



Prosperity Through Trade

CANADIAN AGRI-FOOD TRADE ALLIANCE

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NEWS RELEASE

CAFTA Elects New President and Vice-President

November 30, 2006 -- The Canadian Agri-Food Trade Alliance (CAFTA) is pleased to announce the election of Alanna Koch as its new President. CAFTA represents agricultural producers, processors and exporters united in their dependence on trade, and in their desire for a liberalized trading environment. Canadian agricultural sectors represented by CAFTA account for more than 60 per cent of Canada's farm cash receipts.

Koch and her family own and operate a grain farm at Edenwold, Saskatchewan. Koch is a farmer director of Agricore United. She says of her involvement with CAFTA, "I believe strongly in CAFTA's work, lobbying and informing politicians, farm leaders and Canada's trade negotiators on the vital importance of liberalizing trade through the reduction of trade distorting subsidies internationally. Trade is critical not only to farmers but to the Canadian economy as a whole. During my term as President I will continue building CAFTA's established credibility as a voice for trade-dependent agriculture and agri-food."

Elected Vice-President of CAFTA is Darcy Davis, a cow-calf producer from Acme, Alberta. Davis is Chair of the Alberta Beef Producers. Davis says, "Without beef exports, Canada would need 37,000 fewer cattle producers. Protecting and improving our access to world markets is clearly beneficial to Canadian beef cattle producers, and to Canadian agriculture in general. I look forward to serving as Vice-President."

Koch commends outgoing President Liam McCreery for his tireless efforts in delivering the CAFTA message. McCreery, a grain and oilseed producer from Oxford County, Ontario, served two terms as President of CAFTA from 1999 to 2002 and again from 2004 to 2006. In one of his final acts as President, McCreery represented CAFTA as a Cairns Group Farm Leader at the 20th Anniversary Ministerial Meeting of the Cairns Group September 20 -22 in Australia. The Cairns Group is a coalition of 18 agricultural exporting countries that work for trade liberalization at a government-to-government level. The Cairns Group Farm Leaders are closely consulted by their governments to frame Cairns Group policies and positions.

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The Canadian Agri-Food Trade Alliance represents producers, processors and exporters of agriculture and agri-food products, as well as suppliers of agricultural inputs. CAFTA's members are united in their dependence on trade, and in their need for a liberalized international trading environment.