

NATIONAL CATTLE FEEDERS' ASSOCIATION



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NATIONALE DES
ENGRAISSEURS DE BOVINS

828

CATTLELAND
3695

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

James Bekkering, NCFA Board Chair

Activities and accomplishments of the National Cattle Feeders' Association (NCFA) reached new heights in 2022, even as the cattle industry faced a number of challenges. NCFA, in collaboration with its members and partners, delivered meaningful solutions to Canadian cattle feeders. We worked to minimize the impact of challenges and harness opportunities for growth and competitiveness on behalf of the sector.

I am especially pleased to report on some significant achievements this year.

- Halting Health Canada's proposed requirement for Front-of-Package (FOP) warning labels on ground beef.
- Successfully advocating for a timely resolution to the CP Rail strike and overall supply chain barriers.
- Seeking resources for a Canadian foot and mouth vaccine bank and preparedness strategy.
- Negotiating Tyson's agreement to use NCFA's Feedlot Animal Care Assessment Tool program in Canada in place of their own Farm Check Audit.
- Organizing Lobby Day in Ottawa: Directors and staff had 35 meetings with Members of Parliament, Ministers and government officials to discuss and bring awareness to issues facing Canadian cattle feeders. This year, youth delegates participated in the annual lobby day and NCFA board meeting in Ottawa. Minister Bibeau also attended the NCFA board meeting.



The accomplishments above reflect only a small portion of NCFA's efforts over the past year—a year marked by numerous events testing Canada's fed cattle producers.

As NCFA Chair, I extend my sincere appreciation to all our industry partners and our dedicated Directors for your collective efforts during the past year. A thank you goes out to our members and their talented provincial staff representatives. We also welcome some new staff. CJ Noble is now a full-time staff member after being a long-time NCFA consultant. As Vice President, Policy and Government Relations based in Ottawa, she will help increase our presence in Ottawa and allow us to be more proactive on Parliament Hill. We also welcome Melissa Downing as Director, Regulatory and Sustainability to help respond to the government's increased emphasis on the environment.

NCFA was created in 2007 to serve as the voice of Canada's fed cattle producers on issues of national importance that impact our sector. Across 2022, I believe we have accomplished that mandate in spades.

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Janice Tranberg, President & CEO

Throughout the last year our board and staff have worked hard to connect with government and our beef industry partners to ensure cattle feeders' best interests are represented in conversations about national policy and programming.

Our beef industry plays an important role in Canada's economic recovery and we have been advocating for positive changes in labour, transport, rural infrastructure and more to support our members and the industry as a whole.

Canada's cattle feeding sector is poised as an economic driver going forward and our new NCFA team will continue to focus on improved growth, sustainability, and competitiveness of beef cattle production. This full complement of staff will help NCFA be better prepared to tackle our main issues and be more proactively engaged with our political leaders and regulatory departments.



VISION

A business-oriented organization dedicated to advancing the national fed cattle value chain in Canada.



MANDATE

To represent Canadian cattle feeders on national issues and collaborate with other organizations to strengthen the Canadian beef industry.



STRATEGIC PILLARS

- Strategic Growth
- Competitiveness
- Industry Leaderships & Partnerships



GOVERNMENT RELATIONS HIGHLIGHTS

1

Successfully lobbied for ground meats to receive an exemption to the Front of Package (FOP) labelling requirement.

Health Canada proposed to require a front-of-package (FOP) nutrition symbol on foods high in saturated fat, sugars and/or sodium, which would require ground beef sold at retail to carry a “high in” saturated fat warning label. NCFA, along with beef industry partners, lobbied that ground beef should be exempt from Health Canada’s proposed FOP labelling like other nutritious foods, such as single ingredient meat, milk, eggs, vegetables, and fruit.

NCFA met with multiple politicians and government officials on numerous occasions to understand the issue and outline the cattle feeder and overall beef industry perspective. We actively advocated our concerns on this labelling initiative. We are pleased that the Government of Canada listened to our sector’s concerns and reversed the policy proposal on ground beef and pork--nutrient-dense, affordable proteins.

3

Actively lobbying government for access to innovation and balanced environmental measures.

The Canadian beef sector continues to advocate the federal government for a timely and efficient approval system of feed additives for use in livestock feed. These feed additives result in very significant methane emissions reduction in cattle. The current barriers to Canada’s approval process (which is globally lagging) should be reviewed to determine how to conduct thorough, but timely reviews of clean tech and innovation that the agriculture sector needs now.

2

Securing ongoing improvements to the temporary foreign workers program and permanent residency pathways while advocating for a comprehensive agriculture labour strategy.

Canada’s agricultural sector is an important engine of economic growth and social well-being that feeds millions of people in Canada and around the world. However, it faces unique labour challenges that hinder the productivity of agricultural and processing operations, result in lost economic potential, and create stress for employers and workers alike.

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) is developing a sector-specific strategy to address chronic labour shortages in farming and food processing. NCFA is working in partnership with Canadian Ag Human Resources Council (CAHRC) to better position the sector to address short-term pressures and advance long-term solutions to help producers and food processors meet their labour needs.

4

Supporting legislation to expand the carbon tax exemption to all farm fuels.

Bill C-234 will exempt the expensive carbon tax from natural gas and propane used on farms to produce the quality, nutritious food Canadians need and the exports that help drive our economy. This exemption is needed to reflect the realities of the entire Canadian agriculture industry and the undue financial burden the carbon tax places on all the necessary practices undertaken by farmers and ranchers like drying grain, irrigating crops, or heating and cooling livestock barns. NCFA is actively supporting the passage of this legislation through Parliament.



GOVERNMENT ENGAGEMENT

In 2022, NCFA continued to actively engage federal politicians and government regulators. And as a result, we continue to influence policy, regulatory and legislative direction in Ottawa. NCFA federal engagement in 2022 included:

- 45-plus meetings with federal politicians and 20-plus meetings with senior government officials.
- Top-to-top meeting with the Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food.
- Feedlot tour for the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food.
- Feedlot tours for MPs and government officials in BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Quebec.
- Multiple policy and regulatory submissions to the federal government on NCFA priorities, including feed, transport, labour, climate and business risk management.
- Annual Ottawa lobby day - including youth delegate participation.
- Attendance of Minister Bibeau at NCFA board meeting in Ottawa.

OTHER ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHTS:



- 1** Appeared before the House of Commons Committees on:
- Agriculture (carbon tax)
 - Transport (labour shortages, supply chain)
 - Environment (access to methane emission innovations)
 - Trade (current trade priorities)
 - Finance (federal government 2023 Budget)



- 2** Worked with industry partners on numerous working groups across a wide range of issues including government-industry working groups on Animal Health Canada, Animal Transport Regulations, Negligible Risk Status (application to OIE), and SRM.

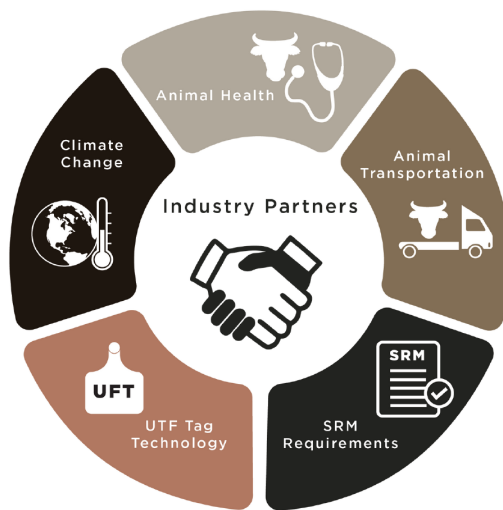


- 3** Actively lobbying government for access to innovation, balanced environmental measures, improved rural infrastructure and realistic transport regulations.

GOVERNMENT SUBMISSIONS

NCFA has always believed that industry collaboration—multiple voices speaking with consistent, coherent, and complimentary messaging—strengthens Canada’s beef industry by increasing leverage with government and encouraging action on our critical concerns and priorities.

Throughout 2022, NCFA worked with our industry partners on numerous working groups across a wide range of issues:



- **Submission to Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) on Potential Changes to Canada’s Pesticide Regulatory and Approvals System:** Canada has one of the most robust and reputable pesticide regulatory systems in the world. This system protects people and protects the environment. It also protects Canada’s farmers by allowing them to grow safe, sustainable, and abundant food crops. If Canada’s world-class regulatory system is to continue meeting the needs of Canadians, the science-based regulatory mandate must be protected, defended, and held independent from public opinion and political interference.

- **Commercial Drivers’ Hours of Service:** Current Canadian regulations put livestock transporters in the impossible position of either complying with hours-of-service regulations or doing what they know is best for the humane and safe transportation of live animals. We call upon the federal government to create regulatory flexibility so that transporters can safeguard the welfare of the livestock being transported due to unforeseen delays during transport which cause drivers to go over duty hours.

- **Funding of a Canadian Foot and Mouth Disease Vaccine bank:** For the long-term success of the industry, there is an urgent need to address Canada’s shortage of FMD vaccine. Canada participates in the North American FMD vaccine bank (NAFMDVB) with Mexico and the United States. Canada’s contribution entitles us to 330,000 doses of vaccine. This is a fraction of the 2.5 million doses required for an FMD outbreak in a livestock dense area of Canada. The entire Canadian cattle industry urges AAFC and CFIA to request the federal treasury fund the proposed Canadian FMD vaccine bank. This is a key priority for Canadian beef producers to ensure economic viability in our future.



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