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NEWS RELEASE

POLITICAL PARTIES RESPOND TO BEEF PRODUCERS' CONCERNS

September 26, 2011 (WINNIPEG, MB) – The Manitoba Beef Producers (MBP) released its election wish list to the Manitoba political parties and candidates on September 8, 2011. This platform was based on their key policies. Included in this package was a questionnaire in which MBP requested each party's leadership to respond with their position on key issues of concern to the beef industry, with a deadline of September 26th, 2011.

As of this date, MBP received responses from the Progressive Conservative Party and the Liberal Party, but has failed to hear from the NDP. "We are disappointed that the NDP has not responded or committed to these issues of importance to the beef industry," said Major Jay Fox, President of the Manitoba Beef Producers. "This was a tremendous opportunity for each leader to dialogue on critical issues with voting members of a vital industry in this province."

Provision of Public Goods, Water Management, Strong Science Based Regulations, the Manitoba Cattle Enhancement Council, Animal Health, Business Risk Management, Environmental Initiatives, Herd Protection and Crown Land Management are the top priorities and key election issues for beef producers for this October 4th Provincial Election. But each of these issues is of equal significance to all Manitobans.

Currently in the midst of hosting District Meetings across the province, MBP is encouraging all producers to meet with, dialogue and question their political candidates on the above issues. "MBP strongly believes that each party, with their respective candidate, should be fully engaged with what the cattle industry needs as they go down the election trail", said Fox.

"It is essential that there is candid discussion between parties and industry on these issues that affect not only beef producers in Manitoba, but all Manitobans. Not only will this serve to determine what can be done to move our industry forward, but also serves to acknowledge an industry that is of vital importance to the province as a whole."

The questionnaire and responses are posted on the MBP website at www.mbbeef.ca.

Manitoba Beef Producers is the exclusive voice of the beef industry in Manitoba. Our role and mission is to represent our beef producers through communication, research, advocacy and education. We provide this representation within industry, to government, to the beef consumer and general public. These efforts take place to strengthen our industry viability, improve prosperity and ensure a sustainable future for the beef industry in Manitoba for the benefit of all our producers. The Manitoba Beef Producers represents 8,000 beef producers across the province.

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