



Farm Animal Council of Saskatchewan Inc.

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

**May 15, 2009**

**FACS 4-DAY STOCKMANSHIP SERIES APPLAUDED**

There was something for just about anyone with a keen or even indirect interest in the responsible management and production of livestock.

From an evening 'Backyard Horse Seminar' to an all day Stock Person's School and Stockmanship and Stewardship Clinic with internationally-acclaimed instructors, the Farm Animal Council of Saskatchewan (FACS) has outdone itself with its latest outreach effort.

"We are immensely pleased with the results of this first-ever four-event Series. The speakers and instructors covered a great deal of material and handling methods for participants. The feedback has been most encouraging; so much so that we are planning to make the Series an annual event," according to FACS Executive Director Adele Buettner.

Building on the success of the annual Stock Person's School and previous Backyard Horse Seminars, FACS developed the 2009 Stockmanship Series to include these events, as well as a day-long Stewardship and Stockmanship Clinic and a special session for auction market employees. FACS brought in the American team of Curt Pate, American Quarter Horse Association Instructor; and Dr. Ron Gill, Texas A&M University Livestock Extension Specialist, to conduct the two new sessions.

The Stock Person's School, which took place at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVN), attracted a wide cross-section of participants from livestock producers, to pasture riders to graduate students.

"Once again FACS has organized and delivered an excellent livestock seminar with up to date information on marketing, herd health and calf care in preparation for the grazing season. More than 25 First Nation Livestock Producers attended the seminar, as part of the Saskatchewan Indian Equity Foundation Agriculture Extension Program," said Caroline Maze, Agriculture Manager for the Foundation.

Participants heard presentations from Dr. John Campbell, WCVN Professor; Dr. Eugene Janzen, Assistant Dean Clinical Practice, Community Partnerships, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Calgary; Dr. Bart Lardner, Western Beef Development Centre; Dr. Fernando Marques, WCVN Associate Professor; Ms. Sandy Russell, Spring Creek Land and Cattle Consulting Ltd and Mr. Lee Sinclair, Merial.

"Seminars such as this give our producers the opportunity to access information and network with industry leaders, the College of Agriculture and Bioresources, as well as other Saskatchewan livestock producers," Ms. Maze added.

Kim McLean, a University of Saskatchewan PhD student, had this to say about the Stock Person's School:

"As a graduate student, I am used to learning intense scientific research. Today's Stock Person's School allowed me to see this research conveyed in a much more applicable manner. As a researcher this was very motivating to continue with providing innovative beef research for Saskatchewan beef producers."

Attendees at the Stewardship and Stockmanship Session, which took place at the new Prairieland Park Ag Centre, were elated about being part of an interactive teaching opportunity with the American team of Curt Pate and Ron Gill.

"Intervet Schering-Plough Animal Health has been a long time supporter of FACS and its many events and services. The Stockmanship Series was an excellent opportunity to provide the livestock industry with a unique and worthwhile learning experience. We commend FACS for its vision and efforts!" Gordon Roger, Western Sales Manager - Cattle Business Unit Intervet / Schering-Plough Animal Health.

The final event of the Series took place at the Saskatoon Livestock Sales facilities, at which auction market employees learned about advancements in handling practices and safety measures.

"The Livestock Marketers of Saskatchewan (LMS) was very impressed with the quality and substance of the sessions. To our knowledge, it is the first such training offered to provincial auction markets and we were proud to support FACS' effort." LMS president Jeff Jameson stated.

FACS expresses profound appreciation to our sponsors, without whom our programs and projects to advance responsible animal care would be severely hampered. Thank you to the following: Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food Saskatchewan; Intervet Schering-Plough Animal Health; Livestock Marketers of Saskatchewan; Merial; Saskatchewan Cattle Feeders Association; Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture; The Western Producer; and Westway Feed Products.

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.

For more information, contact

Adele Buettner, Executive Director  
Telephone: 306-249-3227