



*For immediate release*  
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**AFAC develops new *Term Care Agreement for Livestock:*  
A contract template for livestock producers choosing to graze or feed their herds off their farm.**

The Alberta Farm Animal Care Association (AFAC) has developed a contract template designed to assist livestock producers who relocate their animals to areas with better feed and grazing. Relocation or liquidation of livestock inventories that have taken decades to develop are just two of the tough decisions that Alberta producers have faced as a result of consecutive years of drought. This contract template addresses the proper care of relocated animals.

“This past spring the AFAC ALERT Line and the Ag-info Centre received calls from a number of livestock producers whose animals were returned from lease-care agreements in far worse physical condition than when they left,” says Tim O’Byrne, Calico Beef Consulting & AFAC Consultant. Inadequate arrangements, often no more than a handshake deal, have left owners in difficult situations. They are often unable to recoup the losses of animals returned in poor condition.

“There are several contract templates already available for cattle lease-out arrangements,” explains Susan Church, AFAC Manager, “but none spell out the actual liabilities of each party under the provincial Animal Protection Act and applicable federal laws.” AFAC’s contract template clearly defines who is responsible for the care, and ultimately the physical condition of the livestock. “Producers who send livestock out of province need to understand that the law of the area in which they are feeding or grazing supersedes that of their province of origin,” says Church. “This contract template references passages from federal law and the laws relevant to BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.”

The Alberta **Animal Protection Act** states that a “*person ordinarily in charge of*” an animal shall not cause or permit it to be in distress. This means the responsibility falls upon the shoulders of the person who has agreed to feed or graze the livestock. “Our contract template allows for verification of the physical condition of the animals when they leave the farm of origin, assessment during the term care period and evaluation when they leave the term caretaker’s facility,” O’Byrne adds. “It also identifies the responsibility of each caretaking component, from the veterinarian protocol right down to salt blocks, and assigns each one to an individual named in the contract. There is no second guessing.”

The contract template is available by phoning the Alberta Agriculture, Food & Rural Development **Ag-Info Centre** at 1-866-882-7677, AFAC at 403 932-8050 or download it from AFAC’s website at [www.afac.ab.ca](http://www.afac.ab.ca)

AFAC is supported by Alberta’s livestock industry to promote responsible animal care.

To report concerns about livestock care call:

**Animal Care ALERT Line 1-800-506-CARE (2273)**

Contact: Tim O’Byrne, Calico Beef Consulting at (706) 566-1456  
Susan Church, AFAC Manager office at (403) 932-8051

[www.afac.ab.ca](http://www.afac.ab.ca)