



BRITISH COLUMBIA CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Representing the Beef Cattle Industry of British Columbia

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For immediate release

June 5, 2009

NEWS RELEASE

Canyon Ranch Receives Stewardship Award

The BC Cattlemen's Association is honoured to present Al & Bev Madley of Canyon Ranch in Alexis Creek, BC with the 16th Annual BC Cattlemen's Association (BCCA) Environmental Stewardship Award. Presentation of the commemorative gate sign took place at the BC Cattlemen's 81st convention recently held in Kamloops, BC.

This unique award recognizes the efforts of those beef cattle producers who have enhanced or maintained the environmental attributes of BC ranchland through outstanding management practices.

Canyon Ranch is a fifth generation family ranch located in the Chilcotin River Valley; three kilometers west of Alexis Creek. The Madley Family -- Bev, Al, Garrett and Brooke -- raise Hereford Angus cross cattle and manage with future generations in mind. Bev purchased the ranch from her parents, Norm and Val Telford, and will pass on the ranch manager title to her son Garrett to continue his life and career as a rancher.

Canyon Ranch and the Madley family are recognized for their outstanding commitment to water quality, habitat restoration, riparian management, range and nutrient management and finally for leading by example. Several stewardship initiatives undertaken have benefited both the ranch operation and the environment by improving cattle grazing, water resources, fish and wildlife habitat, and sensitive grasslands.

Water Quality and Habitat Restoration -- Canyon Ranch is situated at the confluence of Alexis Creek and the Chilcotin River both of which are a very important

for waterfowl and fish habitat. The Chilcotin River is known for producing spring and sockeye salmon, steelhead, rainbow and bull trout as well it is an important staging area for Canada geese.

Extensive work and fencing has been developed in order to maintain and protect the sensitive riparian shores. Water troughs have been installed for livestock and exclusion fencing on Alexis Creek to protect the riparian values and sensitive breeding for the curlew and other upland bird species. Holding pens in the barnyard have been set back from the creek to establish a buffer zone. Careful thought is put into rotating the herd over the winter as a way of naturally returning nutrients to the soil in an environmentally conscious manner.

Riparian Management -- Canyon Ranch exemplifies excellent riparian management both on their home place as well as on crown range. The riparian values on Alexis Creek have been well managed by the ranch for generations and the Madley's have incorporated more riparian fencing to protect the river banks as part of their environmental farm plan and best management practices.

Side channels and groundwater springs of the Chilcotin River are also fenced to protect the habitat of the salmon fingerlings. The Grazing Enhancement fund was utilized to install a water crossing to protect Avon Creek on the crown range. The lower wetland range is only utilized in late August to minimize impacts on wetlands. Ducks Unlimited has an active stewardship project on the Madley's crown range.

Range and Nutrient Management -- Extensive range riding to rotate cattle amongst the crown range management units has led to improved forage and increase in livestock production. Careful management, cross fencing, and stock watering has retained the health of sensitive bluebunch wheatgrass hillsides and enhanced biodiversity.

Leading by Example -- Canyon Ranch was the first to complete the Environmental Farm Plan in the Chilcotin as well as the Biodiversity Plan. Bev Madley is actively involved with the local Chilcotin Stockmen's Association, BC Livestock. Following in

his mother's footsteps, Garrett volunteers his time with the Cariboo Cattlemen's Assoc. To remain current with technology, the Madley's herd is certified under the Verified Beef Program and meets full traceability standards.

In their journey to improve the ranch and attain the goal of sustainability, Canyon Ranch sought partnerships with conservation groups such as Department of Fisheries & Oceans, Grazing Enhancement Fund (Ministry of Forests & Range) and has also hosted several *Cow & Fish Watershed Stewardship* field days.

Canyon Ranch an example to be followed by many because of their stewardship initiatives, willingness to educate others and active involvement in the cattle industry. Congratulations Madley Family on winning this coveted award.

The BC Cattlemen's Association would like to acknowledge the four other families that were also nominated for this year's award: The Ruechel and Hladych families of Vale Farms in Lumby, Gordon and Scott McLeod of Willow Heights Ranch in Merritt, and Mark Pooley of the Pooley Ranch also from Merritt.

This award would not be possible without the generous support of our sponsors: BMO Bank of Montreal, Greenway Equipment Ltd. – Kamloops, The Beef Cattle Industry Development Fund and the BC Wildlife Federation.

As provincial winners, The Madley Family will now be considered for the national Environmental Stewardship Award to be announced at the Canadian Cattlemen's Association semi-annual meeting this August in Regina.

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A photo of The Madley Family is available upon request.

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