



NEWS LINE

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Winter Livestock Grazing Needs

With the number of cattle and horses out on pasture or swath grazing this winter the concern becomes one of frozen feed and water supplies. Doug Sawyer, chairman of Alberta Farm Animal Care says, “producers need to check their livestock on a regular basis to make sure they are getting the water and feed value they need.” He says “this winter has seen temperatures fluctuate from warm to extremely cold resulting in areas where water and reserve feed supplies have frozen in.”

Sawyer emphasizes that regardless of where the winter temperatures go clean, fresh water is still an essential nutrient. While water consumption goes down in the colder weather, it does not disappear. Sawyer says, “snow can be a water supplement but ice or ice crust on snow presents a real problem for grazing livestock.”

Sawyer suggests that producers contact their local Alberta Agriculture representative or feed company to help work out solutions to their winter grazing issues. “Adding to the pressure,” Sawyer says, “has been the economic slump, the lack of a market for horses and the high cost of feed.”

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

Clip No. 1:

Sawyer discusses some of the grazing issues facing producers this winter and where they can get help:
(28... “...area.”)

Clip No. 2:

Sawyer talks about the challenges of using snow as a water source for livestock:
(12... “froze now.”)

Clip No. 3:

Checking regularly on the condition of pastured livestock is essential Sawyer says:
(21... “what’s happening.”)

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Animal Care is Everyone’s Responsibility.