



NEWS RELEASE

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Livestock Crisis is a Rural Community Crisis

Regina - The Prairie Association of Rural Municipalities met today in Regina regarding the expanding rural community crisis brought about by the plight of the livestock industry from the single Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) incident.

"The sustainability of rural communities is at stake," says Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) President Neal Hardy. "Rural businesses and producers are really hurting because of the financial crunch brought on by BSE. Municipalities won't be able to provide even basic services if they can't collect the taxes this fall."

"The partial opening of the border has helped the situation, but we need a full opening of the border," says Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (AAMD&C) President Jack Hayden. "The goal is to get the border open completely to the point that it is nonexistent for the livestock industry."

"Livestock producers need an interest-free cash advance immediately," says Stuart Briese, President of the Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM). "The cash injection is needed to address the economic crisis, and to prevent people from being forced to make decisions that would have long-term environmental consequences, such as putting marginal land back into crop production."

PARM will be hosting a meeting of Mayors and Reeves from the three Prairie provinces early this fall if satisfactory action is not taken soon to resolve this issue.

PARM is made up of the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities, the Association of Manitoba Municipalities, and the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties.

- 30 -

For more information contact:

Stuart Briese
AMM President
(204) 856-2366

Neal Hardy
SARM President
(306) 865-6368

Jack Hayden
AAMD&C President
(403) 742-9668