



Brad Frost, M.P.

Saskatoon-Humboldt

Room 263, Confederation Building

Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Tel: (613) 992-8052 Fax: (613) 996-9899

Email: Trost.B@parl.gc.ca

**Press Release
For Immediate Release**

Feb 27, 2008

Mexico allows import of Canadian breeding cattle

Conservative government works hard to expand beef exports

OTTAWA – Brad Trost, Member of Parliament for Saskatoon-Humboldt, made the following statement about improved market access for beef producers in the House of Commons before the start of Question Period yesterday, February 26, 2008:

Mr. Bradley Trost (Saskatoon—Humboldt, CPC): “Mr. Speaker, Canada's cattle producers have been going through some difficult times. With prices for feed rising and prices for beef falling, Canadian producers need every market they can find for Canadian cattle. Improved market access is one of the tools that will raise the value of Canadian cattle.

“That is why it is good news that yesterday the government of Mexico announced that it will now allow the import of Canadian breeding cattle. This new access is in addition to current access that is already permitted for Canadian beef and beef products.

“This government will continue to work for full market access for all Canadian beef products with all our trading partners. Working hard to expand our beef exports is one way this government continues to put farmers first. Canadian beef and cattle producers are second to none in this world, and this government and this member are proud to work with them and for them.”

For more information, contact the Ottawa office of MP Brad Trost at (613) 992-8052.

Background

MEXICO AND BARBADOS OPEN TO CANADIAN BREEDING CATTLE

OTTAWA, Ontario, February 25, 2008 - On February 23, the Government of Mexico announced they will now allow the import of breeding cattle in addition to Canada's current access for beef and beef products. Meanwhile, Barbados authorities have now accepted revised conditions for the importation of breeding cattle from Canada.

The news was welcomed by the Honourable Gerry Ritz, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food and Minister for the Canadian Wheat Board, and the Honourable David Emerson, Minister of International Trade and Minister for the Pacific Gateway and the Vancouver-Whistler Olympics.

"This is good news for Canadian livestock exporters and an important step in restoring market access with all of our trading partners," said Minister Ritz. "Working hard to restore export markets for our livestock producers is one more way this Government is putting farmers first. This government remains committed to resolving market access issues for beef and cattle, based on sound science, to create opportunities for Canadian industry and farm families."

"The government welcomes Mexico's decision to expand our market access to include breeding cattle and Barbados' revision of conditions for exports of breeding cattle, said Minister Emerson. "This is excellent news for our cattle industry and another important step in our ongoing efforts to restore full market access in beef and cattle with all of our trading partners."

Mexico and Barbados join a growing number of countries that have resumed trade in live cattle with Canada. Canadian products now approved for export to Mexico include beef derived from animals under 30 months of age and dairy and beef breeding cattle. Access for Barbados now includes the full range of Canadian beef products and all breeding cattle.

Canada continues to work with trading partners to pursue full access for exports of animals and animal products, consistent with the guidelines of the World Organization for Animal Health.