



FACstracs

Farm Animal Council of Saskatchewan Inc.

Representing the livestock industry in advancing responsible animal care in agriculture

FACS Successfully Tackles Tough Issues *by Kevin Hursh*

FACS held its ninth Annual General Meeting and Conference January 11 and 12 in Saskatoon where issues such as castration and dehorning were tackled head on. From both an animal welfare and an

economic point of view, this work should be done when the calves are young.

New FACS Directors

FACS is pleased to welcome three new Directors to the Board: Clayton Gibson, representing the beef industry, Keith Turpie, representing the PMU industry, and Dr. Trish Dowling, representing Veterinary Medicine.

Thanks to Our Sponsors

Thanks to the sponsors of our Annual General Meeting and Conference: Agricultural Institute of Management for Saskatchewan • Assiniboia Livestock • Canadian Western Agribition • Chicken Farmers of Saskatchewan • Elanco Animal Health • Federated Co-operatives Limited • Genex • Heartland Livestock Services • Intervet Canada • Mitchell's Gourmet Foods Inc. • North American Equine Ranching Information Council • Pound-Maker Agventures Ltd. • Quadra Group • Regina Exhibition Park • Sask Pork • Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food • Saskatchewan Association of Agricultural Societies and Exhibitions • Saskatchewan Egg Producers • Saskatchewan Elk Breeders Association • Saskatchewan Equine Ranching Association • Saskatchewan Livestock Markets and Order Buyers Association • Saskatchewan Milk Producers Association Inc. • Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association • Saskatoon Prairieland Exhibition Park • Saskatoon Processing • SPI Marketing Group Inc. • The Hartford • University of Saskatchewan • Veterinary Infectious Disease Organization

Mark Your Calendars

The FACS tenth Annual General Meeting and Conference is tentatively set for January 11 and 12, 2002 in Saskatoon.

On the issue of dehorning, FACS, with support from a broad base of the industry, has asked the Saskatchewan government to consider raising the horned cattle deduction. For many years, there has been a two dollar a head deduction on cattle that go to market with horns. FACS believes this should be increased to ten dollars a head. Cattle with horns can hurt other animals in transport and in feedlots. In addition, removing horns from an older animal is much more traumatic than doing the job when the animal is young. Increasing the horned cattle deduction to ten dollars a head would be an encouragement to deal with the horns at the early stages.

Money from the horned cattle deduction has always been used to help fund research and other initiatives for the benefit of the whole industry. It's heartening to see the livestock industry taking the lead in examining animal welfare issues and looking for ways to promote the production of food animals in a humane fashion.

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Stock Person's School

FACS, together with the University of Saskatchewan, is pleased to present a Stock Person's School, taking place May 3, 2001 in Saskatoon (Room 143, Arts, University of Saskatchewan).

The objective of this school is to address specific issues, relevant to pasture riders and stockgrowers, to improve their knowledge and performance level. This unique one-day school will provide interactive opportunities for participants to learn from experts in their industries. Attendees will benefit from a range of topics, from animal care issues to responsible use of pharmaceuticals.

The agenda is as follows:

- 7:30 a.m. Registration and Breakfast
- 8:30 a.m. Reproductive Diseases,
Dr. Al Barth
- 9:15 a.m. How to Select a Ranch Horse,
Dr. Dave Wilson
- 10:30 a.m. Animal Behavior,
Dr. Joe Stookey
- 11:30 a.m. Sudden Death,
Dr. Eugene Janzen
- 12:00 Noon Lunch
- 1:30 p.m. Public Attitude Towards
Animal Agriculture,
Dr. Jeff Goodwin
- 2:30 p.m. Managing Lameness,
Dr. John Campbell
- 3:30 p.m. Responsible Pharmaceuticals,
Dr. Trish Dowling

Limited space is available, so register early by completing the accompanying form and submit it with your registration fee.

Items Wanted:

FACS would like to acquire an LCD projector for power point presentations. If you are interested in donating or selling a projector, please contact us by phone at (306) 249-3227 or by email at facs@sk.sympatico.ca.

Stock Person's School REGISTRATION FORM

Full payment must accompany registration.

Mail to: Farm Animal Council of Saskatchewan Inc.

502 - 45th Street West - 2nd Floor
Saskatoon, SK S7L 6H2

NAME _____

ORGANIZATION _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/TOWN _____

PROVINCE _____

POSTAL CODE _____

PHONE _____

FAX _____

I am:

- a producer
- a government employee

Do you require transit to and from the hotel? • Yes • No

Registration Information:

- Includes continental breakfast and lunch
- Early Bird Registration - \$90 per person (includes GST) by April 24, 2001; \$105 after
- Students - \$40 per person (includes GST) by April 24, 2001 and \$105 after
- Hotel: Ramada Hotel
Rates: \$75.00 (plus taxes)
- Based upon request, transit will be supplied leaving the hotel at 7:15 a.m. and returning at 5:00 p.m.

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and Order Buyers
Association

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Low Stress Handling of Pigs

FACS is proud to present a unique course on “Low Stress Livestock Handling,” featuring methods developed by renowned livestock handler Bud Williams. Nancy Lidster and DNL Farms, will work with FACS to present three one-day courses specifically dealing with pig handling. Nancy has worked with Bud since 1996, spending countless hours understanding his methods and applying them to working with pigs. The course will:

- identify instinctive human behavior
- identify what pigs want from us
- identify how our instinctive human behavior clashes with the needs of the pigs
- review handling methods that give pigs what they need while still achieving our desired outcomes
- discuss sorting techniques, body positioning and pressure points

Plan to attend to improve handling techniques in your barn.

Thank you to Sask Pork for sponsoring the three seminars.

Pig Handling Course Registration Form

Registration is \$100 (including GST) per person, including lunch. Courses run from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Full payment must accompany registration. Check one location:

- Swift Current, April 24, Exhibition Park (Deadline: April 19)
- Humboldt, April 25, Pioneer Hotel (Deadline: April 19)
- Saskatoon, April 30, Ramada Hotel (Deadline: April 24)

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY/TOWN _____
 PROVINCE _____
 POSTAL CODE _____
 PHONE _____
 FAX _____

Make cheques payable to FACS and mail to: 502-45th St. W., Saskatoon, SK S7L 6H2

SUPPORT FACS

A membership in FACS holds many benefits, including membership recognition, a quarterly newsletter, notification of special events, access to the FACS library, FACS publications, and much more.

Associate memberships are available for contributions of \$50 to \$199.99 (plus GST). Active (or voting) memberships are available for contributions of \$200 and over (plus GST). Receipts are issued for all contributions. Please complete the form to the right and return it with your contribution to:

Farm Animal Council of Saskatchewan Inc.
502-45th Street West, 2nd Floor, Saskatoon, SK S7L 6H2

Name

Address

City/Town

Prov

PC

Tel

Fax

For more information, contact FACS by phone at (306) 249-3227 or fax at (306) 244-4497 or by email at facs@sk.sympatico.ca

Equine Ranching Operation Wins “Producer of the Year Award” Congratulations to Bob and Lois Brickley!

Bob and Lois Brickley, equine and cattle ranchers near Kennedy, Saskatchewan, are the recipients of the Saskatchewan Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA) inaugural “Producer of the Year” Award.

The award, created to recognize a producer’s “best efforts” in providing a total package of humane production practices, was presented during the Farm Animal Council of Saskatchewan Inc. (FACS) Annual General Meeting and Conference, held January 11 and 12 in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

Three farms were nominated for the award, with herd sizes ranging from 24 to over 500 head, and representing four different classes of livestock. All showed exemplary levels of animal care and handling while stressing nutrition, preventative medicine and the adoption of modern, humane production practices.

“In the end, the winner is a family operation dedicated to providing the best possible production environment while recognizing the need for participating in educational programs on modern production concepts,” said Adele Buettner, Executive Director of FACS and a member of the award selection committee.

“The Brickleys successfully use new methodologies and actively work to share this information with others. As well, they participate in research activities to increase production efficiency and improve animal care and comfort,” she added.

Producers were judged on a variety of elements, including:

- commitment to high standards of animal welfare
- cleanliness of the operation
- environmental integrity
- efforts made towards public education

In accepting the award, Bob Brickley acknowledged that responsible animal care is part of his daily routine. “We are only one of many responsible operations in this industry,” said Brickley. “We are honored to accept this award on behalf of all producers who make animal care a priority.”

The Brickleys are long standing members of FACS.

Camp Animal Tracks Another Industry First . . .

FACS is pleased to offer a week long farm animal camp for children ages 9 - 12. The camp will be based out of Saskatoon and held the week of July 16 - 20, 2001.

The objective of the camp is to provide children with a ‘hands-on’ opportunity to learn about farm animals. The experience will be fun, interactive and educational.

“Camp Animal Tracks” is funded in part by the Agriculture Development Fund and the Barn Supply Co. Ltd. It is also made possible through the participation of several industry partners, including:

- Sask Pork
- Saskatchewan Horse Federation
- Saskatchewan Beef Development Centre
- Saskatchewan Vet Medical Association
- Saskatchewan Dairy Foundation

FACS would like to thank our project partners for working together to make this a unique and excellent opportunity for children.

If you are interested to learn more about this camp, or would like to volunteer, please call us at (306) 249-3227 or email at facs@sk.sympatico.ca.

FACStracs is a quarterly publication of the Farm Animal Council of Saskatchewan Inc. (FACS). The primary function of FACS is to promote the responsible care and use of animals in the livestock industry. The material in this publication may be used with proper acknowledgment to the source. All information contained herein is deemed to be reliable and accurate to the best of the publisher's knowledge. The authors of submitted and reprinted articles are solely responsible for the contents and accuracy of the information.

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Gordon Roger, Adele Buettner, Patty Martin**