



Livestock Marketers of Saskatchewan

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EDUCATIONAL PILOT PROJECT EFFECTIVE

Two Saskatchewan Auction Markets successfully transformed into classrooms, for the Livestock Marketers of Saskatchewan (LMS) 'Traceability and Cattle Handling' training, today and Thursday.

The LMS pilot project drew close to one hundred auction market employees, brand inspectors, and producers, from across Saskatchewan to Saskatoon Livestock Sales (SLS) and Moose Jaw's Heartland Livestock Services.

"The long-term implications of traceability applications within the livestock sector require participation and understanding at every level, which these seminars provided," said Mike Fleury, Manager of SLS and Chair of the session held on Thursday.

LMS President Jeff Jameson said the organization was pleased to provide the valuable training, and pending funding would be willing to do so again.

Funding for this week's seminars came from the Saskatchewan Voluntary Traceback Initiative (SVTI) of the Ministry of Agriculture, through the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Growing Forward Agreement.

The training focused on the three pillars of traceability - Animal Identification, Premise Identification, and Animal Movement.

Participants heard speakers 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, provided an update on pertinent regulatory information for LMS members, and shared insights from the Growing Forward Agreement and the long-term implications for auction markets.

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

Participants also watched live a teaching demonstration of Low Stress Cattle Handling Techniques by Montana-based Stockmanship expert Curt Pate. He demonstrated the relation between economic benefits and handling stock correctly; and 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.

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