

March 8, 2004

## Amendments to Agricultural Operation Practices Act introduced

Edmonton...Amendments to the Agricultural Operation Practices Act (AOPA), bringing clarity to regulations related to confined feeding operations, were introduced by Albert Klapstein, MLA for Leduc, in the Alberta Legislature today.

A government steering committee chaired by Klapstein consulted with stakeholders in a review in 2003, to develop recommendations on the amendments.

Amendments to the legislation will provide more clarity:

- for the role of the Natural Resources Conservation Board's (NRCB) in administering the *Act*;
- for confined feeding operators who are looking at changes to their operation;
- for the role of municipalities;
- on manure management;
- for the NRCB to determine the minimum distance separation between neighbours and a confined feeding operation.

"The Alberta government is a strong supporter of the agricultural industry, particularly with all the challenges it has faced recently. These legislative changes, though largely technical, will help improve the way the industry works while addressing environmental concerns," said Albert Klapstein.

The *Act* provides guidelines for dealing with complaints, siting of new and expanding CFOs, and compliance monitoring and enforcement of province-wide standards. The NRCB is responsible for administering the regulations under the legislation. Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development is the Ministry responsible for the *Act* and takes the lead role in extension services and technology transfer to the livestock industry.

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