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First Plan Review meeting tackles tough issues

The first of five plan review meetings province-wide was held last night in Lethbridge. The regional plan meetings aim to obtain producer feedback on the future direction and structure of ABP. Alberta's cattle producers want a strong, unified organization that can represent them provincially, nationally and globally and Alberta Beef Producers (ABP) is that organization.

Around 70 producers attended the meeting, many voicing opinions on what changes are necessary to make ABP a more powerful organization. Issues like zones and delegate numbers were raised, as was the topic of mandatory vs. voluntary check-offs and the roles of Cattle Feeder Council and the Cow/Calf Committee. A facilitator is present to lead the discussions at each of these meetings, along with current ABP delegates, board members and several staff members on hand.

The information and feedback received from producers at these five regional meetings will be considered by the Plan Review Working Group in their formulation of recommendations for change to the Alberta Beef Producers Board of Directors. No decisions have been made on any topics or issues raised by the producers or the steering committee. At this stage in the review, producers are asked to submit their opinions on what changes they would like to see for ABP.

The Working Group is made up of representatives from the purebred, cow-calf and feedlot sectors as well as the auction markets and order buyers. Representatives have been appointed to the Working Group by Western Stockgrowers' Association, Alberta Cattle Feeders Association, Alberta Auction Market Association, Alberta Livestock Dealers and Order Buyers Association and the Feeders Association of Alberta.

The regional meetings left to be held are in Innisfail, Wainwright, Westlock and Grande Prairie. The dates and locations are listed below.

Further information can be obtained on the ABP website at <http://www.albertabeef.org/about/plan-review/> or by calling the Calgary office at (403) 275-4400. All meetings begin at 6:30 p.m.

Innisfail - Old Moose Hall - Jan. 23, Wednesday

Wainwright - Elks Hall - Jan. 24, Thursday

Westlock - Community Hall - Jan. 29, Tuesday

Grande Prairie - Stonebridge Hotel - Jan. 30, Wednesday

For more information, please contact:

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