



I.D.E.A. Industry Update - March 11, 2005

***** I.D.E.A. Member Networking Weekend**

As a follow-up to our successful Member Networking Weekend, held in November 2004, we're planning another getaway from Thursday November 17 to Sunday November 20, 2005. Possible locations include Las Vegas, Victoria, Palm Springs, Minneapolis, Texas. Where would you like to go? Call the I.D.E.A. office at 306-933-4904 or email us at office@independentdealers.com with your ideas for locations and meeting topics for the 205 Member Networking Weekend.

*****Border Opening Delayed**

The U.S border did not open March 7 to live Canadian cattle under 30 months and other ruminants. The American farm lobby group known as R-CALF has at least temporarily thwarted the long-awaited opening.

On March 2, a court in Billings, Montana granted a preliminary injunction that will keep the border closed while a R-CALF challenge to the USDA border-opening rule is heard. A hearing will now be scheduled on the merits of a permanent injunction. The anticipated time frame for the legal action to be resolved was not immediately known. More information was expected on March 3 when the judge was scheduled to issue a written decision. R-CALF claims the import of Canadian live cattle represents a risk to the U.S. cattle herd and that it will be economically damaging to American cattle producers.

A brief from the Canadian Cattlemen's Association and a brief by the Government of Canada focusing on the scientific arguments for re-opening the border were not allowed by the judge hearing the case. However, the Canadian Cattlemen's Association called the preliminary injunction a temporary setback and expressed confidence the border would open.

In anticipation of a March 7 opening, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency had released its guidelines for exporting cattle, bison, sheep and goats to the United States. The guidelines are posted on the Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA) Web site at www.cattle.ca. Daily BSE updates, along with an archive of new items, are available at: www.info-cca.ca. (Source: by Kevin Hursh; Reprinted in part from the AgExpert Express newsletter by permission of AgExpert Management Software and Farm Credit Canada.)

*****Next I.D.E.A. Member Conference Call - April 12**

The next I.D.E.A. member conference call will be held Tuesday April 12. What would you like to hear about? Fertilizer markets? Grain prices? Send your requests to office@independentdealers.com, or call us at 306-933-4904.

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