



2011 FIVE NATIONS BEEF ALLIANCE CONFERENCE BRIEF REPORT

The 2011 Five Nations Beef Alliance Conference and Tour took place in Mexico last October 16 to 21. The Mexican cattlemen's organization, "Confederación Nacional de Organizaciones Ganaderas" (CNOG) hosted the event in Mexico City, Merida and Cancun. For the first time, a Young Ranchers Program was organized in conjunction with FNBA Conference.

The program initiated in Mexico City with the **"Opening Session"**.

CNOG presented their different programs such as Insurance Fund, National Certification Agency, Beef Distribution Center and National Cattle ID System.

Saul Mercado talked about the mission and objectives of FNBA including a description of the Young Ranchers Program.

Led by Oswaldo Cházaro, President of CNOG, the leaders of the other four organizations made opening remarks.

The Conference was officially opened by the Secretary of Agriculture of Mexico, Lic. Francisco Mayorga, who praised the role of the Alliance on its efforts to become the unified voice of beef producers in the world. Mr. Mayorga expressed his support for the Young Ranchers Program promoted by the Alliance.



Dr. Everardo Gonzalez Padilla, Oswaldo Cházaro, Secretary of Agriculture Francisco Mayorga and Dr. Salvador Alvarez

After the initial session and opening ceremony, the Young Ranchers group had a round table discussion at the Canadian Embassy. Young producers from Mexico, Canada, the United States and New Zealand presented their perspectives of their country cattle industries and shared information on their own operations.



Young Ranchers round table: Ansen Pond, J.W. Wood, Holly Foster and James Mortensen

The following two days, the group traveled in the Yucatan Peninsula visiting cattle farms and meeting with local ranchers and officials. Participants had the opportunity to visit important archeological sites like Chichen Itza in the area as well.

FNBA delegates and young ranchers learned about cattle management practices in the Mexican tropical environment. We visited San Diego Ranch owned by Ismael Charruf. He feeds commercial cows and heifers on rotational pastures with some feed and mineral supplementation. Most of the animals are Cebu breeds with some Braunvieh blood.

Diego Monge and Hector Cortes, owner and manager of San Rafael Ranch respectively hosted the group as well. They run a cattle operation in about 2000 hectares with 4 separate herds of different Cebu breeds: Nelore, Guzerat, Gyr and Brahman. Ranchers from the area brought some of their bulls and made an exhibition for the group.



Guzerat cattle in San Rafael Ranch, Yucatan.



Looking at Braunvieh bulls at San Rafael Ranch, Yucatan

The third farm visited was Yodzonot Ranch of Jorge Diaz. Jorge also invited producers from the region who brought some of their best animals to exhibit.



JD. Alexander, James Parsons, Bill Donald, Travis Toews, Oswaldo Cházaro, Andrew Ogilvie and Martin Unrau at Yodzonot Ranch, Yucatan

The actual FNBA Conference took place in Cancun on Thursday and Friday. The main topics on the agenda were:

- Sustainable Beef Production
- Animal ID and Traceability systems
- International Standards
- Young Ranchers Program
- FNBA expansion

On sustainability, a consensus was reached to work together with a unified voice representing the beef producers of the world and to take a more proactive role in leading the policies rather than reacting to some other organizations initiatives.

The attendees approved to continue holding the Young Ranchers Program in conjunction with the FNBA Conference. It was also agreed to change the frequency of the Conference from every 18 months to every 12 months. The next one will be hosted by Canadian Cattlemen's Association in Canada in September 2012.

A Position Statement was written and signed by the leaders of the five organizations at the end of the Conference.



Andrew Ogilvie, vice president of Cattle Council Australia, Travis Toews, president of Canadian Cattlemen's Association, Oswaldo Cházaro, President of Confederación Nacional de Organizaciones Ganaderas de Mexico, James Parsons, director of Beef+Lamb New Zealand and Bill Donald, president of National Cattlemen's Beef Association of the United States.