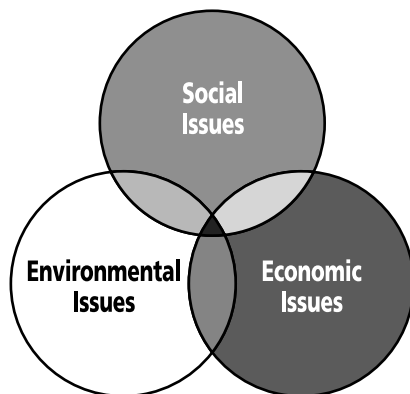


CHAPTER 3

PRINCIPLES FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT

In the view of the Panel, sustainable livestock development consists of three interrelated key components: economic viability, environmental stewardship, and social and equity issues. This can best be illustrated with Figure 3.1 that has the three components shown as circles that intersect. Our challenge, indeed the challenge for everyone with an interest in the livestock sector, is to identify policies, guidelines and regulations that will enable us to expand Manitoba's livestock sector in ways that take account of the concerns in all three circles. Solutions that deal with only one of these components and don't recognize the others simply won't be acceptable to Manitobans.

Figure 3.1
Concept of Sustainable Livestock Development



The concept of sustainable livestock development requires an identification of principles. Drawing on a set of principles for sustainable agriculture developed by the International Institute for Sustainable Development, the Panel has identified a number that have guided its analysis of the issues and the preparation of its recommendations.

- Economic, environmental and social considerations must be integrated in public and private decision-making.
- The concept of stewardship is paramount, that is, today's decisions must be balanced with tomorrow's impacts.
- The long term productive capacity and quality of our natural resources must be maintained.
- Economic returns from production should enable an adequate standard of living to be maintained; furthermore, it should be sufficient to continue to attract replacement farmers.
- Economic activity should not detract from human health or the quality of land and water; a balance must be struck between the size of production units consistent with technology and a social structure acceptable to all stakeholders.
- Science based information must be an integral part of public and private decision-making. Where that information is inadequate, government and the private sector have a responsibility to support appropriate research activities.
- Means to ensure that the results of the research are effectively communicated to farmers and decision-makers also are necessary.
- Adequate resources must be allocated to monitor and enforce compliance with regulations and standards.
- There must be sufficient transparency to stakeholders in the production, processing, and regulation of the livestock industry to instill confidence that Manitoba's food is being produced in a safe and sustainable manner.