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Report Highlights:

Minister Strahl Applauds Decision Denying R-Calf Bid for Permanent Injunction * Ruling Against R-Calf is Great News, Say Canadian Cattlemen * Cattle Group Elects New President * Strahl Says Government Will Replace the Canadian Agricultural Income Support (CAIS) Program

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
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This Week in Canadian Agriculture is a weekly review of Canadian agricultural industry developments of interest to the U.S. agricultural community. The issues summarized in this report cover a wide range of subject matter obtained from Canadian press reports, government press releases, and host country agricultural officials and representatives.

Disclaimer: Any press report summaries in this report are included to bring U.S. readership closer to the pulse of Canadian developments in agriculture. In no way do the views and opinions of these sources reflect USDA's, the U.S. Embassy's, or any other U.S. Government agency's point of view or official policy.

MINISTER STRAHL APPLAUDS DECISION DENYING REQUEST TO CLOSE U.S. BORDER TO CANADIAN CATTLE AND OTHER RUMINANTS: In a press release, federal agriculture minister Chuck Strahl said, "The U.S. District Court of Montana sided with internationally recognized science standards and has denied a request from Ranchers-Cattlemen Action Legal Fund (R-CALF) to permanently close the U.S. border to Canadian cattle and other ruminants. This is a great development for the Canadian industry. I applaud U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns' continued determination to move towards a normalization of trade on the basis of sound scientific norms and principles. The Government of Canada and the U.S. Department of Agriculture recognize that both our countries are best served by an integrated North American beef and ruminant market guided by internationally accepted science. In denying R-CALF's request for a permanent injunction, the U.S. District Court of Montana noted that the Ninth Circuit of Appeals had reviewed the Final Rule and concluded that the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture had a firm basis for determining that the resumption of imports from Canada would not significantly increase the risk of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). Canada and the U.S. continue to have the same risk status for BSE. Both our countries have adopted extensive complementary and parallel measures to protect human and animal health, as well as food safety, based on internationally recognized science standards and we will continue to strive for the eradication of BSE from the North American herd and the normalization of trade."

RULING AGAINST R-CALF IS GREAT NEWS, SAY CANADIAN CATTLEMEN: Following the R-CALF loss in its bid to gain a permanent injunction against Canadian cattle imports, the newly elected Canadian Cattlemen's Association President Hugh Lynch-Staunton said, "This is great news for (Canadian) cattle producers, and one that we've been awaiting a long time. When the border reopened to under 30 month of age feeder and slaughter cattle last July, many Canadians thought the BSE issue was over. We in the cattle industry were well aware that a decision against us in the court in Montana could have shut the border again. It's a great relief to have the decision announced in our favor." R-CALF president Chuck Kiker said that his organization was "deeply disappointed" by the ruling but that R-CALF would turn its attention to preventing the import of Canadian cattle older than 30 months. Cattle imports above 30 months of age, and breeding cattle, are currently banned under U.S. BSE import control, but USDA is expected to publish a "second" rule later in the current year proposing to allow for their import.

CATTLE GROUP ELECTS NEW PRESIDENT: The Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA) elected Alberta cattle producer Hugh Lynch-Staunton as President at the organization's Annual General Meeting held March 29 – 31 in Ottawa, replacing Stan Eby, who led the organization for the past two years. Lynch-Staunton and his family run a cow-calf and background operation and a mixed grain farm at Lundbreck in southern Alberta. Lynch-Staunton has a Bachelor of Commerce degree from the University of Alberta. In his acceptance speech he thanked the two Presidents who preceded him – Stan Eby and Neil Jahnke – for their leadership during the BSE crisis. He noted that a great deal of work remains to be done, especially re-opening the U.S. border to breeding stock and to cattle over 30 months of age. Brad Wildeman, the former Chair of the CCA Foreign Trade Committee was elected Vice President. Wildeman is a cattle feedlot operator from Lanigan, Saskatchewan, President of Pound Maker Adventures Ltd., and a Director with the Saskatchewan Stock Growers. He also represents the CCA on the Canadian Agri-Food Trade Alliance, which represents Canadian agricultural sectors united in their dependence on trade and in their need for a liberalized international trading environment.

AGMIN SAYS GOVERNMENT WILL REPLACE CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL INCOME SUPPORT PROGRAM: Federal agriculture minister Chuck Strahl told protestors at an all-day farm rally on Parliament Hill that the Conservative government will replace the Canadian Agriculture Income Support (CAIS) program with a new, and separate, income-support and disaster-relief programs. However, no

big changes are expected until next year. Currently, the government has agreement with the all ten provinces on CAIS so its likely that in the immediate future, the government will choose to amend the current program and then chart out its new goal of addressing income support and disaster relief separately. Canada's new Prime Minister met the farm rally organizers, who were protesting that they couldn't compete with what they called heavily subsidized farmers in the United States and Europe. Prime Minister Stephen Harper said that his new government will end what he called an era of government neglect for Canadian farmers and committed to increasing existing farm support programs by half a billion dollars annually.

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