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national farmers union
In Union Is Strength

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NFU HOSTS CROSS-CANADA MEETINGS ON LIVESTOCK CRISIS

The National Farmers Union (NFU) is hosting a series of community meetings across Canada in an effort to overcome the devastating income crisis facing livestock farmers. The meetings will focus on a groundbreaking research report released by the NFU in late November, entitled “The Farm Crisis and the Cattle Sector: Toward a New Analysis and New Solutions.”

The report concludes that the collapse of cattle prices affecting family-farm cow-calf producers and independent feeders is due primarily to the problem of the rising power and profits of food retailers and beef packers.

The report also suggests a number of solutions aimed at restoring farmers’ market power and raising farm-gate prices for cattle.

The meetings are set to begin January 17 in Sudbury, Ontario, with additional meetings in that province scheduled for January 19 in Barr Line, January 20 in Elginburg, and January 21 in Elmwood. (Please see attached background.)

The following week, meetings are slated to take place January 26 in Innisfail, Alberta; January 27 in Waskatenau, Alberta; January 29 in Sexsmith, Alberta; and January 30 in Farmington, BC.

In early February, a round of meetings in Manitoba will take place: February 2 in Oak Lake; February 3 in Minnedosa (afternoon) and Glenella (evening); February 4 in Austin (afternoon) and Cypress River (evening); and February 5 in St. Claude. Additional meetings are scheduled in late February in Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick. Dates for Saskatchewan meetings have not yet been set.

For a list of meeting dates and locations, or to download a copy of the NFU report on the livestock crisis, log on to www.nfu.ca.

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Neil Peacock, NFU Board Member (780) 568-7011

Background: List of Meetings

Ontario:

Saturday, January 17, 2009 **Sudbury, Ont.** 10:00 AM Days Inn
(This presentation will be part of the Sudbury West Nipissing Cattlemen's Association meeting. **RSVP** by January 10, 2009 to James Barrett at 705-671-9137.)

Monday, January 19, 2009 **Barr Line, Ont.** 7:00 PM - Barr Line Community Centre
(For more information, contact Dave MacKay at 613-582-7379.)

Tuesday, January 20, 2009 **Elginburg, Ont.** 7:30 PM - Trinity United Church Hall
(This presentation will be part of the Frontenac Cattlemen's Association meeting. For more information, contact Ron Taite at 613-353-6101.)

Wednesday, January 21, 2009 **Elmwood, Ont.** - 7:30 PM - Elmwood Community Centre (For more information, contact Joan Brady at 1-888-537-3163.)

Additional Ontario meetings are being planned.

Alberta and British Columbia:

Monday, January 26, 2009 **Innisfail, Alta.** 7:00 PM Legion Hall

Tuesday, January 27, 2009 **Waskatenau, Alta.** 2:00 PM Seniors Centre

Thursday, January 29, 2009 **Sexsmith, Alta.** 7:00 PM Civic Centre (club room)

Friday, January 30, 2009 **Farmington, B.C.** 7:00 PM Farmington Hall

For more information, contact Jan Slomp at 403-843-2068 or Neil Peacock at 780-568-7011.

Manitoba:

Monday, February 2, 2009 **Oak Lake, Man.** 7:30 PM Oak Lake Legion Hall

Tuesday, February 3, 2009 **Minnedosa, Man.** 1:30 PM Ukrainian Hall

Tuesday, February 3, 2009 **Glenella, Man.** 7:30 PM Glenella Community Hall

Wednesday, February 4, 2009 **Austin, Man.** 1:30 PM Austin Community Hall

Wednesday, February 4, 2009 **Cypress River, Man.** 7:30 PM Cypress River Memorial Hall

Thursday, February 5, 2009 **St. Claude, Man.** 1:30 PM St. Claude Recreation Centre

For more information, contact Fred Tait at 204-252-2153.

Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick:

Meetings will be in late-February. Details coming soon.