



PNWER Conference 2015

CFIA Import Permit Delays – effect on US and Canada livestock producers

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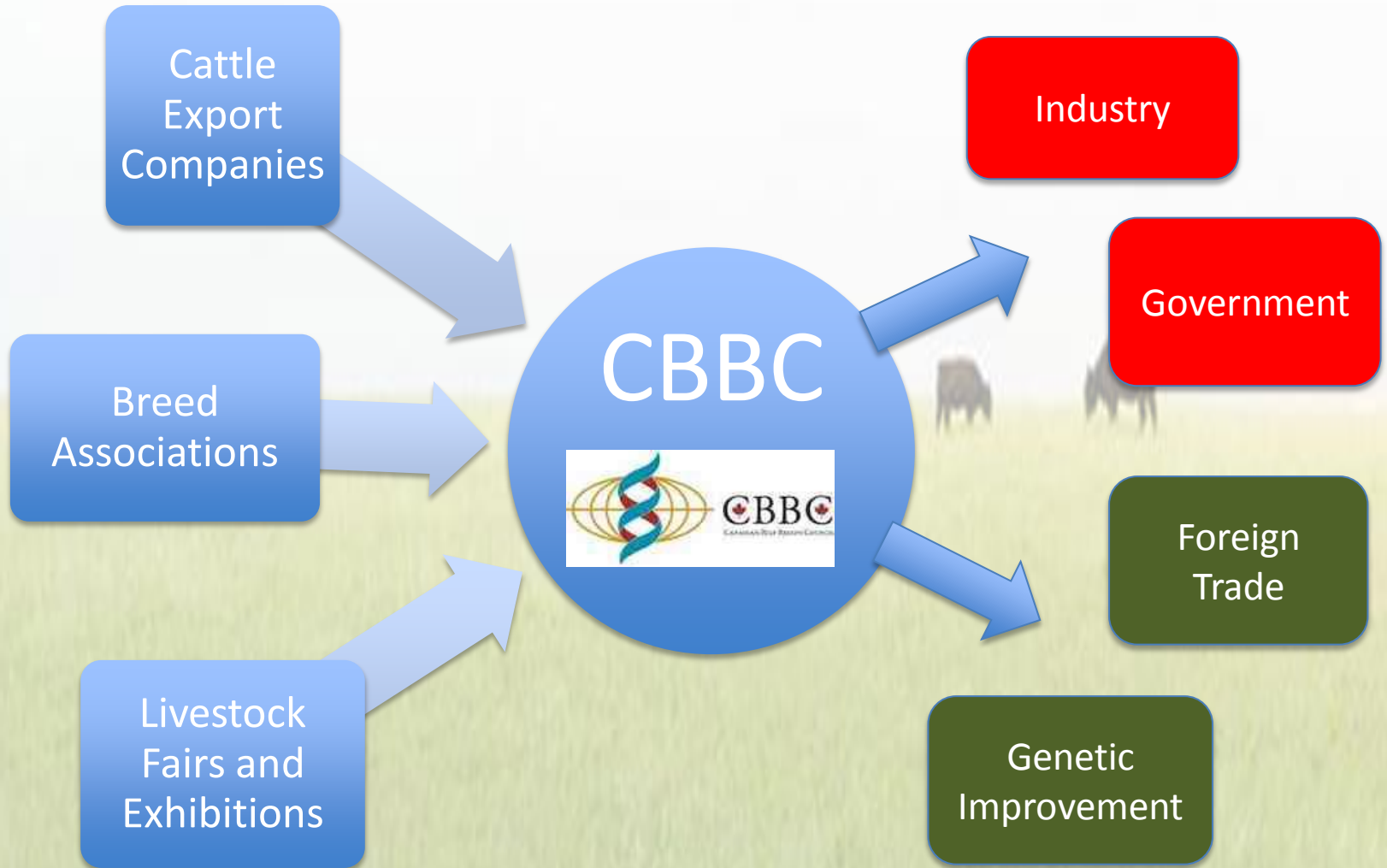
Executive Director

Canadian Beef Breeds Council



Overview

- Founded in 1994
- Represents beef breed associations, livestock export companies and livestock exhibitions
- Responsible for
 - Government and industry relations
 - International market development
 - Coordinating genetic improvement programs
 - Domestic issues such as animal health, research, and the promotion of pedigreed beef cattle



Canada Imports from USA Stats

- Bovine Imports (Beef)- \$2,391,454
- Bovine Imports (Dairy)- 10,544,585
- Bovine Semen Imports (Beef)- \$7,115,429
- Bovine Semen Imports (Dairy)- \$788,097
- Poultry (live birds)- \$40,671,287
- Poultry (Hatching Eggs)- \$46,715,919

**Source: Agriculture Agri-Food Canada*

Change of procedure for issuing permits:

- CFIA modernization moved to a Centre of Administration model to issue Import Permits for livestock and genetic material from a number of species.
 - Formerly issued by regional offices
 - Traditionally issued in less than 5 days
 - Feb/April permits issued fluctuated 20-30 days
 - Currently 5-7 days (June/July)-non peak season

Timeline for beef producers

- Bull sales (Feb-March)
- AI collection process (additional time delay)
- Breeding season starts (April 1- for Jan calves)
- Testing requirements plus application for import permit (from USA to Canada) through CFIA.
 - Health tests valid for ~30 days
- Health tests often expired due to delay thus requiring re-testing at additional cost

Direct Impact

- Canadian producers miss opportunity to use new genetics.
- USA producers lose sales opportunity.
- Genetic progress impeded resulting in ripple effect impact for feedlots and beef quality.
- Frustration for producers who generally import 1-2 times per year and not on a regular basis.

Going Forward...

- New policy and procedures need to take into account the impact on producers and exporters.
- Need to maintain health protocols and not subject either US or Canada to increased risk.
- Promote easier and clear procedures for movement of agriculture and agri-food products between Canada and US- (eg: electronic permit issuing/communication)



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