

News from

Manitoba Cattle Enhancement Council
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For Immediate Release

MCEC issues final 2007 levy collection report

Winnipeg, March 20, 2008 – The Manitoba Cattle Enhancement Council reported today that it collected approximately \$544,350 in levies from Manitoba cattle producers in its most recent collection period, ending December 31, 2007. MCEC refunded approximately \$44,690 during the period leaving 92 per cent of the levies collected in the fund.

For the year, the council collected \$1,222,360, and refunded \$324,915, leaving 73 per cent in the fund overall. MCEC is the first initiative of its kind in Canada, administering a producer investment pool that goes to support made-in-Manitoba solutions for a long-term, viable beef industry in the province. The pool is funded by a \$2 per head levy on all cattle sold by Manitoba producers. The province is matching the levy for the first three years so every \$2 becomes \$4, making it a unique public-private partnership in agri-business.

“We’re very pleased to see producers are keeping their levies in the fund. We need to work from a position of broad industry support and financial strength,” says Bill Uruski, chair of the Manitoba Cattle Enhancement Council. “Manitoba cattle producers are facing difficult times with high feed prices and rising transportation costs. That’s why it’s vital that we succeed in our long term goal to help our producers become more independent with options to increase revenues and find new markets for their products.”

The council’s mandate is to invest in initiatives that will lead to increased slaughtering and processing capacity, or that will enhance the market for value-added cattle products. Proposals for funding are evaluated by the council’s Investment Advisory Committee, which is comprised of cattle industry representatives and investment specialists.

For more information on the council and to sign up for MCEC news by email, please visit www.mancec.com.

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