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Alberta Beef Producers encourages well-being of cattle

In light of a recent beef recall from a U.S. meat packer, Alberta Beef Producers (ABP) wants to remind consumers and producers that inhumane treatment of livestock is never acceptable. The Alberta livestock industry does not tolerate any neglect or abuse and condemns the actions seen in a video that circulated the internet and media. It is imperative that any action like this be immediately reported to enforcement authorities.

Animals that are not fit for transport should be humanely euthanized on the farm. In cooperation with AFAC, Alberta's beef, dairy, sheep and swine industries have each developed Humane Handling Guidelines to assist producers, truckers, and auction mart staff to determine whether livestock are fit for loading.

Alberta's federally inspected beef packing plants have inspectors who enforce the Health of Animals Act and Meat Inspection Act. These major plants are also independently audited by representing the packer's customers to ensure that humane handling and slaughter guidelines (over and above provincial and federal regulations) are adhered to. Provincially inspected plants are subject to inspection from the Regulatory Services Division staff.

Federal Regulations regarding "Humane Transportation of Animals" are currently under revision. We are encouraging the development of outcome-based regulations that will help to ensure that animals are transported humanely, and reach their destination in good health.

All cattle slaughtered for sale in Canada are subjected to both pre-slaughter and post-slaughter inspection by either federal or provincial government veterinarians to ensure that animals are managed humanely and are fit for human consumption.

On Sunday, a California company had voluntarily recalled about 143-million pounds of beef –most of which has probably been eaten, according to the United States Department of Agriculture. U.S. officials said there was only a "remote" chance of adverse health effects from the beef.

For more information, please contact:

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