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PRESS RELEASE

Ministry of Agriculture Consults Stakeholders on Proposed Beef Processing Facility

Belmopan, October 15, 2026.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and New Growth Industries today held a high-level stakeholder consultation at the Ministry's headquarters in Belmopan. Discussions focused on a proposed investment opportunity in a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)-certified beef processing facility to be established in the Fireburn area in the Orange Walk District.

The consultation brought together representatives from key government ministries, regulatory authorities, agricultural institutions, industry organizations, as well as other relevant stakeholders. Participants examined the preliminary investment proposal, discuss the requirements for its potential implementation, and explore opportunities for interagency collaboration in support of the continued development of Belize's livestock sector.

The proposed facility is being advanced by prospective investors Mr. Richard Caines, Mrs. Susie Caines, and Mr. Tanner Queen. They presented their preliminary investment plan and outlined their vision for establishing a modern beef processing operation capable of supporting Belize's goals of strengthening its beef industry and pursuing expanded access to international markets.

The proposed investment represents a potential milestone in the continued modernization of Belize's livestock industry. As the country seeks to increase agricultural productivity, strengthen value-added processing, and expand export opportunities, the development of appropriate processing infrastructure is an important milestone in enhancing the competitiveness and long-term sustainability of the beef sector.

A modern beef processing facility designed to meet applicable international standards would help address critical requirements associated with meat processing, food safety, animal health, traceability, quality assurance, and export market compliance. Subject to the necessary technical assessments, regulatory approvals, and applicable USDA and importing-country requirements, the proposed facility could create opportunities for Belize to pursue access to the U.S. and other international markets.

Expanded processing capacity and improved access to export markets could also provide additional opportunities for local cattle producers, livestock farmers, transport operators, processors, and other businesses throughout the agricultural value chain.

The consultation was attended by Hon. Rodwell Ferguson, Minister of Agriculture, Food Security and New Growth Industries, and CEO Servulo Baeza, along with key personnel from the Ministry of Agriculture. Representatives from relevant investment and environmental authorities also participated, including the Office of the Prime Minister, the Belize Agricultural Health Authority (BAHA), the Belize Livestock Producers Association (BLPA), the Central Building Authority (CBA), and other key stakeholders.

The Ministry of Agriculture continues to recognize the importance of strategic investments that strengthen agricultural production, improve value-chain efficiency, expand market access, and create economic opportunities for Belizean farmers and businesses.

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