



## News Release

Alberta Beef Quality Starts Here

1-866-242-7404

[www.verifiedbeef.org](http://www.verifiedbeef.org)

### Funding Available for Livestock Handling Equipment

November 15, 2007, Medicine Hat, AB – Alberta beef producers who have participated in a Verified Beef Production workshop are eligible for 50% of the cost up to a maximum of \$750 for various pieces of livestock equipment including: chutes and headgates that facilitate neck injections, hand held RFID tag readers, computer software to track medication withdrawals, scale/calibration device for medicated feeds, and a disposal container for used medical bottles.

“The purpose of this funding is to provide assistance in ensuring the accuracy of medication use on-farm. For example, in the case of chutes and headgates, cattle must be held tightly to facilitate accurate neck injections and to reduce the chance of broken or bent needles,” states Eileen Leslie, Alberta provincial coordinator for the Verified Beef Program. “Over 1700 Alberta beef producers have participated in our workshops over the past several years and they are all eligible for this federal program. As well, our workshops are ongoing, so if a producer is interested in participating they should contact us.”

For equipment to qualify, the specific unit must appear on the program approved eligibility list, have a minimum unit cost of \$200, and be commercially available in Canada. This funding is provided through the Canadian Food Safety and Quality Program – On-Farm Implementation Fund by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and is taxable. It is important to note that this **funding program expires on March 31, 2008.**

For more information and to find out if you are eligible for this funding, please call Eileen at **1-866-242-7404** or go to **[www.verifiedbeef.org](http://www.verifiedbeef.org)**. Verified Beef Production is a national cattle industry initiative created to help implement and verify good production practices on-farm that minimize food safety risks. This program is similar to food safety programs being implemented in other agriculture commodities, as part of the Canadian On-Farm Food Safety Program.