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Welcome to BCFPA's **BC Meating News**, providing information towards increasing livestock harvest and sales of high-quality, safe, BC-produced-and-processed meat products. This is a monthly publication of the Meat Industry Enhancement Strategy (MIES).

Meeting new Ministers

Robin Smith, Nico Human and Kathleen Gibson met July 7 with Minister of Healthy Living & Sport Ida Chong and Minister of Agriculture & Lands Steve Thomson. Our presentations about licensing, MIES and MTAP and BC's provincially licensed abattoirs were well received.

Ranching Task Force

This body's mandate is to provide a report with recommendations to the Minister of Agriculture and Lands regarding sustainability for ranching and beef in BC. Its first meeting was June 30 and its final report will be delivered at the end of September. BCFPA Board Chair Robin Smith is a Task Force member with CEO Nico Human as alternate. At its first meeting, the Task Force identified waste management/SRM, and marketing/developing the value chain as key priorities. MIES is assisting with collection of cattle slaughter information from licensed plants and will provide other support to our Task Force representatives as required. See sidebar.

Proposed MOE Code changes

At the Ministry of Environment's request, MIES provided input July 6 regarding proposed changes to the Slaughter and Poultry Processing Industries Code of Practice. MOE is considering adding composting to the Code and possibly waiving the Organic Matter Recycling Regulation (OMRR) for small-volume facilities' composting. We asked MOE to establish requirements based on assessment of environmental risk, and to apply the Agricultural Waste Control Reg instead of OMRR for small facilities and docking stations.

Waste solutions proposal

Our June 11 submission to the Ministry of Agriculture & Lands re long- and short-term slaughter waste solutions is under consideration by MAL as well as the Ranching Task Force.

BCCDC's new web site

The BC Centre for Disease Control has redesigned its web site, including the pages relating to meat programs. See sidebar.

Going Independent to Sell Local Meat

Five former Sobeys franchisees in Southwestern Ontario (total 9 stores) have given up their franchises to form an independent co-op. The reason: they want to sell locally produced meat. "Local" meat in Ontario is typically produced in provincially licensed plants. Sobeys, like most large grocery chains, only buys meat from federally registered processors. See sidebar.

Survey: buying local in America

A recent survey by research group Mintel on local shopping in the US shows that 17% of adults (one in six) - "True Locals" - buy local products as much as possible. However 30% - "Aspirational Locals" - express interest in local products but say they don't know where to find them; and 27% - "No Locals" - say they don't care where their purchases come from. Mintel considers "buy local" is relevant to today's consumer but not yet integral to lifestyles.

Slaughter Improvement Program

The federal Slaughter Improvement Program is now accepting applications for interest-free loans or (in some cases) grants. Application deadlines are Aug 21 and Oct 30 2009 for the first two funding rounds. Eligible are red meat facilities that are, or intend to be, federally registered. Eligible projects include reducing costs/increasing efficiencies/ increasing revenue with new technology, or enhancing capacity in regions with demonstrated gaps.

Join BCFPA, increase our reach!

All meat processors continue to be welcome to join the BCFPA. Our broad membership allows us to gain a good understanding of the range of issues and needs and to provide a strong, balanced industry voice to government.

For further information

Visit our Web site at www.bcfpa.ca/mies.html

Acknowledgement



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