



## Canadian Animal Health Coalition Coalition canadienne pour la santé des animaux

*Promoting a collaborative approach to animal health  
Œuvrant pour une vision commune de la santé animale*

### MEDIA RELEASE

Canadian Livestock Transport (CLT) Certification program receives funding for online delivery

Guelph, ON—May 21, 2015--A national training and certification program for those who handle and transport farm animals will be made available online thanks to \$180,000 in government funds. The money comes from Growing Forward 2, a five-year provincial and federal initiative that supports a variety of projects in the agriculture and agri-food industries.

The Canadian Livestock Transport (CLT) Certification program was developed in Alberta in 2007 and has enjoyed national and U.S. participation since the program was moved to the Canadian Animal Health Coalition in 2013. This has included growing international recognition of CLT as an innovative, pioneering program and a leading example of industry-driven leadership in livestock welfare. The overall goal is to help ensure that farm animals in Canada are transported in a safe and humane manner.

The Canadian Animal Health Coalition is very pleased to receive this funding, said Coalition Chair, Jennifer MacTavish. "It will allow us to advance the highest animal welfare standards in the transport of farm animals," she said. The funding will be used to develop interactive multimedia online materials and delivery of the existing CLT program that is offered to transport drivers and handlers of livestock and poultry.

The program is uniquely Canadian, reflecting Canada's standards and regulations and is available for those who transport or receive cattle, hogs, horses, sheep and poultry. Although voluntary, a growing number of companies that process meat now require drivers and handlers to have this certification, said Mark Beaven, executive director of the non-profit coalition.

It is estimated that 5,000 to 10,000 people are involved in the transportation of animals in Canada. Currently, about 1,500 transport drivers and handlers who load and unload livestock and poultry are certified. Re-training is required every three years to maintain certification and the online program will not only make the recertification process more efficient and consistent but will allow more people across the country to participate, said Beaven.

The training involves everything from knowing the regulations and proper techniques for the safe handling of animals, to loading capacities and avoiding overcrowding as well as biosecurity and other protocols that are necessary to protect agricultural industries. Program details can be found at [www.livestocktransport.ca](http://www.livestocktransport.ca).

"This funding allows us to take the program into the 21st century," he said. "It will be very interactive and intense, but it allows the current participants to be recertified and new ones to come on board and do it at their own pace."

It will build Canada's reputation as "a world leader" in the safe and humane handling of farm animals, he added.

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The Canadian Animal Health Coalition is a not for profit organization serving Canada's farmed animal industry. The organization is a partnership of organizations all recognizing a shared responsibility for an effective Canadian animal health system.