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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Government of Canada Assists with Livestock Movement Monitoring

The Canadian Animal Health Coalition is pleased to receive the support of the federal government and industry partners to deliver the traceability project, the *West Hawk Lake Zoning Initiative*, as part of the Canadian Integrated Food Safety Initiative.

Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz announced the federal government's funding approval for the West Hawk Lake zoning project on Saturday, May 15, 2010, at Vaag's family farm, located just outside of Winnipeg, Manitoba.

The West Hawk Lake zoning control site, situated on the Trans-Canada Highway near the Manitoba-Ontario border, offers a unique single road checkpoint opportunity to monitor Canadian east-west livestock movements.

This Initiative follows the completion of one project with three phases, over the past four years that proved the concept of zoning Canada at the West Hawk Lake site. Data related to animal movement across the site will be collected and potentially be very valuable in managing an animal health emergency.

Minister Ritz commented that "the government of Canada supports the Canadian Animal Health Coalition's delivery of the West Hawk Lake Zoning Initiative - an important opportunity to mitigate future events related to food safety, animal disease and resultant trade impacts. The Initiative also represents another step towards Canada reaching its goal of national food traceability by the end of December 2011".

This investment of up to \$2 million and the West Hawk Lake Zoning Initiative will be managed by the Coalition and assisted by a steering committee comprised of government and industry representatives.

The Coalition's Executive Director, Mark Beaven, re-stated that "the Canadian Animal Health Coalition represents a collaborative approach to animal health in Canada. Its current priorities include not only the West Hawk Lake Zoning Initiative, but also the National Farm Animal Care Council and the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Strategy and Council."

The Canadian Animal Health Coalition is a partnership of organizations recognizing a shared responsibility for an effective Canadian animal health system. For more information about the Coalition, visit www.animalhealth.ca.

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