

November

RCMP Livestock Investigator warns of ice dangers

Farmers and ranchers need to be even more vigilant around sloughs and dugouts this winter due to higher levels of water. “All of a sudden we got a cold snap. Livestock that are wandering around walk out onto the ice as if it’s just kind of normal, as in years past. We’ve had some incidents where livestock have broken through the ice,” says RCMP Corporal Dave Heaslip (pr. Hesslip), northern Alberta K Division Livestock Investigator.

He warns existing ice is still very unstable and unsafe “It’s not just our livestock - we’ve got to be vigilant with regards to ourselves, with machinery and with our children playing on the ice. Be ever more vigilant. Be aware that the water levels are high. Ice isn’t as thick as it will be in another couple of weeks or a month.”

Heaslip suggests an immediate call be made to 911 in the event livestock goes though the ice. He points out many rural community fire departments are well versed through their training and expertise, adding they know what to do in these situations.

He also has a message to all livestock owners. “Keep an eye on animals for any signs they may be suffering. There’s an abundance of hay, grain and straw so there should be no excuses for not feeding your critters and keeping them nice and warm.”

In order to quickly deal with a problem, the public is asked to call the ALERT Line (1-800-506-2273) should there be any concern of an animal in distress.

Clip No. 1:

Be vigilant - think safety first. Increased water levels in sloughs and dugouts prompt this message from RCMP Corporal Dave Heaslip, northern Alberta K Division Livestock Investigator:

(10... “unsafe.”)

Clip No. 1:

Heaslip refers to livestock that are wandering in the fields:

(15... “that.”)

Clip No. 3:

Should a livestock owner have the unfortunate incident of livestock falling through the ice, immediately call 911, adds Heaslip:

(12... “this.”)

Clip No. 4:

He also expresses his thoughts on the well-being of animals this winter and says there is no reason for them to suffer because of lack of feed:

(10... “critters.”)

In order to quickly deal with a problem, the public is asked to call the ALERT Line (1-800-506-2273), should there be any concern about an animal in distress.

This story is brought to you by Alberta Farm Animal Care in partnership with the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association.

For further information contact:

Lorna Baird, Executive Director

(403) 662-8050