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First Carcass 101 Event Proves a Great Success in Olds, AB

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ROCKY VIEW, AB — The Canadian Angus Association hosted the first annual Carcass 101 event in partnership with Certified Angus Beef (CAB), supported by the Alberta Livestock and Meat Agency (ALMA) at Olds College on June 18–19. Thirty-one participants took part in the two days of learning about carcass traits.

The first day began with Brody Gardner, Diamond T Cattle Co., providing his insights on evaluating live cattle. The group was able to access three steers that were ready to go to the Olds College National Meat Training Centre. Participants used what they had learned from Gardner to rank the steers based on their individual traits and discussed how their carcasses would grade. The group then put on hair nets and lab coats and went to the meat cutting room. Dr. Phil Bass, meat scientist with Certified Angus Beef, explained the carcass parts and their value. He discussed how meat is graded and all categories that are used when grading beef in Canada.

The group returned to the classroom for the next speaker, James Bradbury, Director of Market Development with Canada Beef Inc. He brought a different perspective to the group and discussed what consumers are looking for from the beef industry as well as current trends.

The rest of the afternoon was spent in the training centre with Dr. Phil Bass and Brad McLeod, meat instructor at the Olds College. The group was shown first-hand where different cuts of meat come from on a carcass and how the entire carcass is used. McLeod explained how meat cutting has rapidly changed over the last few years and how we are seeing many more specialty cuts. The day ended with the presentation of the Western Feedlot of the Year award to Kasko Cattle Co. of Coaldale, AB at the evening banquet.

New CAA Alberta Director Brett Wildman said, “Carcass 101 was very informative and helped us to make the connection from the end result of the carcass to the producer. A large part of our industry is about networking with people and at Carcass 101 we were able to do this. As a producer myself, I find it very valuable to know feedlot operators that we can help our customers connect with. It is all about customer service.”

The second day of Carcass 101 began in the classroom with presentations from John Crowley from Livestock Gentec, Rod Wendoff of Windy Ridge Ultrasound Inc. a Centralized Ultrasound Processing (CUP) Lab Technician and Larry Sears of Flying E Rancho. Crowley covered the importance of genetic selection, including increasing reliance on genomic technology and the Zoetis 50K test. Wendoff explained how ultrasound can help producers. The last speaker, Sears, gave the highlights of his cow/calf operation and how carcass data can be used in cow/calf herds.

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After lunch, Ryan Kasko of Allied Marketing Group brought his perspective on feeding Angus cattle in Alberta. Then the group moved to the meat training centre to analyze the carcasses of the live cattle they viewed the day before. Oscar Lopez Campos from Lacombe Meat Research Center in the Meat Science department led the session with the animal carcasses. Larry Corah, Vice President, Supply Development from Certified Angus Beef rounded the day off with his findings on the growth of quality market and potential in Canada.

The Canadian Angus Association (www.cdnangus.ca) is a not-for-profit association incorporated under the Animal Pedigree Act. The Association represents 3,000 members across Canada for the purposes of registering and recording the pedigrees of purebred Angus cattle and promoting the breed across Canada. Its member-approved mandate is to maintain breed registry, breed purity and provide services that enhance the growth and position of the Angus breed.

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