

China: July 25 to Aug 4, 2018

I had an opportunity to visit china this summer.

Dr. Karen Schwartzkopf-Genswein called me in June and asked if I would like to speak at a symposium hosted by Dr. Meng, an animal nutrition expert at the China Agricultural University in Beijing. I jumped at the chance.

In addition to Karen, an animal welfare researcher at Agriculture and Agri-Food Research Centre in Lethbridge, my traveling partners included several representatives from the Canadian Beef Breeds Council (CBBC):

Garner Deobald, Former President, CBBC  
Michael Latimer, Executive Director, CBBC;  
Dr. Doug Mann, President, Canadian Hereford Association  
Stephen Scott, Executive Director, Canadian Hereford Association  
Melanie Reekie, General Manager, Canadian Charolais Association  
Bruce Holmquist, General Manager, Canadian Simmental Association  
Brian Good, Director, Canadian Angus Association

Anne Brunet-Burgess, General Manager, Canadian Cattle Identification Agency also presented.

The title of my presentation was *'Selling Cattle at Live Auction: Why & How?'* During the presentation I explained how many, and which kinds, of cattle come through live auctions in Alberta. I also described the physical and financial processes that occur while animals are counted, fed, sorted and sold. In addition, I highlighted some of the regulations that Auctions in Alberta are required to follow. Finally, and only briefly, I touched on video and internet auctions. The presentation was made that much better because Dr. Wiu, a counterpart of our host, had been in Canada recently, and toured Olds Auction Market while here.



Once the symposium had ended, our hosts graciously toured us through some of China's great cultural sites including the Forbidden City and Tiananmen Square (see Chairman Mao's portrait on next page) in Beijing, the historic city of Xi'an (home of the Terra Cotta Warriors) and the Great Wall of China. We were treated to numerous feasts, both western and Chinese. Most special of all, because this would not be included in a general tour, were visits to animal production facilities, grocery stores and restaurants.



A yak from western China

Visit to a local beef farm

Deer antler harvest

Chinese cattle breed

China: July 25 to Aug 4, 2018



Hot Pot with thin beef slices in Xi'an



Me & chicken feet?!



Street Food: Grilled lamb at a bazaar



Fanbo: raman noodles

Only recently was I informed that our hosts will be touring Canada in September. The delegation will include Dr. Meng (our host), his son Fanbo (our main tour guide) and roughly 18 representatives from a variety of beef businesses in China. They plan to see several cities including Ottawa, Calgary, and a side trip to Lethbridge. While not confirmed, the Chinese Minister of Agriculture, Han Changfu, may also attend some or all of the tour.

