

## MANITOBA BEEF PRODUCERS

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# NEWS RELEASE

### For immediate release

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## Manitoba Beef Producers Support Science-Based Forage Research

**WINNIPEG** – Manitoba Beef Producers (MBP) strongly supports scientific research and variety development that will advance the productivity and nutritional value of Canadian forages.

The statement of public support for science-based research has been prompted by protest action organized by the Canadian Biotechnology Action Network which is attempting to block the commercialization of new alfalfa varieties.

“This is not just about one variety of alfalfa,” said Trevor Atchison, MBP president. “This is about maintaining a regulatory environment that supports the research that is critical to our industry.”

“Forage research must advance if Manitoba’s beef producers are to remain competitive on the world stage,” said Atchison. “We must rely on Canada’s rigorous science-based process to certify the environmental and health safety of new forage varieties.”

Atchison continued, “Non-science issues, like foreign market access or public acceptance, should be left to the industry and market to address. This is not the realm for regulatory restrictions.”

Roundup Ready alfalfa already has been found to be safe and has full food, feed and environmental release approval in Canada. However, because the variety is not registered it can not be sold in Canada. MBP understands that Forage Genetics International has not made a decision about Canadian commercialization.

“Our members are interested in new products that can help increase yields or improve profitability. Biotechnology in other crops has been very beneficial for Canadian farmers. We would certainly be interested in hearing more about the potential this technology holds for the beef industry if these same benefits exist for alfalfa or other feed and forage crops,” concluded Atchison.

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*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.*

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