



For immediate release
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Quality Livestock Transporter Training Underway

Calgary ... Alberta's livestock industry is developing a comprehensive training course for livestock truckers. The new **Quality Livestock Transport (QLT)** certification program focuses on the humane and safe relocation of livestock and includes the regulatory requirements for Canada and the US.

The Alberta Farm Animal Care Association (AFAC), in conjunction with its industry advisory group, will offer species-specific customized training on livestock handling, loading, biosecurity and recognizing and dealing with livestock not fit to be transported. Emergency accident response will also be included.

Participants will be recognized with a certificate upon completion of the training module, that includes a rigid test of material uptake. As an additional bonus for hog haulers, the QLT course incorporates the National Pork Board's popular *Trucker Quality Assurance (TQA)* program, complete with approved Alberta-specific content. The National Pork Board will recognize successful QLT hog-component participants with full TQA certification.

Tim O'Byrne, project coordinator for QLT, says, "The logistics of transporting livestock are complex and impact the over-all quality performance of meat products. Improved handling reduces losses associated with livestock stress." And, he adds, "The majority of truckers do a good job and we know from the extensive work done consulting with haulers, that they recognize the value of training."

In the past ten years AFAC has commissioned two in-depth studies to examine livestock transportation in the province. Increased education for livestock transporters, shippers and receivers was a primary recommendation of the studies. Material offered in the QLT program is based on acceptable standard operating procedures that have been proven to work in Canadian field conditions, combined with updated production policy, new Alberta industry humane handling guidelines and the latest in research technology information.

QLT is the culmination of a year-long effort by AFAC and livestock sector representatives to restructure the training and accountability of the all individuals involved in the relocation process, including shippers, transporters and receivers. As part of the QLT, AFAC will be offering a 1-800 line for truckers to report on concerns and seek advice, if needed.

The Alberta Livestock Industry Development Fund, convinced of the many benefits of standardized training in the livestock transport sector, has agreed to support and fund the development of the course materials.

- 30 -

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