



ALBERTA

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

*Honourable George Groeneveld
MLA, Highwood*

January 30, 2009

Ms. Ann de St. Remy
Alberta Morgan Horse Club
Site 5, Box 66, RR 4
Lacombe , AB T4L 2N4

Dear Ms. de St. Remy:

On January 17, 2009 a newspaper article was published that unfortunately created some confusion and concern within the Alberta horse industry. The article contained a number of misleading statements concerning regulatory requirements for biosecurity and traceability and I felt a direct response to Alberta horse associations and key industry representatives was required to provide some clarity.

At present, there are no biosecurity regulations in effect or under consideration for the equine industry. Biosecurity measures are voluntary for horse owners or owners/operators of commingling sites.

In the event of a disease outbreak, the Office of the Chief Provincial Veterinarian (OCPV) will use a number of measures, including premises identification and biosecurity, to effectively and efficiently manage the event. The Premises Identification (PID) Program, one of the three key pillars of traceability, was established to track all locations where animals are bred, kept, raised, displayed, or assembled. However, at this time, there are no biosecurity measures being considered for horses.

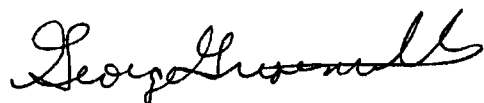
It is important that Alberta's reputation for producing and exporting some of the top horses in the world be maintained. This government is responsible to have legislation in place to help maintain that reputation, as well as the safety, health and well-being of the animals.

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I have attached information that will be helpful in explaining the changes that came into effect on January 1, 2009 to the *Livestock Identification and Commerce Act* and the *Animal Health Act*, specifically the Traceability Premises Identification Regulation. I hope that I was able to clarify regulatory requirements impacting the horse industry. If you require additional information, please contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "George Groeneveld".

George Groeneveld
Minister

Attachment