

Educating Teachers

AG IN THE CLASSROOM: Early project develops to run on its own

In 1998 when the Beef Cattle Industry Development Fund first received the application from BC Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation for a Summer Institute for Educators, the Council members of the time perhaps wondered what could come of their agreement to put BCIDF funds towards an all-agriculture program for teachers.

Over the next years (through the work of Lindsay Babineau and the BCAITC Foundation) 26 other organizations came on board to contribute to the program or to sponsor a teacher. As of 2006, 104 teachers had taken part in the one-week intensive program. Every other year teachers from Kindergarten through Grade 12 are brought together in an agricultural setting to learn how they can use examples from agriculture to meet learning outcomes in Science, Social Studies, Language Arts, Home Economics, etc.

The University of BC offers the course for credits that can be used by the participants in their continuing education. As part of the credit requirements teachers create agriculture-based lesson plans that are then made available free-of-charge to all teachers in BC through BCAITC. This summer the program is being offered for credit again through UBC's Faculty of Education but for

the first time as part of the Home Economics Education Diploma Program. This means that UBC will now pay for the venue and the instructor. Participants are responsible for their own tuition and accommodation. With the sale of UBC Farm on Vancouver Island, the Summer Institute will be moving to Vernon and will be held at Clarence Fulton Secondary School. Instructional time will be in a classroom and meals will be prepared in the school's teaching kitchen by one of the past participants and now committed Summer Institute Chef - Daniel Lesnes. A bus will be used to take participants to experience the local agriculture.



Teachers attending Summer Institute 2007 learn how to teach their students about agriculture.

BCAITC through its fundraising efforts can now afford to run the Program without the financial assistance of the BCIDF and the many other organizations that helped in the past. The Foundation will however be calling on local producers, agronomists, and government staff to provide their agricultural knowledge and to help with tours and the "Meet and Greet" event.

It is encouraging for Council members to know that supporting the development of the Summer Institute has resulted in this self-sufficient project and continues to help teachers learn about agriculture and the means to share that knowledge with their students.



BCID Fund
Beef Cattle Industry
Development Fund

Funding Priorities Established for 2007-2012

- Market Development
- Agriculture Awareness
- Association Support/Development
- Extension & Producer Development
- Resource Management
- Livestock Management
- Farm Business Management



Projects within these priorities are encouraged. Visit www.cattlefund.net for application forms.
Deadlines are: Mar 31, June 30, Sept 30 & Dec 31.



CATTLE INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

"Producers Working For Producers"

#4-10145 Dallas Drive, Kamloops, BC V2C 6T4
Phone (250) 573-3611 Fax (250) 573-5155
cattlein@kamloops.net www.cattlefund.net

Annual Report from the Chair

CIDC Chair, Linda Allison presented her report to Council and guests during the Fifteenth annual meeting of the Council on May 6, 2008 in Richmond.

CIDC Income

Check-off (levy) collections were again down this year, we collected check-off on 203,738 head compared to 207,936 in 2007 and 215,000 in 2006. In addition, this year we received \$88,000 (\$101,000 last year) from Alberta Beef Producers (ABP), the provincial share of check-off paid in Alberta by BC producers in the previous year. BC producers who sell in Alberta will know that the ABP check-off is \$3 per head. Through agreement, CIDC receives back \$1 and \$1 goes to the National Check-off and the third \$1 is retained by ABP. Ownership Identification Inc. assists CIDC by providing details of shipments to Alberta, to help in verifying amounts to be returned to CIDC from ABP. Council is working with OII to further refine the process of documenting cattle sent out of BC. Levy refunds for producers stayed low at less than one per cent (on 1,143 head).

The check-off dollars trigger matching funds from the Beef Cattle Industry Development Fund that enables the CIDC to support the association applications. In 2007-8 a total of \$605,000 (\$218,000 from CIDC and \$387,000 from the BCID Fund) was approved for projects directly carried out by the provincial cattle associations.

National Check-Off

On behalf of BC producers, \$292,000 was paid to the National Check-off Agency to support the work of the Beef Information Centre, Canada Beef Export Federation, and Beef Cattle Research Council. These funds were remitted by CIDC \$203,738 for BC sales, and \$88,235 by ABP for sales in Alberta by BC producers. Thanks to Bill Freding (Oliver) who continues to serve as the CIDC representative to the national check-off committee.

Beef Cattle Industry Development Fund

Since 1995, the Beef Cattle Industry Development Fund has contributed almost \$9 million to projects to benefit the beef cattle industry. Those funds have gone toward 293 projects, and when the beef industry, private sector, and government

contributions are tallied, there is a total project value of almost \$29 million in the first 13 years of the 20-year fund. In the last year, Council approved \$247,817 for 13 projects in addition to the funds that were matched for the provincial association projects.

Following the preparation of the 2002-2006 Evaluation of the fund, the Council initiated a process of establishing new priorities for the Fund for the next five years. With funding support from Investment Agriculture Foundation, Council, held a day-long meeting with representatives from BC's cattle industry associations. Mr. Walter Goerzen led the participants through the exercises to come up with areas considered the most important for 2007-2012. From this daylong session we developed an updated list of priorities for the Beef Cattle Industry Development Fund. While Council recognizes that the projects undertaken are the result of the types of applications received, it also realizes that it is important to have a priority outline to encourage projects that address the highest priorities.



Linda Allison, CIDC Chair
Allison Creek Ranch,
Princeton, BC

Council has prepared a leaflet outlining the priorities for 2007-2012 and it is being distributed to the cattle industry. The priorities are detailed under four major headings: 1) Market Development 2) Agriculture Awareness 3) Association Support/Development and 4) Extension and Producers Development. The BCID Fund is available for projects that have a direct and positive benefit to beef producers in BC, and projects to stimulate our provincial beef industry are especially encouraged during these challenging times. Applicants are encouraged to join with other groups when applying for workshop and speaker funding. Contact lists of provincial, regional and local associations are available.

As CIDC chair, I met with the Presidents of the cattle industry associations along with Beef and Bison Industry Specialist, Jim Forbes. This meeting is kept casual and enables the association leaders to share concerns and ideas for the industry. The participants agreed that this annual meeting is beneficial to keep abreast of steps being taken by the associations and to see where working together is beneficial.

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Report From the Chair cont'd

Horn Levy

Roland Baumann is Chair of the Horn Levy Committee which meets independent of CIDC, however, reports regularly to Council as the body responsible for the Horn Levy Fund. The \$10 levy is collected on sale of horned cattle with OII looking after collections. The increase to \$10 per head in 2005 continues to be a concern to some producers and the Horn Levy Committee strives to respond to every concern directed to it. The Horn Levy was collected on 4,200 head last year - down about ten percent from last year.

Funds from the Horn Levy are available for suitable projects on application from cattle organizations. Eleven new projects were approved during the last year, for a total project funding of \$57,120.

Communications

Council appreciates the opportunity to meet with producers. The summer meeting is held in various regions throughout the Province. Local producers in that area are invited to meet Council members and field days to view projects are usually scheduled along with reports on local projects. Conflicting schedules and the priority setting session kept our summer meeting in Richmond in 2007, however Council is hoping to get to the Kootenays this summer.

An annual newsletter is distributed for the information of cattle producers throughout BC, with assistance of the associations it goes to all members of BC Association of Cattle Feeders, BC Breeders and Feeders Association, BC Cattlemen's Association, and BC Milk Producers' Association. Council has some regular advertising in farm publications, and we also keep our website up-to-date where the outline of application processes is detailed, as well as application forms for BCIDF and the Horn Levy Fund.

Council meets quarterly to review operations, and consider applications, and reports to the provincial associations following the meetings.

Representation

The industry associations that make up the Council, elect their representatives to Council. Council has eight producer representatives and the Provincial Beef and Bison Specialist (Jim Forbes) serves in an ex-officio capacity. The members of the Cattle Industry Development Council continue to work co-operatively for the best use of funds paid by producers.



Contributing to the Education of Cattle Producers

Ranching for Profit Workshop

In 2007-2008, the Cariboo Cattlemen's Association took the lead and applied for funding assistance from the BCID Fund and Investment Agriculture Foundation, Ducks Unlimited, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands to offer the Ranching for Profit Workshop to seven locations throughout BC - 317 producers attended the seminars led by Dave Pratt of Ranching for Profit.

Range Management School

BC Cattlemen's Association teamed up with seven agencies and contributors to present the first series of the Range Management School in 2007. Six locations were chosen for the school sessions that took place at the end of February and into March 2007 reaching 334 participants. The organizers and participants found the experience to be so beneficial that planning for part two of the school is currently in the works.

BC Farm Women's Network 20th Anniversary

The BCIDF contributed to costs of bringing a full slate of speakers on topics from dog training, worm composting, financial planning, and niche market issues to the anniversary meeting. BC is the only province with an active Farm Women's Network and they enjoyed good attendance and participation at this special event.

Swath Grazing Field Day (2007)

Nechako Valley Regional planned a two day demonstration that was reduced to just one day in Prince George as the warm weather in Vanderhoof had allowed cattle to continue grazing on hay fields (Nov/07). The event held in Prince George was well attended and Bill Wilson provided comments on his experience in Dawson Creek.

2008 Forage Seminars

The BC Forage Council received funding support and there are six forage seminars planned for early 2008.

Essential Meat Marketing Workshop

Lakes District Cattlemen's Association received funding assistance to hold three workshops titled "Essential Meat Marketing Workshop" (Terrace, Burns Lake, Prince George) with special guest speakers relaying information on local industry opportunities and planning strategies.

Council Members 07/08

BC Association of Cattle Feeders:
Bill Freding (Oliver)

BC Breeders and Feeders Association:
Connie Patterson (Dawson Creek)

BC Cattlemen's Association:
Linda Allison, Chair (Princeton),
Harold Starr (Miocene)
Laura Grafton (Prince George)
Grant Huffman (Riske Creek)

BC Milk Producers Association:
David Janssens Vice-Chair(Surrey)
Clarence De Boer (Delta)

Educating Others

Invasive Plant Education Tools

Twelve regional invasive plant committees partnered on a project to develop invasive plant identification cards. The project regionalized sets of waterproof identification cards for different regions of the province featuring the highest priority invasive plant species for reporting. The cards were attached to carabineers and distributed to people who travel on the land base and are likely to see new invasive plants. By encouraging early reporting, it is hoped to find and treat potential invaders before they are allowed to spread. To request a set of identification cards contact the Regional Invasive Plan Committee from your area.



Grasslands Interpretive Site

One of the earliest projects of the BCID Fund was commitment of \$50,000 to match fund-raising of the Nicola Watershed Community Round Table for a Grasslands Interpretive Site in the Nicola Valley. This ambitious project was later named the Laurie Guichon Memorial Grasslands Interpretive Site and work has gone on for ten years with many volunteer hours and various funders contributing. This last year, signage was erected to complete the phase 2 of the development and complete BCIDF's funding commitment. The site was developed to educate both local residents and visitors about the significance of the interior grasslands. It demonstrates the importance and fragility of this ecosystem and how it is an integral part of the economic fabric of the Nicola Watershed. This site is located 11 kilometers south-east of Merritt at the junction of Lundbom road and Highway 97C/5A.



The Horn Levy In British Columbia



HORN LEVY COMMITTEE:
Roland Baumann (Vanderhoof)**
Karen Kochel (Vanderhoof)*
Bill Bentley (Progress)
August Bremer (Enderby)

Ex-officio (non-voting):
Jim Forbes (Min. Ag & Lands)
Bob Miller (OII)

** Chair * Vice-Chair

The Horn Levy in BC is overseen by a committee of elected cattle industry representatives from around the province.

The goal of the horn levy in BC is to encourage proper dehorning of calves to result in safety of animals and handlers and improved profit for cattle producers. The \$10 per head horn levy is payable by producers on the sale or slaughter of cattle with horns. Fund collected are available for projects run by cattle associations, that benefit the cattle industry in BC.

In 2007-2008, \$57,120 from the Horn Levy Fund was approved for the following projects:

Title - Association	Approved
Princeton Ex Assoc. Upgrade - Princeton Stockbreeders Assoc.	\$ 5,000
International Trade Mission - BC Cattlemen's Association	1,878
2007 Prime Cuts Radio - Nechako Reg. Cattlemen's Assoc.	1,000
Spray Equipment Purchase - Grand Forks Stockbreeders Assoc.	3,000
Community Livestock Scale - BC South Peace River Stockmen	8,692
BC Manifest Printing - Kamloops Stockmen's Association	5,700
Rangeland Management School - BC Cattlemen's Assoc.	14,400
Future of Farm Gate Sales - North Okanagan Livestock Assoc.	2,000
Sound System - Skeena Regional Cattlemen Assoc.	850
Equipment Purchase - South Peace Feeder Co-op	10,000
Livestock Emergency Response Course - BC Cattlemen's Assoc.	4,600
	\$ 57,120