



## Livestock Transport Conference focuses on shaping the industry's future



**Calgary, Alta., October 21, 2008:** Livestock transport is one of the most visible and critical sectors shaping the competitiveness of the North American livestock and meat industry. This conference gives the industry a one-stop forum to learn about the latest progress, trends and expectations related to animal care.

The Livestock Transport Conference, themed “*Are we there yet?*,” is slated for Jan. 29, 2009 in Calgary, hosted by Alberta Farm Animal Care (AFAC) and the National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC). The conference will provide a North American focus on how to achieve humane, safe and effective livestock transport, with insight from a dynamic speaker line-up.

“The Livestock Transport Conference is an opportunity to learn and work together on a component of our business that is seeing more focus, progress and new expectations every year,” says Dr. Bill Ballantyne, vice-chair of NFACC and Director of Technical Services for Maple Leaf Foods.

“There are thousands of trucks on the road everyday transporting livestock,” says Doug Sawyer, beef producer and chair of AFAC. “Providing the best in livestock care and handling at all stages is not only our responsibility, it’s an integral part of delivering high quality products.”

The conference targets all those involved in livestock transportation, including truckers, producers, processors, representatives from transport and food companies, enforcement and government.

The agenda covers global initiatives, training, audit systems, science and regulations. The aim is to address the wellbeing of animals, raise the profile of livestock transportation in the value chain, provide continuing education, and explore cross-border collaboration.

“We need to align our approaches and explore more ways for Canada and the U.S. to work together on everything from trucker training to audit systems,” says Dr. Ballantyne. “The conference agenda offers a big picture view of what is happening in both countries and globally, so we can see clearly those opportunities and how to capture them.”

The international Animal Transport Association and the National Cattle Feeders Association support this conference.

For the agenda and to register for the Livestock Transport Conference call AFAC at (403) 932-8050 or visit [www.livestocktransport.ca](http://www.livestocktransport.ca).

*AFAC is a partnership of Alberta's major livestock groups with a mandate to promote responsible, humane animal care and handling within the livestock industry. NFACC's mandate is to provide a national coordinated approach to promote responsible farm animal care.*