

Premier's statement



June 25, 2010

Premier Stelmach pleased with China's decision on beef

Edmonton... Premier Ed Stelmach issued a statement today on China's decision to start re-opening its borders to Alberta beef.

"I'm very pleased with the agreement that has been signed between Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Chinese President Hu Jintao," said Premier Stelmach. "The staged re-opening of China's borders to our beef will be welcome news to Alberta's cattle producers.

"As Albertans know, I raised this issue with China's Agriculture Minister Han Changfu during my trade mission to Asia in May. I told him that Alberta cattle are among the healthiest in the world, and subject to some of the most stringent health and safety standards thanks to provincial animal identification and traceability programs. Minister Han assured me that it was his desire to see normal trade relations between our jurisdictions. And he agreed that food quality and safety is the top priority.

"The new agreement between China and Canada on beef shows the importance of establishing personal relationships with key members of governments with which we want to trade. Trade missions, such as the one I participated in with the New West Partnership in May, are vitally important to building and maintaining these relationships.

"I'd also like to express my admiration to Alberta's cattle producers for their cooperation in implementing our provincial animal identification and traceability programs. These important initiatives meet consumer demands for food safety."

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