

PREFACE

In March 2000, the Government of Manitoba formally announced its Livestock Stewardship Initiative (LSI) with the aim of ensuring the sustainable development of Manitoba's livestock industry. A Livestock Stewardship Panel was appointed by the Government of Manitoba on June 7, 2000 with a mandate to seek the views of Manitobans on the expansion of the livestock industry in Manitoba, and to present these to government in a report along with recommendations.

The Panel is convinced that "common ground" can be found for sustainable livestock development in Manitoba. It will require a commitment by the provincial government and the livestock industry to deal with many concerns about the impact of livestock on Manitoba's environment and rural landscape. It will also require a greater willingness on the part of opponents of the livestock industry to recognize that sustainable livestock development is not inherently bad. This report contains recommendations and suggestions that can be used by all to find the "common ground".

Many people played a role in helping the Panel in its efforts, and we wish to acknowledge them. First and foremost, we acknowledge the overall quality, sincerity, and thought-provoking nature of presentations and submissions made by the individuals and organizations that participated in all aspects of our public consultation process. The input of industry and government representatives and researchers in their very generous response to our requests for information is gratefully appreciated. The analytical and scientific assistance of Heather Gregory and Ross Bulley was invaluable. The efforts of Rory Grewar and Jim Potton in organizing the public meetings were truly professional, as was Jim Rae's communication and logistical support. Editorial assistance from Buzz Crooks, Rosemarie Prokipchuk, Joyce Mueller, and Jim Petsnick helped to move our sow's ear in the direction of a silk purse. Finally, our wives deserve a special debt of gratitude for enduring endless talk about "pig stuff" during meals and social gatherings!

The Panel alone takes responsibility for all views expressed in this report and any errors of commission or omission contained herein.

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