

Cattle At NFCorp Not Diseased As Claimed By Opposition
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KUALA LUMPUR --- National Feedlot Corporation (NFCorp) today refuted allegations by DAP MP Tony Pua that its cattle are diseased citing that its products bear the Veterinary Health Mark (VHM) issued by the Department of Veterinary Services (DVS) and are of high quality.

The VHM attests that NFCorp prepares its meats under the most hygienic conditions with meat safely produced in accordance with world-class standards. The fact that MP Tony Pua has sighted test reports issued by the DVS proves that a very high standard prevails in the way NFCorp conducts its operations.

In a news release issued today, NFCorp Veterinarian Dr Md Dali bin Baba said that copper toxicity in cattle happens occasionally in the live stock business. Acute or chronic copper toxicity is encountered in most parts of the world.

"Throughout 2011, only eight from its stock of cattle suffered from copper toxicity at the National Feedlot Centre (NFC) in Gemas, Negeri Sembilan. Copper toxicity is not a disease. It is caused by higher level of copper consumption from palm kernel cakes which contain copper trace elements," he said.

NFCorp said that opposition MP Tony Pua should not be an irresponsible scaremonger and alarm the public with unwarranted negative mention of "diseased" cattle at NFCorp. Livestock farmers can attest the fact that apart from cattle, there are instances when chickens, ducks, goats, ostriches and rabbits sometimes perish prematurely in their farms.

All meat at NFCorp is sourced from animals slaughtered and thoroughly inspected, and therefore certified Halal and safe for human consumption. On the other hand, dead animals are investigated and disposed off appropriately.

"NFCorp maintains a high level of health audit on its cattle. Dead cattle on the farm are thoroughly inspected with lab tests done to determine causes, and after a post mortem carcasses are appropriately disposed," said NFCorp meat inspector and abattoir manager Mej (B) Mohamad Norbin Mohd Isa.

According to NADIS (National Animal Disease Information Service), a network of 40 veterinary practices and six veterinary colleges monitoring diseases in cattle in the UK, cattle are commonly supplemented with copper to prevent copper deficiency.

The Department of Veterinary Services adds Malaysia currently produces an annual quantity of 1.4 million tons of palm kernel cake (PKC) as a by-product in the milling of palm kernel oil.

Suitability of PKC as feed for cattle has been much proven. Invariably, it has become the basic feed in most rations for fattening cattle in feedlots. It is also the primary constituent supplementary feed for dairy cattle, mixed together with other ingredients such as ground maize and soybean meal.

NFCorp reassures members of the public that the company has in its employ a fully qualified veterinarian and two meat inspectors at its abattoir, one of whom has more than 35 years experience in his field, to ensure quality hygienically-prepared beef is delivered.

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