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 for News on the  
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#### COMING EVENTS

- [Union of BC Municipalities Convention, Sep 28 – Oct 2, 2009](#)
- BC Purebred Sheep Breeders AGM Oct 18, 2009 – Kamloops
- BC Sheep Federation Seminar, Oct 16-17 2009, Williams Lake
- [Livestock Emergency Response Courses, various locations and dates](#)

## Volume 2, Issue 14: Sep 2009

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).

### MTAP Phase 3 now available

Phase 3 of the Meat Transition Assistance Program is now in place and accepting applications from those wishing to upgrade or build a provincially licensed slaughter facility. The Strategic Plan and application materials will be posted on our web site later this month.

### Statistics Canada reports falling livestock numbers

Statistics Canada data from August show a marked shrinking of the national beef cow herd over the past two years. The number of beef cows has declined 5.6% over the past year, and more than 10% over the last two. All provinces except Quebec report falling beef cow numbers, with PEI showing the greatest losses over two years (32.5%) and the BC herd declining by almost 20% in the same time period. Due to export-oriented growth strategies in the cattle industry, Canada now has far more cattle than a generation ago, while the number of family farm cow-calf operators continues to shrink. Canada produces 24% more beef than it consumes. Hog numbers have also fallen and further reductions are expected; sheep numbers are unchanged.

### Ranching Task Force

Ken Corraini from Ministry of Agriculture and Kathleen Gibson from MIES jointly made a presentation to the Ranching Task Force on August 31, 2009. It emphasized the importance of provincially licensed plants in the value chain, for local economies and food and in increasing the resilience of provincial livestock producers. MIES' goals remain to ensure reasonable access to licensed slaughter capacity for all species in all regions and a basis for future expansion.

### Canadian Meat Council legal workshops

The Canadian Meat Council is offering workshops on "Legal Principles and Processes at Play When Dealing with Government." The workshops are targeted primarily at operators of federally registered establishments, but may be of interest to others. See sidebar.

### Alberta initiates Livestock Welfare Processor Program

Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, in partnership with the federal Growing Forward initiative, is implementing a program for welfare of livestock in Alberta's provincially licensed slaughter facilities, including mobile butchers. The program offers technical and financial support for expenditures to improve the welfare of livestock at slaughter, including stunners, handling systems and training. See sidebar.

### Hay shortages forcing herd reductions

Record low precipitation in many parts of BC and across the prairies this year is causing widespread hay shortages. Burnt pastures forced many livestock producers to start feeding harvested forages in July and August, while at the same time this year's hay harvest is greatly reduced. High prices and poor availability of hay are leading to further herd reductions. See sidebar.

### Rural Stress workshops

The BC Farm and Ranch Safety and Health Association (FARSHA) is offering free Rural Stress workshops. Plan a meeting with neighbours, your staff, family, community or association. The workshop "Coping With Tough Realities" is designed to create stress awareness and develop coping and action skills that work. To host or inquire about a Rural Stress workshop, contact FARSHA Coordinator Reg Steward, (250)305-6427 or [cowboygus27@hotmail.com](mailto:cowboygus27@hotmail.com)

### 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](http://www.bcfpa.ca/mies.html)

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