



# NEWS LINE

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## Segregation of cattle herd should start now

Cattle producers should not let the fine fall weather lull them into a false sense of security. "Even now it is important to regularly check the cattle, check the water supply, feed availability and shelter and bedding, if and when that [weather] becomes a factor," says Reynold Bergen, Alberta Beef Producers animal health and welfare manager. He adds, "Keep an eye on animal body condition scores so that if any animals are going down hill, or if feed supplies are really getting short, the animals can be pulled and fed stored feed at home."

Bergen feels segregation of the herd is important. He explains that in many cases when welfare issues are identified, a lot of problems could have been prevented by appropriate segregation. Mature cows are generally the best equipped to deal with cold and pregnancy. Old cows are wearing out so they have a harder time dealing with the cold. Young heifers are still growing resulting in higher energy and feed requirements. Segregating the herd's mature cows versus the old cows versus the young growing heifers is highly recommended.

Bergen encourages anyone to call the toll-free Alberta Farm Animal Care (AFAC) ALERT line if they have concerns about livestock care. "This is a confidential advice line where producers who have welfare or management concerns in their own operation, or in another herd, can call to get expert assistance either from fellow producers or from veterinarians. The toll-free number 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](http://www.afac.ab.ca)

#### **Clip No. 1:**

The fine fall weather should not lull cattle producers into a false sense of security says Reynold Bergen, Alberta Beef Producers animal health and welfare manager. He points out there are still extreme dry conditions, poor water conditions and fairly poor feed conditions in many parts of the province:

(20... "home.")

#### **Clip No. 2:**

Bergen says segregation of the herd is important, even at this time of the year:

(18... "recommended.")

#### **Clip No. 3:**

In the event of any concerns involving animal welfare Bergen reminds everyone to remember the Alberta Farm Animal Care (AFAC) ALERT line:

(veterinarians.)

The ALERT line number is 1-800-506-2273.

**For further information contact:**

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