



NEWSLETTER

BSE Class Action Lawsuit

The BSE Class Action lawsuit is progressing and lawyer Cameron Pallett has been holding information sessions to provide producers with information about the class action and what to producers can do to secure payouts. Cattle producers may be entitled to compensation (should this action be successful) and need to register as a participant.

In April 2005 class action claims were filed on behalf of all farmers of cattle resident in Canada on May 20, 2003. The claims allege that negligence on the part of the Federal Government caused the BSE crisis in Canada, and the corresponding loss of income to Canadian cattle producers. This class action is being run cooperatively by a team of lawyers from Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario and Quebec, and is intended as a national class action to benefit all producers of cattle in Canada.

For more info and/or register as a participant:
www.bseclassaction.ca
TF 1-866-800-0075

Range Schools Cancelled

It is with regret that the 2010 Rangeland Management Schools scheduled for April 12 in Quesnel, April 14 in Houston and April 16 in Taylor were cancelled. The reason for the cancellation is low registration.

In order to be cost effective we require approximately 15 registrants per session. Unfortunately this year this threshold was not reached by the registration deadline of April 1, 2010.

The BC Rangeland Management School extension team would be happy to consider offering this school at another time when more people are able to attend. If you would like more information about having this school in your area, please contact Russ Horton at 250-371-3827 or by email russ.horton@gov.bc.ca.

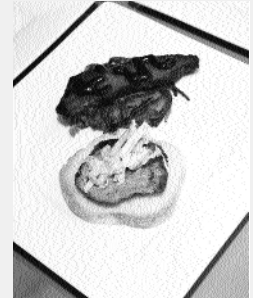
Agriculture At the Olympics

BC agriculture producers, including BCCA President Roland Baumann, were invited to be part of the Canadian Food and Wine Affair at the BC Canadian Pavilion. The goal of this event was to give BC agricultural products the exposure necessary to promote Canadian food and wine products to the international media, with a hope of generating export opportunities.

Many thanks to our partner Overwaitea Food Group for supplying the beef for this event. Brian Misko of Vancouver's House of Q award winning competition bbq team worked with Beef Information Centre chef Duane Ellard to create the menu of smoked beef tender and a slow smoked beef brisket for the Canadian Food & Wine Affair.

Approximately 240 people participated including ranchers, farmers, wine makers, international media, chefs and Cabinet Ministers. This event was coordinated by the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands with support from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

Photos: Ministry of Agriculture & Lands



Top: Hon. Kevin Krueger, Minister of Tourism, Culture & the Arts, Hon. Steve Thomson, Minister of Agriculture & Lands, and Roland Baumann, BCCA President. Left: Brian Misko and the competition bbq team from House of Q. Right: Slow smoked beef brisket and smoked beef tender.

Grasslands Conservation Council

New Executive Director

The Grasslands Conservation Council of British Columbia (GCC) is pleased to announce the appointment of Bob Moody as the next Executive Director of the GCC. Bob Moody brings more than two decades of experience in senior management positions for non-profit organizations, resource-based consultancies and First Nations tribal council bob.moody@bcgrasslands.org



GCC Writes Letter to the Editor

Thank you to the GCC for mentioning the livestock industry's need for healthy grasslands in their March 20 letter to the Kamloops Daily News about responsible motorized recreation in the grasslands. The GCC letter can be viewed online at www.kamloopsnews.ca (article title: Beautiful Grasslands Take Time to Heal.)

Ranchers are invited to join the Grasslands Conservation Council of British Columbia (GCC) to celebrate 10 years of working partnership for grasslands conservation. Since 1999, the GCC has worked with many individuals, organizations and agencies towards our vision of healthy and life-sustaining grasslands in BC.

Celebrating Grasslands
Saturday June 12
Lac du Bois Grasslands, Kamloops
Daytime: Festival in the Grass
Evening: 10th Anniversary BBQ

Festival in the Grass is a free community event in the Lac du Bois grasslands with educational field trips, children's entertainment, displays and more for the whole family. A 10th Anniversary BBQ will be held in the evening. The evening celebration will feature Guest speaker Trevor Herriot, writer, naturalist and broadcaster A BBQ highlighting locally produced food and an art show.

Celebrating Grasslands Field Day & BBQ

Cattle Industry President's Meeting

The Cattle Industry Development Council (CIDC) annually hosts a meeting between the cattle association presidents and the CIDC chair to talk about urgent situations and discuss priorities. Last year the CIDC set severe limits on the associations' project fund applications that are funded by the CIDC levies with a match from the earnings from the Beef Cattle Industry Development Trust fund. CIDC does see the association projects as a high priority, and has encouraged the associations to return their applications to the level that was available in 2008-09. Linda

Allison, CIDC chair, also announced at the meeting of the presidents that the Order-In-Council to approve increasing the CIDC check-off in BC has been received, and on July 1, 2010, the CIDC check-off will increase to \$3 per head of cattle sold or slaughtered in BC. This first increase in 20 years put the BC check-off on par with the Alberta check-off.

Cattle industry Presidents:

Linda Allison, CIDC Chair
Bill Freding, BC Assoc Cattle Feeders
Roland Baumann, BC Cattlemen's Assoc.
Karen Kochel, BC Breeder & Feeder Assoc.
Dick Klein-Geltink, BC Milk Producers

\$3 Check-off in July

The check-off is going to increase to \$3 per head beginning July 1, 2010. The \$2 per head rate has been in place since 1989. The funds from this check-off are collected by the Cattle Industry Development Council (CIDC) and used for the benefit of cattle producers. All four provincial cattle organizations have responded to the CIDC that they favour an increase. Producers who sell cattle in Alberta have been paying \$3 per head check-off for several years. With both BC & AB check-off fees being \$3, Alberta will now be required to return (to CIDC) the provincial \$2 that is collected on every head sold into AB.