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FARM ANIMAL COUNCIL OF SASKATCHEWAN INC.



**MEDIA RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

September 22, 2004

**The Targeted Surveillance Program**

With bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) still top of mind for both industry and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), the Saskatchewan Stock Grower's Association (SSGA), the Farm Animal Council of Saskatchewan Inc. (FACS) and the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVN) are hosting a free information session on the newly announced targeted surveillance program.

"Increased BSE surveillance is the only way to validate that Canada is a minimal risk country for BSE," said Dr. Darcy Undseth, Veterinary Program Specialist for the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. "Without demonstrating, through testing, the minimal BSE risk in Canada, international markets will not be recovered and domestic consumer confidence may not be maintained." Further to that, Dr. Undseth will be discussing all aspects of the surveillance program including reimbursement.

"Achieving targeted numbers through surveillance is critical because it gives a sound scientific picture of the prevalence of BSE in Canada," said Dennis Fuglerud, Vice President, Saskatchewan Stock Grower's Association. "Canada's surveillance program is designed to demonstrate to domestic and international consumers that our animal health and food safety systems are among the best in the world".

FACS is pleased to once again be working with the SSGA, WCVN and CFIA in hosting this informative session. "We are always striving to serve the livestock industry and ensuring timely information sessions are available is simply one way to meet our objective," said Adele Buettner, Executive Director of FACS.

**Time and Location:**

• September 28, 2004 - Room 2302 WCVN. Parking lot "V" is reserved (east of WCVN), paid parking is also available at the College of Agriculture underground parkade (across from WCVN).

**Agenda** - Chair: Mr. Dennis Fuglerud, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Saskatchewan Stock Grower's Association

6:00 p.m. - 6:45 p.m. Complimentary Pizza (sponsored by CFIA)

6:45 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. "BSE - From A to Z" - Dr. Chris Clark

7:30 p.m. - "Targeted Surveillance Program" - Dr. Darcy Undseth, Veterinary Program Specialist, BSE

Closing - Mr. Dennis Fuglerud

Refreshments to follow, sponsored by the Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association.

**For more information please contact:**

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