



NEWS RELEASE

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PARM Reacts To Federal BSE Strategy

The Prairie Association of Rural Municipalities (PARM) is appreciative of the federal aid strategy that was outlined for the Canadian cattle industry today. PARM had presented federal agriculture minister Andy Mitchell with a proposal that will assist our beef industry in Canada. Many of the initiatives discussed were put into place with this federal strategy.

“In our initial proposal we had asked the federal government to consider implementing a cash advance, increase slaughter capacity, set up a cattle set-aside program and consider revising interprovincial trade regulations to allow more domestic trade,” says Neal Hardy, president of the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities. “They are all touched on in this strategy.”

Jack Hayden, president of the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (AAMD&C) says, “Increasing processing capacity and implementing a set-aside program are positive advances for the industry as it will start to stabilize the Canadian cattle market along with prices.”

Stuart Briese, the Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) president, was happy to see initiatives announced to help explore new international markets and supports further steps to increase trade in beef and beef products between the provinces. “The Canadian industry can supply the market in Canada, and by doing that we can reduce beef imports and the oversupply of Canadian cattle.”

PARM will continue to urge the provincial and federal governments to take further action to mitigate the effects of BSE with a sound cash advance program for producers in conjunction with further improvement of access to our own domestic markets.

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