



# SERLO

Society for Environmentally Responsible Livestock Operations (of Alberta)

RR #2 LCD 1

Red Deer, AB T4N 5E2

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December 15, 2004

## EXECUTIVE

### PRESIDENT

Malcolm McIlroy

### VICE PRESIDENT

Lisa Bechthold

### SECRETARY

Sherry Brock

### TREASURER

Margaret Coutts

### PAST PRESIDENT

Sue Pearson

## BOARD MEMBERS

### **1 year term**

Lana Love  
Gawnwey Hinkley

### **2 year term**

Murray Marsh  
Anita Brock  
Bill Purves Smith

### **3 year terms**

Vern Hafso  
Katherine McCulloch  
Patricia Macklin

Patricia Macklin resigned from the Board because of job commitments and possible conflicts of interest.

## Featured Items

Over the last couple of months there have been a couple of major wins for surrounding landowners to confined feeding operations.

**See the following page**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Another year has passed and our Society is another year older and we still have a lot of work to do before we will be satisfied that the environment around confined feeding operations (CFO) is being protected and the public listened to.

I would like to commend the Lone Pine group and the Bear's Lake Farmer's group for all the hard work and perseverance. The Lone Pine group did an outstanding job at the Alberta Court of Appeal and won their case against the expansion of the AAA Beef Feedlot near Didsbury. They were successful even with the Natural Resources Conservation Board (NRCB) and the Provincial Government working against them.

The Bear's Lake Farmer's group worked long and hard and were able to convince the NRCB Review Board to uphold the decision of the Approval Officer to deny the Meinder's hog farm.

We really hope that these two decisions will be the turning point and the NRCB will be forced to start listening to the concerns of the area residents as well as their knowledge of the area around CFO developments.

As people around the province become aware of our Society we are getting new members joining. If each and everyone could get one new member to sign up our membership would increase even faster. In closing I would like to wish each and everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Hope to see you at the AGM on February 18, 2005.

## Featured Producer

Hi! We are the Van Heinen family, let us introduce ourselves. We are Maarten and Heather and our three boys, Levi 10, Benson 8, and Jake at 21/2.

We live near Castor, Alberta, which is two hours east of Red Deer. Heather was born in Calgary and has lived here since she was ten. Maarten was born and raised here on this farm.

We believe in raising livestock in a more traditional way and have always felt that it wasn't right to sell anything that we wouldn't feed our own children. In keeping with that thinking, we have never made a practice of using growth hormones in our cattle. As well, any cattle that we finish for family, friends, or ourselves are never "pushed" to be ready within any time frame, but gently grown to finished weight resulting in very high quality beef.

For the past couple of years, our interests have grown to include chickens. We find them to be very interesting little animals and believe that raising them traditionally in a natural, free range pasture environment results in quality, nutritious poultry and eggs.

An interest in supplying what we produce directly to the people who are going to consume it and growing demand for farm fresh, organically grown food, led us to attend the Going Organic conference in Red Deer this past January to apply for certified organic status. Our land has been free from chemical fertilizers for four years and chemical herbicides for five years. According to the Quality Certification Bureau, we should qualify for certified organic status this year.

We look forward to sharing the fruits of our labour with you and welcome any phone calls if you have any questions or comments. We can be reached by:  
Phone 403-578-2113  
Fax 403-578-4513  
Email [mhvanfam@telus.net](mailto:mhvanfam@telus.net)

## Featured Items Local Wins

The first win was in regards to a hog operation in the Grande Prairie area. The Approval Officer had denied the operation due to conflicts with the Municipal Development Plan and a couple of other items. After 6-7 days of Review Board Hearings the Review Board upheld the decision of the Approval Officer and denied the approval.

The second being the feedlot operation in the Didsbury area. This operation had enforcement orders on it, then application for an expansion. The enforcement orders were extended and they were never in full compliance. The expansion application was granted and then the surrounding landowners took it to the Court of Appeal. After many months of waiting, it was finally before the Justices. The decision was made the same day. The operation was denied. The operator is to now come under compliance with the original permit that was granted by the municipality. The pens are to be removed.

The dedication and determination of the people that are trying to protect their way of life are to be commended. If it were not for them the decisions would have been a lot different.  
CONGRATULATIONS!!!



**SERLO** recently co-sponsored a Food Fest with the Red Deer Chapter of the Council of Canadians. The event was held on October 20 at Valley Center Community Hall. Ricardo Acuna, Director of the Parkland Institute was a guest speaker and he presented on “Worldwide Domestic Food Production.” Sue Pearson, Past-President and one of the Founding Members of SERLO spoke on the “Farm Livelihoods in Rural Neighbourhoods”. The event was well attended even though it was a cold and foggy night. There were a number of people from all over central Alberta. Local producers donated the food and our featured producer, Maarten and Heather Van Heinen of Caster, Alberta, raised the chicken.

***SERLO would like to pursue the work with the Council of Canadians in getting Food Co-ops set up around Alberta and supporting locally grown produce and meats. This would be more traditionally, sustainably-grown foods from local farmers. The meat would be raised in non-confinement conditions and locally produced. Anyone interested in this as a producer or as a volunteer would be appreciated. Please contact Sue Pearson at 403-347-3299.***

**SERLO** will not be having a Conference this year in its place we will be hosting the Annual General Meeting on February 18, 2005 AT 3:00 p.m. at Valley Center Community Hall. It will be on the **Friday afternoon** followed by a supper 6:00 P.M. of locally grown produce and meat. Ricardo Acuna, Director of the Parkland Institute will be our Guest Speaker. Please register early and bring a friend or two. (Registration form included in mail-out)

**Heads-Up** from a **SERLO** member, “The Party’s Over” by Richard Heinberg is available from Chapters online for \$19.00. Does anyone else want to host a feast of locally grown food? Memberships are now due please find enclosed form.

