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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **New Livestock Regulatory Framework Protects Albertans**

CALGARY (December 27, 2001) - On January 1, 2002, the Government of Alberta introduces a new provincial regulatory framework for confined feeding operations (CFOs). (*CFOs, commonly referred to as intensive livestock operations, are fenced or enclosed areas where livestock are confined for the purpose of feeding.*)

All proposals for new or expanding CFOs will now be reviewed for approval by the NRCB to ensure they meet required standards. The NRCB also assumes responsibility for the monitoring and enforcement of province-wide requirements for all CFOs, as well as ensuring that existing agricultural operations comply with standards for manure management.

As the NRCB ramps up for its new role it will be phasing-in various aspects of its regulatory operations. The NRCB's new regulatory framework includes four regional offices. Approvals Officers and Inspectors, operating out of Barrhead, Lethbridge, Red Deer and Fairview, will provide a smooth transition for handling applications, assisting producers and addressing stakeholder concerns.

As a regulator, the Board is in a unique position to hear and respond to concerns about confined feeding operations. Using a priority response system, NRCB inspectors will be available to address and investigate complaints. The public can call the NRCB's response line at 1-866-383-6722 (1-866-383-NRCB) if they have concern about an existing operation. Priority will be placed on complaints that point to an immediate or potential risk to the environment, demonstrated non-compliance or significant nuisance.

Over the next year, the NRCB will be reviewing its plans and operations to make sure its meeting Albertans' expectations of a regulatory environment for the livestock industry. The NRCB will also be working with Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, Alberta Environment, the Farmers' Advocate, the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties, and all its stakeholders to make the transition to the new regulatory environment as seamless as possible.

This expansion of the Natural Resources Conservation Board's (NRCB's) mandate reflects Albertan's desire for an economically sound, sustainable livestock industry, and strong protections for our air, water and soil. It also reflects the need for a consistent, science-based decision making process, and consistently applied and enforced province-wide standards.

The NRCB is committed to its role of ensuring the sustainable, equitable and responsible development of Alberta's natural resources - and ensuring that any development that occurs is in the public interest.

A Backgrounder providing information on the regulations administered by the NRCB is attached to this news release. More information on the NRCB's Application, Public Review and Inspection and Enforcement Processes for CFOs is also available on the NRCB's website at [www.nrcb.gov.ab.ca](http://www.nrcb.gov.ab.ca) by following the link for Confined Feeding Operations.

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**For further information please contact:**

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## BACKGROUND

### New and Expanding Confined Feeding Operations

An *approval* is required (for larger commercial operations) for the construction or expansion of a *confined feeding operation* containing the number of animals as set out in the following table.

A *registration* is required (for smaller commercial operations) for the construction or expansion of a *confined feeding operation* containing the number of animals as set out in the following table.

Type of Livestock	Number of animals: <i>Registrations</i>	Number of animals: <i>Approvals</i>	
•			<p>To obtain an approval or registration, producers must demonstrate to that their operations:</p> <p>will meet the requirements in the regulation, and will not be located in an area where the municipality has identified they do not want Confined Feeding Operations.</p> <p><b>Manure Management</b></p> <p>An <i>authorization</i> is required for the construction or expansion of a <i>manure storage facility</i> that is for containment of manure for 6 months or more in any calendar year.</p> <p>Cow-calf seasonal feeding and bedding sites do not require approvals, but are required to follow the standards and manage their sites to avoid contamination of water bodies. Standards apply to owners and operators of manure collection areas, whether or not the manure collection area is associated with a confined feeding operation or manure storage facility.</p> <p><b>Existing Operations</b></p> <p>NRCB approvals are required for new operations or expansions to existing</p>
• Beef cows/finishers (900+ lbs.)	150 - 349	350+	
Beef feeders (<900 lbs.)	200 - 499	500+	
Dairy (milking cows including replacements and dries)	50 - 199	200+	
Swine (sows - farrow to finish)	30 - 249	250+	
Swine (sows - farrow to wean)	50 - 999	1000+	
Swine (feeders)	500 - 3299	3300+	
Swine (weaners)	500 - 8999	9000+	
Poultry (broilers)	2000 - 59 999	60 000+	
Poultry (breeder hens)	1000 - 15 999	16 000+	

Poultry (layers)	5000 - 29 999	30 000+
Poultry (pullets)	2000 - 59 999	60 000+
Turkeys	1000 - 29 999	30 000+
Ducks	1000 - 29 999	30 000+
Geese	1000 - 29 999	30 000+
Horses (PMU)	100 - 399	400+
Horses (feeders)	100 - 299	300+
Sheep (ewes/rams)	200 - 1999	2000+
Goats	200 - 1999	2000+
Bison	150 - 349	350+
Elk	150 - 399	400+
Deer	200 - 999	1000+
Wild Boar	100 - 299	300+

operations. Existing municipal approvals will not be amended by the NRCB. The NRCB will, however, enforce manure management standards and conditions in Municipal Development Permits.

All agricultural operations must comply with the new manure management standards within 3 years (Jan., 2005).

### Responding to Public Concerns

The NRCB encourages residents with concerns about new or existing confined feeding operations, or manure storage or collection facilities to contact the operator first.

Experience suggests direct contact with the producer results in faster responses, the resolution of many issues, and better relations. Most operators are good neighbors and are concerned about maintaining a good relationship with the communities they operate in.

If the operator doesn't respond appropriately, or if residents don't want to call the operator first, they can call the NRCB's response line at **1-866-383-6722 (1-866-383-NRCB)**.

### Nuisance Complaints

Where a complaint is made against an agricultural operation, and the NRCB

determines that the operator is in compliance with the regulations or an approval, registration or authorization, the NRCB will refer the complaint, as a nuisance complaint, to the Farmers' Advocate office. The Farmers' Advocate administers the legislation regarding nuisance complaints.

The Farmers' Advocate will attempt to mediate the complaint. Failing to resolve the complaint, the Farmers' Advocate office can establish an Agricultural Practices Review Panel that will, following its review, report on their findings and forward it to the operator, complainant and Farmers' Advocate.

### Public Reviews

Directly affected parties are always guaranteed an opportunity to apply to the Board for a review of any approval decision. Reviews can be initiated by:

- The Applicant or the holder of an Approval, Registration or Authorization for the refusal of an Approval Officer to issue or amend an Approval, Registration or Authorization or to vary the conditions in an Approval, Registration or Authorization.
- Municipalities and all directly affected persons who previously submitted a statement of concern to

the NRCB respecting an approval.

- The Municipality, with respect to a registration in those cases where the Board has not incorporated the conditions requested by the municipality.

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