

Beef Beyond Borders

Beef Improvement Federation sets agenda for 2008 annual symposium.

by *Shauna Rose Hermel*

Those wanting to attend this year's Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) Annual Meeting and Research Symposium should get their passports in order, as this year's event will be north of the U.S. border. The Canadian Beef Breeds Council (CBBC) will host "Beef Beyond Borders" June 30-July 3 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Calgary, Alta., Canada.

The event is expected to attract more than 500 seedstock and commercial producers, feedlot operators, beef industry service providers, academics and industry experts. Participants will gather to share and learn from the latest research and innovations that contribute to ongoing advancements in beef production.

Renowned Canadian and U.S. industry representatives and innovators will showcase and discuss leading-edge genetic advancements occurring in each country, and the cross-border implications and opportunities.

CBBC members and associates will host the opening reception Tuesday evening, July 1, with a celebration of Canada day. Afterward, Don Mackenzie, chairman of the BIF 2008 CBBC Planning Committee, will host a short program, providing a dynamic start to the symposium. Wednesday and Thursday general sessions are detailed in the accompanying schedule.

Always a highlight of the conference, BIF will honor its commercial and seedstock producers of the year, as well as its continuing service, pioneer, student and ambassador awards during the awards luncheons Wednesday and Thursday. The feature dinner of the conference will be Wednesday evening, July 2, at Stampede Park, a world-class facility and home of the 'Greatest Outdoor Show on Earth' — the Calgary Stampede.

Preregistration, available at www.canadianbeefbreeds.com, is encouraged due to capacity limits for the conference. For registration

inquiries contact Marita Morgan at 1-800-661-5103 or mmorgan@carlsonwagonlit.com. For general conference inquiries, contact the CBBC at 403-730-0350 or info@canadianbeefbreeds.com.

While in town

Frequently referred to as the 'headquarters' of Canada's beef industry, Calgary is a vibrant city of more than 1 million people nestled in the Alberta foothills. With Banff only an hour away, it offers a variety of opportunities — from cosmopolitan to wilderness — to explore.

Wednesday morning, travel companions not attending the conference

are invited to attend a tour to Calgary's Heritage Park. The 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. tour will visit Canada's largest living historic village. Information about the park is available at www.heritagepark.ca/home.htm.

The official start of the Calgary Stampede kicks off with the Stampede Parade through downtown the morning of July 4. More information about the Stampede, which is July 4-13, is available at <http://cs.calgarystampede.com>.

For more information about Calgary click the "City Visitors" link at www.calgary.ca or visit www.tourismcalgary.com.

Online coverage

Angus Productions Inc. (API) will provide online coverage of the event at www.bifconference.com. Prior to the conference the site will feature the schedule, hotel and travel information, as well as links to online registration for the meeting and the hotel. You can also find an archive of coverage for the past six meetings. During and after the meeting, API staff will provide summaries of the sessions, announce award winners and post proceedings, audios and slides as available. This coverage is made possible via sponsorship by BioZyme Inc.



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2008 BIF Schedule

Monday, June 30 — Activity-free day

Conference-priced accommodations available at Hyatt Regency

8 a.m.–5 p.m. Registration packages available for pick up

Tuesday, July 1

9 a.m.–2:30 p.m. — Breed Tours. Escorted day tours to area breeders/producers

3 p.m.–6 p.m. — BIF board meetings

6:30 p.m.–9:30 p.m. — 'Canada Day' Evening Welcome Reception & Program

► Keeping the Genetic Doors "Open" between Canada and the United States, *John Pollak, director, National Beef Cattle Evaluation Consortium (NBCEC), Cornell University*

► Emerging Technologies in Genetic Improvement — Convergence of Quantitative and Molecular Tools, *Mike Tess, Montana State University*

► CBBC Purebred Risk Assessment Project, *Herb McLane, executive vice president, CBBC, and Duncan Porteous, PBRA project manager*

Wednesday, July 2

8 a.m.–noon — Morning Conference Sessions

► Trends in Value-Added Marketing Challenges & Similarities; Branded Product Focus on Animal Welfare, *Gary Smith, Colorado State University*

► Traceability in the Supply Chain, *Julie Stitt, Canadian Cattle Identification Agency*

► Integrated Producer Perspective, *David Nichols, Nichols Farms*

► Producer Perspective, *Bern Kotelko, Highland Feeders*

► Informational Channels: Access to, and Benefits from, Enhanced Data Protocols, *Brad Wildeman, Poundmaker Feedlot*

► Emerging Technologies/Producer Initiatives: Delivery to Consumers, *Bob Church, University of Calgary*

Noon–1 p.m. — Lunch with program featuring commercial producer awards

2 p.m.–4:30 p.m. — BIF-led breakout sessions

6 p.m.–10 p.m. — Evening dinner event, Palomino Room, Roundup Centre, at Stampede Park

Thursday, July 3

8 a.m.–noon — Morning Conference Sessions

► Collaboration between Canada and the United States—Financial, Data Flow, Analysis, *Kent Anderson, North American Limousin Foundation*

► Collection and Application of Genetic Information from a Canadian Perspective, *Bob Kemp, RAK Genetic Consulting Inc.*

► New Trait Development, *Mark Enns, Colorado State University*

► Traditional & Marker Assisted Evaluation, *Denny Crews, Research Scientist, Lethbridge Research Station*

► Summary & Next Directions, Here is How It Works, *John Pollak, NBCEC, Cornell University*

► BIF Elections

Noon–1 p.m. — Lunch with program featuring seedstock producers awards

2 p.m.–5:15 p.m. — BIF-led breakout sessions

