

Date: April 3, 1996 by Fax

From: British Columbia Cattlemen's Association (BCCA)

To: Fred Henton, Environmental Officer, PPWC

Dear Mr. Henton:

Beef cattle producers in British Columbia, indeed all across Canada are justifiably proud of the quality and safety of the product they produce and are extremely sensitive to the importance of maintaining a high level of consumer confidence in Canadian beef and beef bi-products.

For this reason, the BCCA was both surprised and disturbed over the information contained in your letter and accompanying press release dated March 21, 1998.

Upon investigation we were able to determine that the wood fibre residue referred to was shipped to one producer in the Kamloops area who informed us that it has been accepted for use on a trial basis to feed to a small group of replacement heifers. As these animals will be used for breeding purposes, it is highly doubtful that they would find their way into the food chain for at least 10 years.

The producer informed us that the problems he encountered in trying to feed the material, palatability in particular, makes its usefulness as a feed source questionable.

Notwithstanding that, I want to ensure you that because beef cattle producers are so sensitive to adverse publicity about their management practices and/or products for the reasons I have cited, we will do all we can to discourage them and government agencies from either accepting or encouraging the use of wood fibre residue as a feed source until such time as extensive research proves beyond all doubt that the health and safety of the consuming public will in no way be compromised through its use.

I noted with interest, reference in your letter and press release to various contaminants known to exist in the pulp fibre residue. If you have any research data in this regard, I would encourage you to share it with us.

Yours very truly,

John Morrison, President

Cc: BCCA Directors

Mr. Bob Ryan, Weyerhaeuser

Mr. Graham Strachan, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food