 306-244-4497 or by email at facs@sasktel.net.

FACS expresses gratitude to the conference sponsors:

- AIMS
- Canadian Cowboys Association
- Canadian Western Agribition
- Chicken Farmers of Saskatchewan
- Co-op Feeds, A Division of Federated Co-operatives Ltd.
- Dairy Farmers of Saskatchewan
- HYPOR (Genex)
- Heartland Livestock Services
- Intervet Canada Ltd.
- Mitchell's Gourmet Foods
- New-Life Feeds
- North American Equine Ranching Information Council (NAERIC)
- Prairie Swine Centre
- Regina Exhibition Association
- Saskatchewan Agriculture, Food and Rural Revitalization
- Saskatoon & District Chamber of Commerce
- Saskatoon Prairieland Corporation
- Saskatoon Processing Company
- Schering Plough Animal Health
- SPI Marketing Group Inc.
- United Molasses
- Vaccine & Infectious Disease Organization
- Western Beef Development Centre
- Western College of Veterinary Medicine

The Farm Animal Council of Saskatchewan Inc. (FACS) is a membership-based, non-profit organization that represents the livestock industry in advancing responsible welfare, care and handling practices in agriculture. FACS endeavors to raise producer awareness of the economic and ethical benefits of animal welfare and help consumers achieve a greater understanding of animal care issues.

- 30 -

For more information, contact:

Adele Buettner, Executive Director of FACS
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
Tel: (306) 249-3227
Email: facs@sasktel.net
Website: www.facs.sk.ca