



Farm Animal Council of Saskatchewan Inc.

For Immediate Release

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FACS MAINTAINS FOCUS ON ANIMAL WELFARE

True to its mission to advance the welfare of farm animals and poultry, the Farm Animal Council of Saskatchewan (FACS) is preparing for one of its most informative and enlightening conferences to date.

With the FACS Annual General Meeting set for the evening of December 9, the highly anticipated 'Fence Lines to Corporate Board Rooms' Conference brings together producers, industry and government representatives, scientists and other educators, as well as members of the public.

This year's Conference continues a learning-and-sharing journey that has kept animal welfare issues, developments and solutions at the forefront for 18 years.

"We are thrilled with the level of presenters confirmed for our event in December. It is going to be a very packed agenda, as this Conference has such a wide cross-section of participants. We want to ensure everyone who attends acquires new information," FACS Executive Director Adele Buettner explained.

The Conference, which takes place at the Saskatoon Inn, commences with a presentation from the Saskatchewan Minister of Agriculture Hon. Bob Bjornerud, focussing on the Government's commitment to advancing animal welfare.

Dr. Tom Lenz, will address the Unwanted Horse Issue in the United States and its Implications. A veterinarian with 34 years of experience, Dr. Lenz is more than qualified to address this issue. His many achievements and responsibilities include Past President of the American Association of Equine Practitioners; current Trustee of the American Horse Council; Chair of the Unwanted Horse Coalition; and member of the Professional Cowboy's Association Animal Welfare Committee.

Dr. Mike Siemens will address how customer expectations can impact the way daily chores are performed on the farm or ranch. As Leader - Animal Welfare and Husbandry for Cargill Animal Protein, Dr. Siemens has an insightful perspective of the current animal welfare expectations of food service and retail customers.

An interactive Panel Session will examine Emergency Preparedness and Lessons Learned. Insight on H1N1 will be provided by the former Chief Executive Officer of Saskatchewan's largest hog operation, Mr. John LaClare of Big Sky Farms. Information on Avian Influenza will be provided by the Chief Executive Officer of Chicken Farmers of Saskatchewan Mr. Clinton Monchuck. As well perspectives on these and other issues will be shared by Canadian Food Inspection Agency Kim Redden, Feed Program Specialist.

The Conference will conclude with a rare opportunity to learn from one of the most sought after speakers in the world, third generation logger and recipient of the 'Presidential Preserve America Award' Mr. Bruce Vincent, Partner and Consultant with Environomics. Mr. Vincent will share his belief that 'With Vision there is Hope'.

The FACS 18th annual Fence Lines to Corporate Board Rooms Conference is made possible through the loyal and generous support, both financial and in-kind, from our sponsors.

Sponsors for the 2009 Conference, are:

Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan	RBC Royal Bank
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Chicken Farmers of Saskatchewan	Saskatchewan Cattle Feeders Association
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Dairy Farmers of Saskatchewan	Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture
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A membership-based non-profit educational organization that has collectively represented the livestock and poultry industries since 1992, FACS has consistently sought to disseminate public information about the ways livestock and poultry producers assure quality and safety in food products; and offers learning opportunities for farmers, ranchers and other stakeholders involved in animal agriculture and food production.