

MANITOBA BEEF PRODUCERS

P. (204) 772-4542 154 Paramount Road
(800) 772-0458 Winnipeg, MB R2X 2W3
F. (204) 774-3264 www.mbbeef.ca



NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

December 3, 2012

Beef Producers Welcome TB Coordinator

WINNIPEG – Manitoba Beef Producers (MBP) applauds today's announcement that a TB Coordinator position has been created to lead the effort to eliminate bovine tuberculosis from the Riding Mountain Eradication Area (RMEA).

"MBP has long called for the appointment of a TB Coordinator and we are pleased that governments have made our request a priority," said Ray Armbruster, MBP president.

MBP thanks all four Ministers involved in the creation of this position: Hon. Gerry Ritz, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food; Hon. Ron Kostyshyn, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives; Hon. Gord Mackintosh, Minister of Conservation and Water Stewardship; and Hon. Peter Kent, Minister of the Environment.

"Agreements between two levels of government, four Ministers and five departments are not often easy to reach," noted Armbruster. "Ministers have taken this important, coordinated step towards the eradication of bovine TB in the RMEA because they recognize the impact the disease is having on both cattle herds and wildlife."

MBP would especially like to thank Minister Ritz for his work in spearheading the effort to introduce this important new role.

MBP welcomes Dr. Allan Preston as the Coordinator and thanks him for taking on this role to ensure accountability for the eradication of bovine tuberculosis.

"Dr. Preston brings a tremendous amount of industry knowledge and expertise to this position and we look forward to working with him," said Armbruster.

Beef producers continue to participate in bovine tuberculosis testing while carrying out best management practices to limit interactions between wildlife and their cattle in order to keep their herds disease-free. Testing and mitigation efforts inflict considerable costs on producers. MBP will continue to work with governments and other stakeholders on efforts to eradicate bovine tuberculosis from the RMEA.

-30-

Manitoba Beef Producers is the exclusive voice of the beef industry in Manitoba. Our role and mission is to represent our beef producers through communication, research, advocacy and education. Manitoba Beef Producers represents 8,000 beef producers across the province.

For more information, please contact:

Cam Dahl, General Manager
Office: 204.772.4542

Kristen Lucyshyn, Communications
Office: 204.772.4542 Cell: 204.771.0909