



Canadian Cattlemen's Association

News Release

Calgary firm leads development of BIXS 2

August 9, 2013

Calgary, AB – The Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA) has contracted Arcurve Inc, a Canadian-based software development firm, to create the next version of the Beef InfoXchange System (BIXS). The first of a sequence of releases of 'BIXS 2' is targeted for the fall of 2013 with each successive release offering additional benefits to BIXS participants. The first release will emphasize easy import and export of data and a tool to help purchasers source important animal attributes within the beef supply chain.

Arcurve was the successful bidder in a rigorous request-for-proposals process that solicited responses from software development firms across North America. "Our team is excited to be working with such an experienced, professional and motivated group as Arcurve," says Larry Thomas, BIXS national coordinator.

"We are very pleased to have been selected by CCA to work on the innovative and exciting evolution of BIXS," says Jay Gohill, President of Arcurve Inc. "We look forward to bringing our technical expertise together with the knowledge at CCA to deliver a state of the art solution for the industry."

Last winter the BIXS team began a process to evaluate the current version of BIXS to pinpoint shortcomings and decide on a pathway forward. The team interviewed commercial beef industry software development and service firms, packers, feedlots, retail interests, existing value chains and others to discover the precise benefits needed from BIXS. This feedback was used to build a specification of the next version of BIXS.

BIXS 2 will be smaller and more nimble than the current version. It will be easier and quicker for users to get onto and get data in and out of. Import and export functionality will be improved and it will handle many thousands of users and millions of records. BIXS 2 will key only on cross-segment data of economic importance and avoid duplicating existing commercial software systems and services. And the next version will enable blind queries using a Sourcer Utility, which enables cross-segment communication based on individual animal or carcass data or health and management protocols.

The new version will be animal-centric where actions are applied to animals and recorded across their lifetime up to detailed carcass data acquisition. BIXS 2 will be built for quick, effective and reliable interfacing with existing software systems, and will be significantly less expensive to build, maintain and evolve than the current version, which is critical to the sustainability of BIXS.

"An industry-wide information sharing system remains one of the key priorities for the Canadian Cattlemen's Associations and I am encouraged with the announcement of our involvement with Arcurve," says Travis Toews, chairman of the BIXS advisory committee to the CCA Executive.

BIXS is presently funded through AAFC's Agricultural Flexibility Fund as part of Canada's Economic Action Plan.

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