



NEWS LINE

For Release December 10, 2008

Resource Teams are in Place Across the Province

It's all about producers reaching out to help fellow producers. The livestock care ALERT line is operated by Alberta Farm Animal Care (AFAC) and with the arrival of colder weather and financial challenges, AFAC ALERT coordinator Mikki Shatosky reminds livestock owners that help is available should the need arise.

"We have resource team members across the province. We can send them out and they'll have a look, or give the producer a call just to see what's going on. Producers can call in themselves and say they need a helping hand and we'll give them a hand dealing with their livestock. We also have an on-call vet who will come out and have a look to assure animals are being cared for," says Shatosky.

The resource team members only participate based on the consent of the owner. A team is dispatched quickly once a call is received. There's confidentiality for both the caller and owner of the animals. Shatosky adds, "We're there for the livestock. We really want to make sure they're cared for."

"A lot of calls we get are from people who don't understand what the farmer is doing and how he cares for his livestock. They can phone in and say there's a horse out in the field and we feel that he's not being care for. The dispatcher will talk to them and explain how farmers care for their animals and that helps as well. It's also an information line. The ALERT line number to report animal welfare concerns is 1-800-506-2273."

--PLEASE CALL 1-800-468-7021 TOLL-FREE FOR VOICE CLIPS --

AFAC scripts and clips are also available at www.afac.ab.ca

Clip No. 1:

It's all about producers helping producers. The ALERT line is operated by Alberta Farm Animal Care (AFAC). Mikki Shatoski, ALERT coordinator, says there have been many stories of how one call has helped animals and their owners:
(21... "there.")

Clip No. 2:

Shatosky says poor animal care is often unintended. With the arrival of colder weather and snow, problems may occur in feeding and watering the animals:

(15... "for.")

Clip No. 3:

The ALERT line also provides a valuable service to help inform the public, adds Shatosky:

(16... "as well.")

The ALERT line number to report animal welfare concerns is 1-800-506-2273.

For further information contact:

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Be Aware.

Animal Care is Everyone's Responsibility.