

# News release



August 21, 2012

## **Alberta's cattle inspection fee increases after 20 years; remains lowest rate in Canada.**

*Calgary...* Following extensive industry consultation, the Livestock Identification Services Ltd. (LIS) will increase its cattle inspection fee, effective September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012, to \$1.25 from the current \$1.00. This fee increase, the first in 20 years, is supported by all sectors of the cattle industry and remains significantly lower than the neighbouring provinces of British Columbia (\$1.60) and Saskatchewan (\$2.00). There will not be an increase to the inspection fees for horses.

“The inspection activities carried out by the LIS Livestock Inspectors deter theft, facilitate commerce, help protect producers and lenders and create accurate animal movement records. LIS is a key component in the tracking of animal movement if ever there was a disease outbreak and the organization has played an important role in all BSE investigations. LIS plays a significant role in keeping our cattle and horse industry sustainable and healthy and I fully support this inspection fee increase,” says Jim Bowhay, Chairman Feeders Association of Alberta.

“LIS is an integral asset to the livestock industry. We have been providing inspection and investigation services at the same rate since 1991. Diminished cattle numbers and cost realities necessitate a change in our cattle inspection fee to reflect the true cost of this service. LIS commits to continue being a responsible steward of the industries resources,” says Phil Rowland, Western Stock Growers Association President and current LIS Chairman.

From fiscal year ending March 2003 to March 2011, annual inspection totals have been reduced by more than 1 million head due to the effects of BSE and the dramatic year over year decrease in cattle inventories in Canada since 2005. Since that time, LIS has responded with a corresponding reduction in staff, optimization of costs, closing of remote offices, and the reassignment of roles and responsibilities. However, a small fee increase is necessary in order for LIS to continue to provide inspection services to the cattle industry.

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

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**Backgrounder:** Details on LIS

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# Background

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## What is LIS?

In 1998, the Alberta Government privatized brand registration, livestock inspection and related activities and established the framework and regulatory authority for the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to delegate the duties and responsibilities of the Minister and inspectors under the Brand Act, the Livestock Identification and Brand Inspection Act and the Livestock and Livestock Products Act. At the same time, the Stray Animals Act was amended to allow for the delegation of the duties and responsibilities of the Minister and inspectors under that Act. Livestock Identification Services Ltd. (LIS) was appointed as the delegated authority of the Minister under these Acts in 1998.

In January of 2009 the Brand Act, the Livestock Identification and Brand Inspection Act and the Livestock and Livestock Products Act were repealed and replaced with the Livestock Identification and Commerce Act (LICA). In 2009 LIS was continued as the delegated authority of the Minister under LICA and the Stray Animals Act.

Livestock Identification Services Ltd. (LIS) is an industry owned not-for-profit organization. The operations of LIS are overseen by a ten member Board of Directors consisting of eight directors appointed by industry association members representing all sectors of the cattle industry and the horse industry, the Chair and one ex-officio representative of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development.

LIS was incorporated as a non-profit company on April 4, 1998. The members of LIS are:

- Alberta Beef Producers (ABP)
- Alberta Cattle Feeders Association (ACFA)
- Western Stock Growers Association (WSGA)
- Alberta Auction Markets Association (AAMA)
- Alberta Livestock Dealers and Order Buyers Association (ALDOBA)
- Feeders Associations of Alberta (FAA)
- Horse Industry Association of Alberta (HIAA)
- Alberta Grazing Leaseholders Association (AGLA)

The operations of LIS are overseen by a Board of Directors that consists of eight directors appointed by the members, the Chair and one ex-officio representative of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development. Each member appoints one director to the LIS Board at an annual general meeting or Board meeting of that member for a 2-year term. Each director can serve a maximum of three 2-year terms.

For the 2013 Fiscal Year, the positions on the LIS Board of Directors were held by:

- Phil Rowland – Chair
- Graham Schetzle – Vice Chair – AAMA
- Pat Rutledge – Finance Chair – AGLA
- Ronald Cailliau – ABP

Doug Price – ACFA  
Terry Prescott – ALDOBA  
Harvey Donahue – FAA  
Aaron Brower - WSGA  
Ron Anderson - HIAA  
Cliff Munroe - ARD

LIS provides livestock inspection services for the province of Alberta and is recognized as a critical partner in Alberta's traceability efforts. The *Livestock Identification and Commerce Act (LICA)* delegated to LIS facilitates livestock traceability through movement tracking, while at the same time, maintaining fair and equitable commerce.

LIS inspects more than 5 million head of livestock on an annual basis and ensures fair and equitable commerce in the livestock industry in Alberta. Today LIS' commerce based activity records livestock movement in Alberta, a critical pillar of livestock traceability. With over 100 million movement records spanning over 15 years, the LIS database is the largest livestock movement database in North America and continues to be used extensively by Canadian Food Inspection Agency in all reportable disease investigations.

*Statement of Vision Goals:*

*While fulfilling its mandate, LIS will utilize its unique role in facilitating effective commerce to enable the industry to achieve full value-added traceability through:*

- *Developing a dynamic and adaptable work force*
- *Enhancing the utilization of LIS' database for strategic industry supported initiatives*
- *Promoting and facilitating industry's adoption of technologies and use of information*
- *Creating an information sharing environment*
- *Embracing positive change*

*...so Alberta's livestock industry can be more competitive in the global marketplace.*