

# News from

Manitoba Cattle Enhancement Council  
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For Immediate Release

## **New chair appointed to Cattle Enhancement Council** **MCEC continuing to build new beef plant capacity**

**Winnipeg, May 19, 2009** – Manitoba Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives Rosanne Wowchuk has appointed Neil Van Ryssel as the new chair of the Manitoba Cattle Enhancement Council effective immediately.

Formerly vice-chair, Van Ryssel takes over from Bill Uruski who has stepped down after leading the council from inception through its first three years. Van Ryssel runs a mixed dairy and grain farm near Oak Bank, Manitoba with his family. He is also the president of the Oak Bank Credit Union, chair of the Cooks Creek Conservation District and past chair of the Manitoba Rural Adaptation Council.

“Bill was an invaluable resource leading the council and I look forward to working with the rest of council to carry on the work that he helped start,” said Van Ryssel. “I am optimistic for the Manitoba beef industry as we work towards bringing new federally-inspected beef plant capacity and other value-added cattle projects to the province.”

MCEC also elected member Albert Todosichuk as vice-chair and treasurer and member R. Harvey Harland as secretary. Gaylene Dutchyshen is also a member of the council. Kate Butler is its Executive Director.

Uruski told council at its recent annual meeting that it was an honour to serve as chair, but that he had decided to spend more time to focus on family affairs. Council member Don Yanick also opted to step down this year due to family and farming commitments.

“This council is important for the Manitoba cattle industry. I’m proud that I was part of such an innovative initiative,” said Uruski. “The MCEC team has worked tirelessly to get this council off the ground. It is a unique investment fund acting on behalf of producers that drives much needed new investment dollars into the cattle industry.”

MCEC’s mandate is to invest in initiatives that will lead to increased slaughtering and processing capacity in Manitoba or that will enhance the market for value-added cattle products. The Council’s Investment Advisory Committee, which is comprised of cattle industry representatives and investment specialists, works with council to evaluate each funding proposal carefully.

For more information on the council and to sign up for MCEC news by email, please visit [www.mancec.com](http://www.mancec.com).

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