

## **Minister's statement**



*January 20, 2012*

### **Alberta applauds South Korea's decision to reopen borders to Canadian beef**

#### ***Market opportunities expand for ranchers and processors***

*Edmonton...* Agriculture and Rural Development Minister Evan Berger issued the following statement on the announcement that South Korea will now import Canadian beef.

"After an eight-year ban, Canadian producers will now be able to export beef from cattle younger than 30 months to South Korea.

The South Korean market is the last major Asian market to remove its ban on Canadian beef, so this is exciting news for Alberta producers. In 2002, Alberta exported \$42.6 million in beef to South Korea, and it was Canada's fourth largest beef export market when the market closed in 2003.

Alberta is the largest cattle-producing province in Canada. It led the nation in cattle and calf inventories, with an estimated 4.95 million head as of January 1, 2011, or nearly 40 per cent of the national total. Nearly three-quarters of Canadian beef processing occurs in Alberta.

The Government of Alberta appreciates the efforts of the federal government in working to reopen the South Korean border, and supports their ongoing efforts to fully restore access for all beef products."

- 30 -

Editor's note: Minister Berger will be available at noon at Government House in Edmonton for media interviews regarding today's announcement.

#### **Media inquiries may be directed to:**

Agriculture and Rural Development  
Media Line  
Phone 780-422-1005

To call toll-free within Alberta dial 310-0000.