

# **APB REGULATORY REVIEW**

## **Working Group Meeting**

August 29 and 30, 2007

### **Consultation Document 1**

#### **Introduction**

The Working Group meeting on August 29 and 30, 2007 marks the beginning of producer and stakeholder consultation with respect to the review of Alberta Beef Producer's Plan Regulation, Cattle Marketing Regulation and Authorization Regulation.

To start the review, process seven topics from these regulations have been selected for discussion at this meeting. Discussion on each of these topics will lead to additional topics that may need to be explored in future consultations. This initial selection of topics does not preclude the other sections of each Regulation being examined or the possibility of entirely new provisions being considered. Tracking other topics for future discussion, whether regulatory or operational, will be part of the consultation process.

#### **Topic 1 - MANDATE OF THE COMMISSION**

Commissions administer plans to initiate and carry out projects or programs to commence, stimulate, increase or improve the production or marketing, or both, of an agricultural product but that will not permit the control or regulation of the production or marketing of that agricultural product.

The Act requires that a plan regulation set out the projects or programs that are to be carried out for the purpose of commencing, stimulating, increasing or improving the production or marketing, or both, of the agricultural product. Section 7 of ABP's Plan Regulation provides as follows:

7(1) The purpose of this Plan is to enable the Commission to initiate and carry out projects or programs to commence, stimulate, increase or improve the production or marketing, or both, of cattle and cattle products.

(2) Without restricting the generality of subsection (1), the Commission may initiate and carry out projects or programs

- (a) to assist, educate and inform producers, dealers, processors and other persons with a commercial interest in the cattle industry in developing and improving their production and marketing of cattle and cattle products;
- (b) to expand market awareness and demand for cattle and cattle products, including the development and promotion of markets for cattle and cattle products and the education of consumers;
- (c) to generally develop and promote the cattle industry;
- (d) to advise governments on matters concerning the cattle industry;
- (e) to research and study the production, marketing and processing of cattle and cattle products, including studies and research concerning the improvement of cattle and cattle products and the development and use and consumption of cattle and cattle products;

- (f) to support and co-operate with other persons and with governments when, in the opinion of the Board of Directors, such support and cooperation will further the purposes of this Plan and the objects of the Commission;
- (g) to communicate with producers, dealers, processors, other persons with a commercial interest in the cattle industry and the public; and
- (h) to establish quality standards for cattle and cattle products.

**Points to ponder:**

1. What is the role or mandate of Alberta Beef Producers?
2. Does the description of the projects and programs outlined in section 7 of ABP's Plan Regulation need to be changed to better meet the needs of the cattle industry?
3. If so, what changes could be made?

**Topic 2A - REGULATION MAKING POWERS**

Section 26 of the *Marketing of Agricultural Products Act* sets out 13 regulation making powers that can be delegated by Marketing Council to a commission. Under section 10 of ABP's Plan Regulation Marketing Council can authorize ABP to make regulations in 6 of those 13 areas. Alberta Beef Producers has exercised 5 of those 6 regulation making powers in its Cattle Marketing Regulation. This regulation:

- a) requires persons who market cattle to furnish to ABP any information or record relating to the marketing of cattle that ABP considers necessary;
- b) provides for
  - (i) the assessment, charging and collection of service charges from producers from time to time for the purposes of this Plan, and
  - (ii) the taking of legal action to enforce payment of the service charges;
- c) requires any person who receives cattle from a producer
  - (i) to deduct from the money payable to the producer any service charges payable by the producer to ABP, and
  - (ii) to forward the amount deducted to ABP;
- d) provides for the use of any class of service charges or other money payable to or received by ABP for the purpose of paying its expenses and administering this Plan and the regulations made by ABP;
- e) provides for payment to the Canada Board of money that is payable under the Canada Act.

The regulation making power that Alberta Beef Producers has been given, but has never exercised, is the ability to require producers engaged in the marketing of cattle to register their names and addresses with ABP. This regulation making authority is, however, restricted so that ABP is only empowered to do so for the limited purpose of enabling ABP to determine whether a producer is an eligible producer and to assess, charge and collect service charges.

In addition to the powers set out above, Marketing Council may, with the approval of the Minister, authorize commissions to make regulations:

- a) requiring producers engaged in the production of the regulated product to register their names and addresses with the board or commission (note: ABP has this power for producers engaged in marketing the regulated product, but not production);
- b) providing for classifying producers, processors and others into groups for the purposes of a plan;
- c) requiring persons to be licensed under the plan before they become engaged in the production, marketing and processing, or any one or more of those functions, of a regulated product;
- d) prohibiting persons from engaging in the production, marketing or processing, as the case may be, of a regulated product except under the authority of a licence issued under the plan;
- e) governing the issuance, suspension or cancellation of a licence issued under the plan;
- f) in the case of a commission, providing for the refund of service charges;
- g) requiring persons who produce, market or process a regulated product to mark the containers of their products to show the place of origin or place of production to the satisfaction of the board or commission; and
- h) permitting the board or commission to exercise any one or more of the powers that are vested in a cooperative association under the Cooperative Associations Act or a cooperative under the Cooperatives Act.

**Points to Ponder:**

1. Does the cattle industry need ABP to have any additional regulation making powers to carry out the future mandate of the organization?
2. In order to improve the producer mailing lists and voter lists ABP will be looking to amend the Cattle Marketing Regulation to require producers to register their names and addresses with the Commission. Comments? Should this regulatory power be amended to include producers engaged in the production of beef cattle and not just those engaged in marketing?
3. What additional information should producers be asked to voluntarily submit to ABP along with their names and addresses?
4. How should ABP be able to use this information? For what purposes? To whom should this information be disclosed? With whom should this information be shared?

5. Should the cattle industry have ABP seek to exercise the power to register and licence persons engaged in the production, marketing and processing of beef cattle to assume more ownership of traceability, animal health, food safety etc. These are currently the subject of substantial government discussion and the success of these initiatives rest upon an accurate database of producers. Is this the means by which the cattle industry can lead and be more proactive in these discussions?

## **Topic 2B - SERVICE CHARGE**

Under the Act, commissions can administer a plan under which the service charge collected:

- a) will be refundable at the request of a producer, or
- b) will not be refundable at the request of a producer.

The service charge imposed by the Cattle Marketing Regulation is not refundable.

### **Points to Ponder:**

1. What are the advantages and disadvantages of a non-refundable service charge?
2. What are the advantages and disadvantages of a refundable service charge?
3. Should ABP's service charge continue to be non-refundable?
4. If no, are there other underlying issues leading to that conclusion and, if so, what are those underlying issues?
5. If the underlying issues were resolved would the advantages of a non-refundable service charge outweigh the:
  - a) disadvantages of a non-refundable service charge as things currently exist?
  - b) advantages of a refundable service charge?

## **Topic 3A - PRODUCERS and ELIGIBLE PRODUCERS**

Until the *Marketing of Agricultural Products Act* is amended to provide otherwise, section 18(4) of the Act requires that "every member of a commission shall be a producer or a representative of a producer if the producer is a corporation."

Section 1(m) of MAPA defines "producer" to mean:

- (i) a person who produces an agricultural product, and
- (ii) a producer as defined in the regulations with respect to a plan.

Section 1(o) of ABP's Plan Regulation defines "producer" to mean:

- (i) a person who raises, feeds or owns cattle,
- (ii) a person who takes possession of cattle from a producer under a security interest or any other security for a debt, or
- (iii) a person who under any arrangement is entitled to a share of the cattle raised by a producer or any portion of the revenue derived from the sale of the cattle.

ABP's Plan Regulation further restricts who can be a member of the Commission (i.e. a delegate or a director) to "eligible producers". An "eligible producer is defined in ABP's Plan as a producer:

- a) who resides or carries on business in Alberta, and
- b) has, during the current or immediately preceding year, sold cattle and paid a service charge to the Commission or to another person on behalf of the Commission.

**Points to Ponder - Producers:**

1. Should persons other than those who sell cattle and pay a check-off to ABP become members of the Commission and be elected to the Board of Directors?
2. If so, for what purpose?
3. If so, what other types of persons should be eligible to be elected as an ABP delegate or Director?
4. If those persons did not sell cattle and pay a check-off to ABP how would they contribute financially to the operation of the commission?
5. If persons other than producers are elected as delegates and directors of ABP what affect would that have on ABP's mandate and objectives?
6. Should ABP seek to represent sectors other than cattle producers (i.e. purebred, cow/calf, backgrounders and cattle feeders)? Are there other more effective ways that ABP can work and interact with the non-producer sectors that form part of the beef cattle value or production chain?
7. Does the industry wish ABP to represent all sectors or be a forum for discussion of industry wide issues but remain the voice of cattle producers?

**Points to Ponder - Eligible Producers**

1. Is the definition of eligible producer adequate? If yes, why?
2. If not, why not and what would you change?

**Topic 3B - GEOGRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION**

For the purposes of ABP's Plan Regulation, Alberta is divided into 9 zones and zone 9 is divided into 5 sub-zones. The zone, sub-zone and cattle feeder council delegates elected at the fall producer meetings represent the eligible producers of the zone from which they are elected. Zones 1 to 8 each elect 7 zone delegates and zone 9 elects 5 sub-zone delegates and 2 zone delegates.

**Points to Ponder:**

1. Are 9 zones needed?
2. If yes, do the borders need to be adjusted and, if so, how?
3. If 9 zones are not needed, how many zones should there be?
4. If the number of zones change, what land would be comprised in each of the zones?
5. Does Zone 9 need to continue with 5 sub-zones?
6. Should the cattle feeder council delegates represent the cattle feeders in their particular zone and not the eligible producers in their zone?

**Topic 3C - INDUSTRY SECTOR REPRESENTATION**

The various sectors in the beef cattle industry are represented on Alberta Beef Producers through the producer associations, the Cattle Feeder Council and the Cattle Industry Council.

Producer associations

Before the 2002 and 2005 amendments, ABP's Plan Regulation recognized five producer associations, namely,

- a) the Alberta Canada All Breeds Association (1984),
- b) the Alberta Cattle Feeders' Association,
- c) the Alberta Milk Producers,
- d) the Feeder Associations of Alberta Ltd., and
- e) the Western Stock Growers Association.

When ABP's Plan Regulation was amended to establish the Cattle Feeder Council, Alberta Cattle Feeders Association was removed as a producer association. With the creation of the Cattle Industry Council, the Alberta Canada All Breeds Association was deleted as it was no longer an active association. At the same time the remaining producer associations were given the option of joining the Cattle Industry Council or remaining as a producer association. Western Stock Growers' Association joined Cattle Industry Council and Alberta Milk and the Feeder Association of Alberta Ltd. remained as producer associations. Each producer association elects or appoints two representatives to be producer association delegates.

Cattle Feeder Council

The Cattle Feeder Council is made up of 13 cattle feeder council delegates elected at the fall producer meetings. Zones 1 and 3 both elect 2 cattle feeder council delegates, zone 2 elects 3 cattle feeder council delegates and zones 4 to 9, each elect one cattle feeder council delegate.

## Cattle Industry Council

The Cattle Industry Council is made up of members appointed by cattle industry stakeholders. The members of Cattle Industry Council do not have to be eligible producers. The following stakeholders have appointed members to Cattle Industry Council: Alberta Livestock Dealers and Order Buyers Association, Alberta Auction Market Association, Western Stock Growers Association, Livestock Identification Services Ltd., Ranchers' Beef, Alberta Farm Animal Care, Alberta Veterinary Medical Association, the Western Canadian Association of Bovine Practitioners and Hartford Insurance.

The cattle industry council members elect 6 cattle industry council delegates. To be eligible to be elected as a cattle industry council delegate that individual must be a member of Cattle Industry Council and be an eligible producer.

### **Points to Ponder:**

1. Does the current structure adequately represent all producer sectors, namely, purebred breeders, cow-calf producers, backgrounders and feedlot operators?
2. Does the current structure provide adequate representation to non-producer sectors, namely, livestock dealers, auction markets and packers?
3. Does the current structure provide adequate representation to beef cattle service providers such as veterinarians, truckers, insurance agents, bankers etc.
4. If yes, is there any way the representation can be improved within the current structure?
5. If not, then what changes would see better more effective representation of producers, non-producers and service providers?

## **Topic 4A - RIGHTS OF ELIGIBLE PRODUCERS**

ABP's Plan Regulation sets out rights of eligible producers which can be summarized as follows:

- a) In the zone in which they reside or carry on business, an eligible producer may:
  - (i) attend zone and sub-zone meetings (the fall producer meetings);
  - (ii) at zone and sub-zone meetings:
    - A. make representations on any matter pertaining to this Plan and the operation of the Commission;
    - B. vote on any matter under this Plan;
    - C. vote in any election for delegates to represent the zone;
  - (iii) to hold office as a zone delegate, a producer association delegate, a cattle feeder council delegate or a cattle industry council delegate.

- b) If invited by the Board of Directors may:
- (i) sit as a member of committees established by the Board of Directors, and
  - (ii) represent the Commission on any task force, committee, group or organization of which the Commission is a member or to which the Commission elects or appoints individuals.

**Points to Ponder:**

1. Does ABP's Plan Regulation adequately reflect the role eligible producers should have in the organization?
2. If yes, why?
3. If not, what other role should eligible producers have in the organization? For example,
  - a) should eligible producers have a role at annual general meetings and semi-annual meetings and, if so, what role?
  - b) should eligible producers be able to be elected as ABP directors, CCA directors or BIC members without having to have been elected as a delegate?
4. If eligible producers were given an expanded role in the organization, how would these eligible producers become engaged and active within the organization?

**Topic 4B - NUMBER AND RIGHTS OF DELEGATES**

Alberta Beef Producers currently has 86 delegates that are elected as follows:

- a) 58 zone delegates and 5 sub-zone delegates are elected at the fall producer meetings;
- b) 4 producer association delegates;
- c) 13 cattle feeder council delegates; and
- d) 6 cattle industry council delegates.

**Points to Ponder:**

1. Are 86 delegates just enough, too few or too many?
2. If too few or too many, what would be a better number and why?
3. Is the current breakdown between zone delegates, producer association delegates, cattle feeder council delegates and cattle industry council delegates appropriate for the industry?
4. If not, what would be more appropriate and why?

5. Does the organization continue to need

- a) zone delegates?
- b) producer association delegates?
- c) cattle feeder council delegates?
- d) cattle industry council delegates?

6. If yes, why and if not, why not?

ABP's Plan Regulation sets out rights of the delegates and gives rights to the different classes of delegates, which can be summarized as follows:

#### All delegates

All delegates, whether zone delegates, producer association delegates, cattle feeder council delegates or cattle industry council delegates may:

- a) attend annual or special meetings of the Commission,
- b) vote in any election for directors at large, CIC directors, CCA directors, and BIC members,
- c) hold office as directors at large, CCA directors and BIC members, and
- d) represent the Commission on any task force, committee, group or organization of which the Commission is a member or to which the Commission elects or appoints individuals.

#### Zone, CFC, CIC and Producer Association delegates

In addition to what all delegates are able to do:

- a) Zone delegates and producer association delegates may sit as members of standing committees established by the Board of Directors, but in practice each delegate is appointed to only one committee. Zone delegates are not eligible to be members of either Cattle Feeders Council or Cattle Industry Council.
- b) Zone delegates and cattle feeder council delegates may, in the zone or sub zone that the zone delegate or cattle feeder council delegate represents
  - (i) attend zone committee meetings,
  - (ii) vote in elections for a zone director, and
  - (iii) hold office as a zone director.
- c) Cattle feeder council delegates may
  - (i) attend Cattle Feeder Council meetings,
  - (ii) vote in any election for cattle feeder council directors, and
  - (iii) hold office as a cattle feeder council director.

- d) Cattle industry council delegates may
  - (i) attend Cattle Industry Council meetings, and
  - (ii) hold office as a cattle industry council director.
- e) Producer association delegates may, in the zone or sub zone in which the delegate resides,
  - (i) attend zone committee meetings, and
  - (ii) at zone committee meetings, make representations on any matter pertaining to this Plan or the operation of the Commission.

The term of office all delegates is two years. An individual can serve as a delegate for three consecutive terms.

**Points to Ponder:**

1. Does ABP's Plan Regulation adequately reflect the role delegates should have in the organization?
2. If yes, why?
3. If not, what other role should delegates have in the organization?
4. Should the difference in the rights of zone delegates, producer association delegates, cattle feeder council delegates and cattle industry council delegates continue?
5. Is there a need for the cattle feeder delegates and the cattle industry council delegates to meet as the Cattle Feeder Council and the Cattle Industry Council, respectively, or should those delegates be assigned to other committee to interact more directly with the zone delegates and the producer association delegates?
6. Is there a need to organize all delegates in councils by industry sector with the result that a cow-calf council be added to the structure?
7. If there were individual councils for each sector of the production chain, where and how would the delegates from the various sectors interact?

**Topic 5A - THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The ABP Board of Directors consists of:

- a) 9 zone directors elected from among the delegates representing the zone at the annual zone committee meeting,
- b) 3 cattle feeder council delegates elected from among the cattle feeder council delegates at the annual Cattle Feeder Council meeting,
- c) 5 directors at large elected at the annual Commission meeting,
- d) 2 cattle industry council directors elected at the annual Commission meeting, and

- e) the past chair of the Commission except when the current chair is re-elected for a subsequent term.

The Board of Directors may have an additional director if a zone director, cattle feeder council director or a cattle industry council director becomes chair of the Commission.

The term of office of a director, whether a zone director, a director at large, a CFC director or a CIC director is one year. The number of terms that an individual may serve as a director is determined by his or her term of office as a delegate.

**Points to Ponder:**

1. Are 19 directors just enough, too few or too many?
2. If too few or too many, what would be a better number and why?
3. Is the current breakdown between zone directors, cattle feeder council directors and cattle industry council directors appropriate for the industry? Does the Board of Directors have adequate industry sector and geographical representation?
4. If not, what would be more appropriate and why?
5. Does the manner in which the directors are elected continue to be appropriate?
6. If not, what suggestions do you have as to how directors could be elected?
7. Does the organization continue to need:
  - a) zone directors?
  - b) cattle feeder council directors?
  - d) cattle industry council directors?
8. If yes, why and if not, why not?
9. Should individuals have to be delegates in order to be elected to the Board of Directors?
10. Is a one year term long enough or should the term be longer? If longer, how much longer?

**Topic 5B - THE EXECUTIVE**

At the first meeting of the Board of Directors held prior to the conclusion of the annual Commission meeting, the Board of Directors elects from among themselves:

- a) a chair of the Commission,
- b) a vice-chair of the Commission, and
- c) a finance chair of the Commission.

Only directors, whether directors at large, zone directors, CFC directors or CIC directors are eligible to be elected as the chair, vice-chair and finance chair of the Commission. A cattle industry council

director is only eligible to be elected as chair of the Commission if 4 cattle industry council delegates have been elected by Cattle Industry Council.

The Executive of the Commission consists of the chair, vice-chair, finance chair and past chair, except where the current chair is elected for a subsequent term. Although not in ABP's Plan Regulation, for the last two years, the Chair of Cattle Feeder Council has been invited to participate as a member of the Executive. The term of the office of a member of the executive is one year.

ABP's Plan Regulation provides that the function of the chair, vice-chair, finance chair and past chair is to carry out those responsibilities of the Board of Directors that are delegated to the chair, vice-chair, finance chair and past chair by the Board of Directors.

**Points to Ponder:**

1. Are three executive members just enough, too few or too many? If too few or too many, what would be a better number?
2. Does the manner in which the chair, vice-chair and finance chair are elected continue to be appropriate? Should the executive be elected by the delegates as opposed to the Board? Should the executive be elected by the eligible producers? Would such a change be practicable?
3. Does ABP's Plan Regulation adequately reflect the role of the Executive in the organization? If not, what should be the role of the Executive?
4. Is a one year term long enough or should the term be longer? If longer, how much longer?

**Topic 6 - COMMITTEES**

Although dealt with separately in ABP's Plan Regulation, the Cattle Feeder Council and the Cattle Industry Council are committees of the Board of Directors. The other committees of the Board are not set out in ABP's Plan Regulation. The current committees of the Board are:

- a) Cattle Feeder Council,
- b) Cattle Industry Council,
- c) Promotion Committee,
- d) Producer Liaison Committee,
- e) Public Affairs Committee,
- f) Government Affairs Committee, and
- g) Technical Committee.

The Cattle Feeder Council can only be dissolved by an amendment to ABP's Plan Regulation. The Cattle Industry Council and the standing committees may be dissolved, suspended or reestablished by the Board of Directors as the Board may see fit.

The membership of the Cattle Feeder Council and the Cattle Industry Council is prescribed by ABP's Plan Regulation. The chair of Cattle Feeder Council is appointed by the Board from among

the cattle feeder council directors. The Board of Directors can appoint any director, other than a member of the executive, as the chair of Cattle Industry Council. In practice, one of the cattle industry council directors is appointed as Chair.

Only cattle feeder council delegates are members of the Cattle Feeder Council. Only cattle industry council delegates and non-delegate members are members of Cattle Industry Council. Only zone delegates and producer association delegates are members of the other standing committees. From time to time the Board of Directors has established ad hoc committees to which both delegates and non-delegates are appointed.

When a standing committee is established, the Board of Directors may provide for the election or appointment of the members, chair and vice-chair of the committees, the governance and operation of the committee and the duties and functions of the committee. The chair of all committees must be appointed by the Board from among the directors. In consultation with the Chair of the Committee any delegate, director, eligible producer or other individual may be appointed by the Board as a member of a committee.

The term of office of the chair and the members of each standing committee is one year but members can be removed from a committee at any time by the Board of Directors. The term of office of members of the Cattle Feeder Council is two years. The term of office of members of the Cattle Industry Council is determined by the cattle industry stakeholder. The term of office of the chair of the Cattle Feeder Council and the Cattle Industry Council is one year.

The duties of the standing committees are:

- a) to carry out the purpose, intent and responsibilities of the Commission with regard to the work assigned to the committee by the Board of Directors, and
- b) to investigate and make recommendations and reports on specific matters referred to the committee by the Board of Directors.

The specific duties and mandate of each of the standing committees is determined by the Board of Directors and the committee.

The duties of the Cattle Feeder Council are:

- a) to investigate and address issues of importance or concern to producers who are cattle feeders
- b) to carry out the purpose, intent and responsibilities of the Commission with regard to the work assigned to the Cattle Feeder Council by the Board of Directors pertaining to cattle feeders, and
- c) to make recommendations to the Board of Directors and the other committees of the Commission with respect to matters of importance or concern to cattle feeders and with respect to the work assigned to the Cattle Feeders Council by the Board of Directors.

The duties of the Cattle Industry Council are:

- a) to investigate and address issues of importance or concern to producers and the cattle industry,

- b) to carry out the purpose, intent and responsibilities of the Commission with regard to the work assigned to the Cattle Industry Council by the Board of Directors pertaining to the cattle industry, and
- c) to make recommendations to the Board of Directors and the other committees of the Commission with respect to matters of importance or concern to the cattle industry and with respect to the work assigned to the Cattle Industry Council by the Board of Directors.

**Points to Ponder:**

1. Does the current committee structure adequately meet the needs of the organization and the cattle industry?
2. What's working and what's not working?
3. What changes, if any, should be made in ABP's Plan Regulation?
4. What operational changes could be made?
5. Does ABP's Plan Regulation adequately set out the duties of:
  - a) the standing committees,
  - b) the Cattle Feeder Council, and
  - c) the Cattle Industry Council?
6. Should the cattle feeder council delegates and the cattle industry council delegates continue to meet solely as the Cattle Feeder Council and the Cattle Industry Council?
7. Should zone delegates, producer association delegates, cattle feeder council delegates and cattle industry council delegates be assigned to the various standing committees so that there is more industry dialogue on the issues dealt with by the committees?
8. Is there a way to do both?

**Topic 7 - MEETINGS**

ABP's Plan Regulation provides for the holding of the following meetings:

- a) Board of Directors meetings
- b) Executive meetings
- c) Committee meetings, and
- d) Cattle Feeder Council and Cattle Industry Council meetings.

ABP's Plan Regulation requires that Alberta Beef Producers hold the following meetings:

- a) annual zone and sub-zone meetings of eligible producers,

- b) annual Cattle Feeder Council meeting of the cattle feeder council delegates,
- c) annual Cattle Industry Council meeting of the cattle industry council members,
- d) annual zone committee meetings, and
- e) annual Commission meeting.

ABP's Plan Regulation requires one fall producer meeting per zone in zones 1 to 8 and one fall producer meeting per sub-zone in zone 9. The annual zone meeting for zones 1 to 8 may consist of 3 or more individual meetings held within the zone. The annual zone meeting for zone 9 must consist of at least 5 individual meetings, with one such meeting being held in each sub-zone.

ABP's Plan Regulation also provides for the holding of special zone and sub-zone meetings, special Cattle Feeder Council meetings, special Cattle Industry Council meetings, special zone committee meetings and special Commission meetings.

The zone committee is made up of the elected zone delegates and sub-zone delegates, in the case of zone 9, and the cattle feeder council delegates. Zone committees meet as required by the zone director.

Although other business is conducted at each of these annual meetings, the only item of business prescribed in ABP's Plan Regulation is the election of delegates and directors which is as follows:

- a) the zone, sub-zone and cattle feeder council delegates are elected at the annual zone and sub-zone meetings,
- b) the cattle feeder council directors are elected at the annual Cattle Feeder Council meeting,
- c) the cattle industry council delegates are elected at the annual Cattle Industry Council meeting,
- d) the zone directors are elected at the annual zone committee meetings, and
- e) the directors at large and the cattle industry council directors are elected at the annual Commission meeting.

What other business is conducted at each of these meetings is determined by the group that is responsible for calling the meeting.

The quorum for annual zone meetings of eligible producers in zones 1 to 8 is 15 eligible producers. If an annual zone meeting in zones 1 to 8 consists of more than one individual meeting, quorum is 5 eligible producers. In the case of zone 9, the quorum for the sub-zone meetings is 5 eligible producers. In all cases, the eligible producers must be present in person and entitled to vote.

The quorum for a Cattle Feeder Council meeting and zone committee meeting is a majority of the delegates. In the case of the Cattle Industry Council, quorum is a majority of the cattle industry council members.

In addition to the meetings contemplated by ABP's Plan Regulation, the directors, delegates and eligible producers are called upon to attend numerous meetings with government, non-

governmental organizations, related organizations, such as CCA and BIC, in order to deal with the increasing number of issues and regulatory initiatives facing producers.

**Points to Ponder:**

1. The conduct of the various meetings and the agenda items for the meetings are left to the Board and the persons responsible for holding the meetings. Should these details remain operational?
2. Is the current meeting structure effective for producers, eligible producers, delegates and directors?
3. If not, what improvements need to be made? Are these improvements operational in nature or does the plan need to be amended?
4. Are the number of meetings a negative factor in recruiting and keeping delegates and directors?
5. Are the number of meetings a function of ABP's Plan Regulation or the issues facing the producers, or both?
6. Is there any solution to the proliferation of meetings that appears to be happening?

**Conclusion**

Thank you for taking the time to review this document. Comments from the members of the Working Group will be compiled by the facilitator and a document summarizing the discussions and recommendations will be distributed to the members of the Working Group and others for further comment and feedback.

Members of the Working Group are encouraged to circulate this document to members of their respective organizations to seek further comment and feedback.

Any person wishing to provide comments in writing to Alberta Beef Producers, on one or more of the above topics or any other regulatory or operational issue is encouraged to do so. Please submit your comments by mail, fax or e-mail to:

Alberta Beef Producers  
320, 6715 - 8<sup>th</sup> Street N.E.  
Calgary, Alberta T2E 7H7  
Attention: ABP Plan Review

Fax: (403) 274-0007  
E-mail: [abpplanreview@albertabeef.org](mailto:abpplanreview@albertabeef.org)