

## BCIDF To Become A 65 Year Trust

Since its creation in 1995, the Beef Cattle industry Development Fund has been a dependable source of funds to support projects that benefit the beef industry. Last year, the cattle industry was able to trigger \$171,976 from the Trust Fund to support association projects.

Council has been working with the Ministry of Agriculture to transition the Trust Fund over to a long-term trust. Previously the Trust was invested in a 20-year term; the new long-term Trust will be invested for the longest term possible by law (65 years). This process is getting closer to completion. We anticipate the signing of long-term Trust documents to take place this summer.

The beef industry has been able to trigger over \$10 million from the trust since it began in 1995. This long term extension will enable continued access to the earnings for projects to benefit the cattle industry in BC. Council will be reviewing investment strategies and also looking into establishing a Foundation for the long-term access to these earnings. Applying for registered charity status will also allow us to potentially generate additional income through donations. Council expects to announce the re-opening of the BCID Fund for applications in the near future.

## Dehorn Your Calves for safety & profit



**Horn Levy is \$10/head**

P (250) 573-3611 [www.cattlefund.net](http://www.cattlefund.net)

## Producer Volunteers Administer Industry Funds

Cattle producers are known for assisting their industry through volunteering their time. Members of the Cattle Industry Development Council and the Horn Levy Committee are volunteers elected by their industry organization. Thanks to these volunteers for their service participating on Council and the Horn Levy Committee:

### Cattle Industry Development Council

BC Association of Cattle Feeders:

Bill Freding (Oliver)

BC Breeders and Feeders Association:

Connie Patterson (Dawson Creek)

BC Cattlemen's Association:

Linda Allison, Chair (Princeton)

Bill Bentley (Progress)

Grant Huffman (Riske Creek)

Harold Starr (Miocene)

BC Milk Producers Association:

Clarence De Boer (Delta)

David Janssens Vice-Chair (Surrey)

### Horn Levy Fund Committee

BC Association of Cattle Feeders:

August Bremer, Chair (Enderby)

BC Breeders and Feeders Association:

Marvin Tonn (Kelowna)

BC Cattlemen's Association:

Bill Bentley, Vice Chair (Progress)

Bob Storey (Smithers)

## Beef Presidents Meeting

The cattle association presidents meet once a year with the CIDC Chair to discuss current issues and to suggest priority funding needs for the coming year. The Presidents agree that the annual meetings are an important tool for them to be aware of concerns and actions on-going in the industry.

All the associations acknowledge that their accomplishments are the result of efforts of their volunteers -- the many hours contributed by association directors and committee participants are the driving force of the associations.

Thank you to our many volunteers.



**CATTLE INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

"Producers Working For Producers"

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Summer 2011

## National Check-off Agency

BC cattle producers have always supported the non-refundable national check-off.

\$1 of the CIDC check-off is sent to the National Agency for use in promotion and research. BC Beef producer organizations have agreed to continue the non-refundable national check-off for another five years.

During this last year, the process to merge operations of the National Check-off Agency, Beef Information Centre and Canada Beef Export Federation has been accomplished - the new organization is called Canada Beef Inc. The Canadian cattle industry is looking forward to improved efficiencies in all marketing areas with the amalgamation of these groups.

All marketing efforts will now be under the direction of Canada Beef Inc. Grant Huffman -- CIDC Council Member, BC Cattlemen's Director, and rancher from Riske Creek -- was acclaimed to represent BC on the Canada Beef Inc. Board of Directors.

At the first meeting, Brad Wildeman, from Saskatchewan, was elected Chairman and Robert Meijer, former Director of Corporate Affairs for Cargill Limited, has been appointed President of Canada Beef Inc. He said, "I am very energized by this tremendous opportunity and dedicate myself to doing what is best for our producers and industry partners." Wildeman said of Meijer, "Rob's extensive background in the beef industry ranges from domestic and international marketing to trade and regulatory issues. This, coupled with his dynamic approach to taking the interests of Canada Beef forward on the domestic and world stages, will serve the Canadian cattle and beef industry well."

Visit [www.canadabeef.org](http://www.canadabeef.org) for updates.



## About the Funds

Cattle producers in British Columbia have supported the levy (check-off) on cattle for many years. The current \$3 per head CIDC levy paid at the time cattle are sold or slaughtered in BC is working for the good of the beef industry.

\$1 per head is designated for the National Check-off; these funds are directed to promotion and research. The other \$2 per head becomes the CIDC fund which is used to promote the cattle industry in BC and to support research or education programs.

Triggering a match from the Beef Cattle Industry Development Trust Fund earnings provides the opportunity to double these producer dollars. The \$9.3 million trust fund, established by the BC government in 1995, allows industry dollars to trigger matching funds from the Trust earnings. During the first 16 years of the Fund being in operation, \$10 million has been triggered contributing to projects for a total value of over \$34 million.

The \$10 per head Horn Levy is collected when producers sell cattle with horns in BC. These funds are reinvested in the industry through projects initiated by cattle associations.

[www.cattlefund.net](http://www.cattlefund.net)

## National Check-off

**How much is it?** The \$1 per head National check-off is collected on the sale of all cattle. During the last ten years, \$2.25 million has been collected and remitted to the national agency for marketing and research from BC cattle producers.

**Why Non-refundable?** Non-refundable check-off allows all Provinces to rely on the annual check-off to support projects that benefit the beef industry. An estimated \$6.5 - \$7.5 million per year is collected.

# Summer Tour 2011



Council members take a bus tour of a winery & feedlot

## Council Visits the South Okanagan

The Cattle Industry Development Council's summer meeting was held in the South Okanagan, featuring a visit with directors from the Southern Interior Stockmen's Association, along with tours of wine country, and Southern Plus Feedlot in Oliver.

Council members arrived in the afternoon and climbed on the bus with driver Sylvia, a well-informed guide who provided lots of background information for the tour, as well as making sure we got to all the stops on the schedule. Stopping at three very different wineries, we learned lots of historical facts about the area, some unique agricultural facts about growing grapes, and some tips for those wishing to take up or expand their wine-making hobbies.

Along the way, the group arrived at Southern Plus Feedlot where Council Member Bill Freding, and his wife Darlene, welcomed us to their home and business. Southern Plus is one of the province's larger feeding operations, with a 7,000 head capacity. Hay and corn are grown on the ranch in Oliver and supplemented with locally grown product. As a complement to the feedlot, Bill and Darlene grow 50 acres of grapes most of which go to the local Road 13 Winery. Colleen Aven showed Council around the feedlot describing the various processes and their successful wine-fed beef project. Southern Plus uses parasitic wasps as biocontrol for fly control; the lack of flies at the feedlot were evidence that this control program really works!



Touring the cellars at Road 13 Winery.

Following the tour, a great dinner of wine-fed beef was enjoyed by Council and directors of the Southern Interior Stockmen's Association. Thank you to our hosts Bill and Darlene.

Following dinner Linda Allison (CIDC Chair) gave an update on Council's activities. An update was given on the work to have the Beef Cattle Industry Development Trust Fund extended to 65 years. Linda also provided a synopsis of the recently completed amalgamation of the marketing agencies to Canada Beef Inc. Linda Allison presented a report on CIDC collections for the year. It was noted that the increase to \$3 per head last year was timely as the reduction in the BC cattle herd meant check-off collections were still sufficient to fund association projects. The Horn Fund projects of \$48,000 last year were also outlined.

In the last few years, Council has been reducing their meetings in order to reserve funds. However, it was felt that this summer meeting and the opportunity to discuss industry issues with local producers was an important activity that Council would try to continue.

The next day Council got down to business with their regular and annual meetings. Don Low, newly appointed Beef and Bison Specialist with the Ministry of Agriculture, was welcomed to his first meeting. The audited financial reports were received, as well as the Chair's annual report. Council accepted a proposal to continue the administration agreement with BC Cattlemen. Council also set some communication priorities. Reports were received for funded, on-going and completed projects. While the BCID Fund remains closed, a focus was set to finalize the few outstanding projects that are still in the files. With the long term trust expected in the near future, Council is also looking into establishing a charitable foundation as a means of receiving donations for the benefit of the cattle industry.

Council's next meeting is planned for November 28th in Richmond.



Council members and SISA Directors enjoy supper at Bill and Darlene Freding's feedlot.

## Where Is the Check-off Going?

BC producers now pay \$3 per head on all cattle sold or slaughtered in BC to the CIDC check-off -- \$2 is the provincial check-off and \$1 is the national check-off. The increase, approved by all cattle associations, was implemented in June 2010 in order to ensure sufficient funds were available during the time of declining numbers in the BC cattle herd.

Provincial cattle associations are eligible to apply for funding from the CIDC check-off, and matching funds from the Beef Cattle Industry Development Fund to help support their projects to benefit the BC cattle industry. Contributions to the associations assist with the work in many areas representing their members and the cattle industry at large.



### BC Association of Cattle Feeders

Projects in the areas of health and food safety are a priority for the BC Association of Cattle Feeders. Their association is actively planning for the Cross Border Livestock Health Conference, that will be held in Saskatchewan in 2012. The association is also working on changes needed in cross border regulations.



### BC Breeders and Feeders Association

BCBFA focus on training opportunities for producers – their meetings are usually held in conjunction with a free seminar, and this association has adopted herd health protocols developed for BC's beef producers. As well as the provincially guaranteed finance programs for feeder cattle and bred heifers, this association administers the Advance Payments Program for cattle producers in BC.



### BC Milk Producers' Association

Members contribute significantly to beef production in BC, and their beef-related projects which receive support include works relating to Animal Care, and Production Improvement Practices - their application stated, "Herd health is vitally important to a dairy operation's receipts for cattle sales. For dairy cattle to have value in the beef market, they must be free from health issues." Their project works to improve producer awareness of management of diseases and managing the use of inhibitors in dairy cattle. The association encourages management practices which improve their profitability while fostering consumer confidence.



### BC Cattlemen's Association

Approved projects include work in environmental stewardship, land stewardship, livestock industry protection, and communications and public affairs. During the last year, significant steps have been taken to develop a consumer awareness program based on the success of "Meet A Rancher" events and to reach producers through an electronic newsletter, while continuing the Beef in BC magazine. Issues relating to land security have always been a high priority for BCCA and the project funding from check-off permits the association to co-ordinate, advocate and monitor land stewardship issues. Environmental issues (water, wildlife), health concerns (traceability, animal transport, animal care), all receive the attention of the BCCA.

**Check-off makes all of this possible**