



For Immediate Release

Cattle Producers Welcome AgriRecovery Announcement

(Calgary, Alberta) May 31, 2010 – Alberta Beef Producers (ABP) joins cattle producers in Alberta and Saskatchewan in welcoming today's announcement of AgriRecovery support for producers hit hardest by the drought of the past two years. This announcement comes after seven months of intense work by cattle producers, provincial and federal government officials, and ABP delegates, directors, and staff.

ABP appreciates the willingness of Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development Minister Jack Hayden and Federal Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz to provide this necessary assistance for producers. We also are grateful for the hard work done by senior officials in both the provincial and federal governments in developing the 2010 Pasture Recovery Initiative. This assistance is not as timely as we would have liked and it won't cover all the extra costs that producers are facing, but it will provide much needed and much appreciated help for producers dealing with the impacts of the drought

The ABP Cow Calf Council led our efforts to secure AgriRecovery support for producers affected by the disastrous drought. We estimated that close to 80 per cent of our cow calf herd is in areas stricken by a lack of pasture last summer and fall, a shortage of forage for winter feeding, high feed costs, and delayed use of pastures this spring. ABP and our Cow Calf Council began responding to the drought last summer and formally approached the provincial government for AgriRecovery support last October. Our discussions continued through the winter and spring before finally leading to today's announcement.

Ted Ford, Chair of the ABP Cow Calf Council, says "this funding is desperately needed by many producers and will be welcomed. We do think that the delay in providing the assistance hurt producers and the AgriRecovery framework needs to be made more responsive."

The nearly 28,000 beef producers in this province have an organization which represents their collective interests – the Alberta Beef Producers. Run by producers for producers, ABP is dedicated to supporting a truly sustainable, competitive and profitable cattle and beef industry for the benefit of all Albertans.

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