

National Office  
2717 Wentz Ave.  
Saskatoon, Sask.  
S7K 4B6  
Tel (306) 652-9465  
Fax (306) 664-6226  
E-Mail: nfu@nfu.ca



March 11, 2009

### **An open letter to the Manitoba Cattle Producers Association**

Dear Editor,

A recent letter from the Manitoba Cattle Producers Association (MCPA) to a National Farmers Union (NFU) member who had requested a refund of her MCPA check-off went to great lengths to fabricate a fictitious partnership between the NFU and R-CALF.

Based upon previous experience related to MCPA attacks upon the Manitoba Cattle Enhancement check-off, and the MCPA's back-door opposition to the Rancher's Choice initiative, I would contend that MCPA's false allegations linking the NFU to R-CALF is nothing other than a thinly-veiled attempt by MCPA to divert cattle producers' attention away from the NFU report entitled: The Farm Crisis and the Cattle Sector (available online at [www.nfu.ca](http://www.nfu.ca)).

To its credit, the Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA) has published a response to the NFU report. The NFU website makes a link to the CCA response. The NFU has urged the CCA to provide a link from their website to the NFU report.

I would challenge MCPA to use its generous budget of check-off dollars to complete and publish a detailed response to the NFU analysis, and make arrangements for their 2009 annual convention to host a two-hour panel that focuses on the two reports. Participation on the panel would be restricted to the Research Directors of the NFU and MCPA and one elected director each from the NFU and MCPA.

Any effort by MCPA to ignore this challenge will demonstrate a willingness on their part to maintain the status quo at any cost to individual producers and the truth.

Yours truly,  
Fred Tait  
NFU Manitoba Coordinator  
Rossendale, Manitoba

[Editor: For confirmation of source: Fred Tait's phone: 204-252-2773 or 204-252-2153]