



Farm Animal Council of Saskatchewan Inc.

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

December 12, 2011

Farm Animal Council of Saskatchewan Elects Board Directors

The Farm Animal Council of Saskatchewan's (FACS) multi-commodity collaborative approach remains strong following its 20th Annual General Meeting and 'Fence Lines to Corporate Board Rooms Conference,' December 7 and 8.

"Since its beginnings, FACS has engaged and served a broad range of those interested in responsible care within the livestock and poultry industry. Our board reflects this diversity within the animal agriculture sector," says Mark Silzer, a bison rancher who is starting his second term as Chair.

Mark is joined on the FACS executive by new Vice-Chair Joe Kleinsasser, a representative of SPI Marketing Inc.

The board also involves:

- Dr. Andrew Acton, a newly elected representative of the Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association;
- Dr. Betty Althouse, representative of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency;
- Bob Brickley, producer representative of the Saskatchewan Equine Ranching Association;
- Dr. Greg Douglas, Provincial Veterinarian, appointed by the Board as a representative of the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture;
- Larry Grant, a newly elected producer representative of the Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association;
- David Entz, producer representative of SaskMilk;
- Tim Keet, producer representative of the Chicken Farmers of Saskatchewan;
- Neil Ketilson, a new representative for the Saskatchewan Pork Development Board;
- Dr. Katharina Lohmann, a newly elected representative of the Western College of Veterinary Medicine;
- Dr. Grant Royan of Merck Animal Health, representing the Pharmaceutical Industry; and
- Regan Sloboshan, producer representative of the Saskatchewan Egg Producers.

FACS followed the AGM with a successful conference, where participants developed a clearer understanding of some of the factors with potential to change the animal agriculture industry.

"Our prominent well-informed speakers described growing consumer curiosity regarding food production, how concerns are being expressed, what future actions to expect, and plans for representatives across Canada's food industry to develop a collaborative response strategy," says Silzer.

Advancing Responsible Animal Care in Agriculture

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Speakers for the 2011 FACS conference were:

- Tim Hortons' Director of Sustainability and Responsibility Tim Faveri discussing current topics related to animal welfare in the supply chain;
- Director of Communications for Cargill, Michael Martin, describing the company's appearance on Oprah to show the consuming public how beef is produced;
- Expert on protective anti-terrorism and facility/ranch management, Lt. Houston Johnson, Operations Commander, Harker Heights Texas Police Department;
- Director of Animal Health and Welfare for California Farm Bureau Federation Ria De Grassi, who is knowledgeable regarding animal welfare developments and their impact on policy; and
- Crystal Mackay, Executive Director of the Ontario Farm Animal Council, explaining how the agri-food sector is working together on a nation farm issues strategy.

The learning opportunities also involved a special bull management session.

FACS thanks the following diverse group of sponsors for supporting its annual conference:

Canadian Cattlemen Magazine	SaskMilk
Chicken Farmers of Saskatchewan	Saskatchewan Association of Agricultural Societies & Exhibitions
Co-op Feeds, a Division of Federated Cooperatives	Saskatchewan Bison Association
Elanco Animal Health	Saskatchewan Egg Producers
Greater Saskatoon & District Chamber of Commerce	Saskatchewan Equine Ranching Association
Heartland Livestock Services	Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture
Merck Animal Health	Saskatchewan Sheep Development Board
New Life Feeds, a Division of Parrish & Heimbecker	Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association
North American Equine Ranching Information Council	Saskatoon Inn
O & T Farms Ltd.	Saskatoon Processing Co.
Pound-Maker Agventures Ltd.	SaskEnergy
RBC Royal Bank	Star Egg Co.
Sask Pork	The Western Producer
Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association	Warman Veterinary Services
	Western Beef Development Centre
	Westway Feed Group

The Farm Animal Council of Saskatchewan has a long and respected history serving as the voice of producers regarding animal welfare. FACS is the only member-based, industry-led non-profit organization advancing animal responsible animal care for livestock and poultry in Saskatchewan.

For further information contact:

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