



Media Release

January 18, 2010

New Program offers support to the Beef Industry

Truro –Today’s announcement by the Nova Scotia Government will assist beef producers over the next couple years. Minister of Agriculture, John MacDonell has delivered on a commitment he made in November to provide assistance to the Nova Scotia Beef Industry. Today’s announcement commits 2 million dollars to support a Beef Interest Pay-Down program that will provide 3 years interest relief for eligible beef farmers on their short term loans.

Richard Melvin President of Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture stated, “We have witnessed the tremendous hurt which terrible market conditions have inflicted upon our beef farmers over the past several years. We are pleased that the Board of the Nova Scotia Cattle Producers have shown great discipline in working with the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture to obtain this support for beef farmers over the next several years.”

The Beef Interest Pay-Down program will be delivered, beginning January 26th by the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture.

“Program delivery of this type is not a traditional role for the Federation” said Mr. Melvin and added that “It is important to deliver this program in a timely and efficient manner.”

Nova Scotia beef farmers can file a short (one page) application, complete with signatures from their financial lenders to have interest paid on their short term loans for 2009, 2010 and 2011. The program will open on Tuesday, January 26th, with March 31st marked as the first deadline to submit 2009 applications. Application forms and program details will be available on the Federation website http://www.nsfa-fane.ca/programs_and_projects or by contacting the NSFA office 902-893-2293.

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The Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture represents the interests of over 2500 farm families in Nova Scotia. Founded in 1895 to provide Nova Scotia’s farm community with a single voice, the NSFA is the province’s only general farm organization.