

# Terms of Reference



## *CASA Confined Feeding Operations (CFO) Project Team*

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### *Background:*

At the Nov. 24, 2004 meeting, the CASA Board of Directors received a statement of opportunity submitted jointly by Alberta Beef Producers, Alberta Cattle Feeders Association, Alberta Chicken Producers, Alberta Egg Producers, Alberta Hatching Egg Producers, Alberta Milk, Alberta Pork, Alberta Turkey Producers and Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development to proactively address confined feeding operations air quality concerns in a collaborative process. By consensus, the CASA board agreed to form a working group to scope the issues and develop terms of reference for a CASA project team to develop an air quality strategic plan for confined feeding operations.

### *Goals of the Project Team:*

The CASA Confined Feeding Operations Project Team will work within the CASA consensus process to develop a strategic plan to improve the management of air emissions from existing and future CFOs in Alberta and to improve relationships between stakeholders.

In developing the plan, the team will consider the following principles:

- continuous improvement and pollution prevention to protect air quality;
- prevention of short and long-term adverse effects on human, animal and ecosystem health due to air emissions; and
- assurance that air quality recommendations maximize social, economic, environmental and health benefits and minimize social, economic, environmental and health costs.

### *Key Tasks for the Project Team:*

1. Create mutual understanding of the CASA process.
2. Improve stakeholders' understanding of air quality issues related to CFOs.
3. Develop a project team workplan and budget, and secure the resources to carry out the workplan.
4. Revisit the project team's workplan on a regular basis to ensure progress.
5. Gather information related to air quality issues in the areas of:
  - a. proposed and existing legislation in Alberta and in other jurisdictions;
  - b. management mechanisms in Alberta and other jurisdictions, and any existing information on the associated social, economic, environmental and health costs and benefits, which could include but are not limited to:

- i. guidelines;
    - ii. codes of practice; and/or;
    - iii. best and/or beneficial management practices.
  - c. current and predicted emissions and ambient concentrations;
  - d. emissions inventories and a comparison of CFO air emissions to other regional and provincial air emissions;
  - e. source apportionment to understand the contribution of CFOs to ambient concentrations;
  - f. effects of emissions;
  - g. scientific facts and data on air emissions and health effects;
  - h. observational information
  - i. methods to minimize air emissions and any existing information on the associated social, economic, environment and health costs and benefits;
  - j. technologies to monitor, measure and predict air emissions and ambient concentrations;
  - k. information about stakeholders concerns; and
  - l. other related initiatives (CASA frameworks, other processes).
6. Identify information gaps and work to fill those gaps, by using internal and external resources or by making recommendations for future work.
7. Based on determined needs, conduct risk analyses.
8. Identify and assess components of an air quality strategic plan. (The plan may or may not include the following, but they will be considered by the team. Plus, in developing the plan, the team will consider the information gathered in task 5, and base the plan on that information.)
- a. future emission targets/goals/objectives;
  - b. monitoring of emissions and ambient concentrations;
  - c. current and predicted emissions and ambient concentrations;
  - d. emissions inventories and a comparison of CFO air emissions to other regional and provincial air emissions;
  - e. source apportionment to understand the contribution of CFOs to ambient concentrations;
  - f. standards, regulations and guidelines (taking into consideration other industries in Alberta);
  - g. other management mechanisms;
  - h. methods to encourage the implementation of the strategic plan;
  - i. reporting and information sharing;
  - j. roles and responsibilities;
  - k. scale of application (e.g. regional, local and/or provincial approaches);
  - l. timelines (e.g. short- and/or long- term requirements);
  - m. evaluation of the plan;
  - n. research;
  - o. technology development and transfer;

- p. education;
  - q. evaluation of air emissions from CFOs and their impacts, in order to determine and prioritize actions
  - r. assessment of the associated social, economic, environmental and health costs and benefit of the strategic plan;
  - s. risk analyses
  - t. mechanisms for building and maintaining stakeholder relationships; and
  - u. other (as agreed to by the project team).
9. Consider the need for, and possible approaches to communication and/or consultation with the public.
10. Evaluate the project team's achievement of its goal and make recommendations for subsequent process(es).
11. Develop a final report and recommendations to the CASA board, including a plan for tracking the implementation of the strategic plan and reporting to CASA board on the implementation of the plan.

### *Timelines:*

The project team will work towards the following milestones, and will revisit these milestones intermittently.

- Status reports to CASA Board – quarterly
- Interim report to confirm direction and progress with CASA Board – June 2006
- Final report and recommendations – June 2007

### *Budget:*

The team will develop a budget that is aligned with their workplan. Funds for project team work are expected to come from stakeholders around the table. AENV has already contributed \$15,000 revenue to this team account.

## *Membership:*

The following organizations will be represented on the CFO Project Team.

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada  
Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development  
Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties  
Alberta Beef Producers and Alberta Cattle Feeders' Association  
Alberta Environment  
Alberta Health and Wellness  
Alberta Milk  
Alberta Pork  
Alberta Poultry Producers  
Alberta Sheep Producers (corresponding member)  
Alberta Urban Municipalities Association  
Calgary Health Region  
Chinook Health Region  
Environment Canada  
Farmers Advocate (corresponding member)  
Friends of an Unpolluted Lifestyle  
Health Canada  
Intensive Livestock Working Group  
Natural Resources Conservation Board  
Parkland Airshed Monitoring Zone  
Prairie Acid Rain Coalition  
Society for Environmentally Responsible Livestock Operations  
Southern Alberta Environmental Group  
Wild Rose Agricultural Producers