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**national farmers union**  
*In Union Is Strength*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**PRISON FARM DAIRY HERD UNLIKELY TO SELL THIS WEEK**

**KINGSTON, ONTARIO** - The sale of the Frontenac Institution dairy herd is likely to move to July, according to Correctional Service of Canada regional commissioner, Ross Toller. Toller told members of the Save Our Prison Farms campaign today that there is a “slim to zero” chance that the sale would be held this week, as was scheduled in April.

Toller requested a meeting with members of the campaign after a station to monitor traffic in and out of Frontenac Institution was established last week. Volunteers are staffing the Community On Watch Station (COWS) 24 hours a day, prepared to initiate a blockade if cattle or chicken trucks enter the institution.

“We made it clear that we will continue to staff the watch station and that we will blockade any effort to move the cattle or chickens,” said Jeff Peters, a beef farmer and member of the Save Our Prison Farms campaign. “However, we also emphasized we would work with CSC on developing a win-win plan for Frontenac and Pittsburg Institutions,” Peters said.

“Mr. Toller made it clear that it is his job to continue to plan for the closure of the farms,” said Dianne Dowling, a dairy farmer and member of the prison farm campaign. “On the other hand, he is also looking for ways to work with the community to develop work opportunities for inmates and ex-inmates, and he agreed to pass on to CSC Commissioner Don Head our willingness to work with CSC.”

“A moratorium of at least two or three months, with no cattle or chickens sold and no buildings demolished, would give time to develop a plan for the continuation of the prison farms. Thousands of people in Kingston and area have joined to the campaign to save the prison farms. If Corrections agrees to keep the farms, that momentum can be used for positive corrections results,” Dowling said.

“We aren’t just fighting against something, we’re fighting for something,” said John Williamson, a beef farmer and member of the campaign. The Kingston area has rallied around the prison farms. Corrections needs to decide -- are they going to keep fighting against us? Or are they going to work with us?”

At the Frontenac prison farm, inmates milk about 130 cows and take care of about 8000 laying hens, providing milk and eggs for about a dozen prisons in Ontario. Canada's six prison farms are slated to be closed by March 31, 2011.

“Frontenac Institution is the largest urban farm in North America,” explained Andrew McCann of Urban Agriculture Kingston, and a member of the campaign. “Kingston wants to be the most sustainable city in Canada -- these farms should be a cornerstone of that effort.”

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