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## **Kasko Cattle Company Announced as Canadian Angus Association Western Feedlot of the Year**

**June 19, 2014: For immediate release**

**Rocky View County, AB** — The Canadian Angus Association is pleased to honour Kasko Cattle Company with the Western Feedlot of the Year Award. This award was presented at Carcass 101 on June 18 in Olds, AB during the evening banquet.

The Kasko Cattle Company is a family-owned custom cattle feeding and farming business in the Coaldale area in Alberta. The business was started in 1979 by Les Kasko and he was joined in the 1990s by his sons Ryan and Greg and son-in-law Todd. The company continued to grow and made their first purchase of Hwy 52 Beef Producers Feedlot in 1997. In 2001 they purchased Thiessen's feedlot near Coaldale, AB and this became the home lot for Kasko Cattle Co. They continued to buy feed yards until they had four yards throughout Alberta. The four Kasko Cattle Co. feed yards have a standing capacity of 44,000 head of cattle and have more than 40 employees.

Kasko Cattle Co. participates in a variety of programs that differentiate them from other feedlots in western Canada. In 2010 the company formed a market alliance—Allied Marketing Group: Ryan Kasko, Les Wall, Ed Stronks, Leighton Kolk, Shawn Murray. This group was the first Certified Angus Beef brand feeding partner in Canada. This group has 11 feed yards. Each business maintains its independence, but they work together to feed Angus cattle and support a database that can link producers, feeders and packers. The partnership will help them to better work with producers to deliver premiums that translate into a more valuable animal.

The Allied Group wants to work with good cattle and wants to make the beef industry as strong as possible. They strive to make connections from the farm to the consumer and help others to understand what it is that the consumer wants and needs. The group has developed a strong relationship with the largest packer in Canada, Cargill. One of the most recent initiatives that the group has started is a program showing chefs exactly where their beef comes from. Last year they hosted 60 chefs in Alberta.

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The Kasko Cattle Co. and Allied Marketing Group have been adding value to the beef industry for many years. The Canadian Angus Association is pleased to recognize this family for all their hard work. Congratulations to the Kasko family and all their staff on winning the Western Feedlot Award.

The Canadian Angus Association introduced the Feedlot of the Year award four years ago to recognize feedlots that promote Angus to their customers and that feed Canadian Angus Rancher Endorsed tagged cattle.

The Canadian Angus Association is Canada's largest purebred beef breed organization. The Association represents 3,000 members across Canada for the purposes of registering and recording the pedigrees of purebred Angus cattle in the closed Herd Book and promoting the breed across Canada. The 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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For more information and photos of the award presentation, please contact:

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