



Livestock Marketers of Saskatchewan

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A DIFFERENT KIND OF CLASSROOM

Two Saskatchewan Auction Markets will be transformed into temporary learning centres next month when the Livestock Marketers of Saskatchewan (LMS) embarks on a new pilot project.

The LMS 'Traceability and Cattle Handling' Pilot Project is designed for auction market employees, with a seminar scheduled for Saskatoon on August 26 at Saskatoon Livestock Sales and one in Moose Jaw on August 27 at Heartland Livestock Services.

"The facilities of our members are critical transition points in the cattle marketing process; so we felt it necessary to utilize the very facilities in which traceability will ultimately be applied," LMS President Jeff Jameson noted.

The project is funded by the Saskatchewan Voluntary Traceback Initiative (SVTI) of the Ministry of Agriculture, through the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Growing Forward Agreement.

"The long-term implications of traceability applications within the livestock sector require participation and understanding at every level. LMS is very pleased to be able to facilitate this, in collaboration with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture," Jameson added.

The Project focuses on the three pillars of traceability - Animal Identification, Premise Identification, and Animal Movement. The morning session will feature presentations from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency (CCIA).

Pat Bouchard, CFIA Animal ID Program Supervisor for the Saskatchewan Region will present an update on pertinent regulatory information for LMS members and provide insights from the Growing Forward Agreement and the long-term implications for auction markets.

Danielle Oberle, CCIA Communications Manager, will focus on the role of auction markets in the CCIA traceback system for animal health and product safety and present a progress report on the Canadian Livestock Tracking System.

The afternoon sessions will feature a live teaching demonstration of Low Stress Cattle Handling Techniques by Montana based Stockmanship expert Curt Pate. Curt demonstrates the relation between economic benefits and handling stock correctly; as well as the impact of improved handling to sustainability of the industry. Curt delivered the first-ever training for auction market employees in Saskatchewan in 2009; and conducts Stockmanship and Stewardship Tours for the USA National Cattlemen's Beef Association.

In addition to LMS members and employees; producers, truckers and others in the industry who work with livestock are welcome to register. For further information contact:

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