

PAACO MEAT PLANT AUDITOR TRAINING AUG. 27-28 IN GUELPH

(Guelph) – July 8, 2015 – The Professional Animal Auditor Certification Organization, Inc. (PAACO) will hold a two-day Meat Plant Welfare Auditor Training Course on Aug. 27-28 in Guelph. Cooperating organizations include Farm & Food Care Ontario and the Innovative Management and Practical Animal Care Training (IMPACT) program, Cargill, Conestoga Meats, the Ontario Government and Growing Forward 2.

The training, which is the first step toward becoming a PAACO-certified meat plant welfare auditor, will include both classroom instruction at the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Farm & Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) building and on-site demonstrations and hands-on experience at Conestoga Meats (swine) and Cargill Foods (cattle). Curriculum is based on the PAACO-accredited North American Meat Institute Foundation's 2012 Recommended Animal Handling Guidelines and Audit guide, which is widely accepted by packers, restaurants and retailers.

Noted industry experts will serve as instructors for the course including Dr. Temple Grandin, PhD, president of Grandin Livestock Handling Systems; Penny Lawlis, MS, humane standards office, OMAFRA; Mike Siemens, PhD, leader of animal welfare and husbandry, Cargill; and Jennifer Woods, MS, J. Woods Livestock Services.

Participants will be tested at the end of the two-day course and after passing the examination will have a year in which to complete no less than three swine, cattle or sheep plant audits under the supervision of a PAACO meat plant certified auditor. When they have satisfactorily completed these audits, they will be officially endorsed as a PAACO certified meat plant welfare auditor.

Cost of the course is \$850 USD and registration is now open. Class size is limited so participants are encouraged to register well in advance of the July 29th deadline. The registration form and more information about the course are available through www.farmimpact.ca and www.animalauditor.org.

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PAACO is an organization of five animal professional organizations with extensive expertise on best management practices and current science in meat animal agriculture. The organization's purpose is to promote the humane treatment of animals through education and certification of animal auditors and to promote the profession of animal auditors. For more information, visit www.animalauditor.org.

Farm & Food Care Ontario is a coalition of farmers, agriculture and food partners proactively working together to ensure public trust and confidence in food and farming. Farm & Food Care provides a coordinated approach and credible information on food and farming in Ontario. For more information, visit www.farmfoodcare.org.

For further information:

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