



NEWS LINE

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ALERT Line provides valuable service to Alberta's livestock industry

The Alberta Farm Animal Care (AFAC) mandate is to promote responsible animal care. AFAC introduced the ALERT Line (1-800-506-2273) in 1996. This is a 24 hour, seven day a week phone line that encourages anyone who has livestock concerns to call. It is also available to assist those producers who are experiencing problems in caring for their animals.

“Our goal is to intervene before animals are in distress,” says Pam Miller, ALERT Line coordinator. “ALERT Line vets, resource teams and industry personnel are prepared to give non-confrontational counsel to producers in need of crisis management advice.”

The ALERT Line is unique to Alberta. The role is not to alleviate pain or sickness but to provide advice and recommendations for management problems. The veterinarians and resource teams can only enter a property with the owner's permission.

Miller explains that Livestock Care veterinarians must immediately turn the case over to the SPCA if there are a number of dead animals, animals in distress or if the owner is uncooperative. She adds, “AFAC has a unique working relationship with the Alberta SPCA. ALERT Resource team members and Livestock Care vets are available to provide the SPCA with professional expertise and experience that can help resolve reported concerns before enforcement action becomes necessary.”

Clip No. 1: The Alberta Farm Animal Care (AFAC) mandate is to promote responsible animal care. Pam Miller, AFAC ALERT Line coordinator, explains how the valuable service works:

(18... “animals.”)

Miller says the goal is to intervene before animals are in distress.

Clip No. 2: AFAC has established a comprehensive team, adds Miller:

(21... “problems.”)

The ALERT Line service is unique to Alberta. Veterinarians and resource teams may only go onto a property with the owner's permission.

Clip No. 3: Miller explains Livestock Care veterinarians must immediately turn cases over to the SPCA if a number of dead animals are found or the owner is uncooperative:

(17... “experience.”)

The ALERT Line service is producers helping producers to address livestock care concerns before farm animals are in distress.

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

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