

## AFAC Board & Membership Update

Updates to AFAC Board membership include:

- The **University of Alberta** is now a permanent board member. The U of A has been an Active member for several years.
- The **Alberta Association of Animal Health Technologist** joined as Associate members. AAAHT has a membership of over 800 AHTs.
- **Olds College**, a long time Associate member, is now an Active member of AFAC.
- **Alberta Cattle Feeders' Association**, an AFAC Active member, is now represented on AFAC's board with Gilbert Schmidt as Director at Large.

AFAC's board members elected executive officers following the AGM in March:

- **Terry Church**, representing Alberta Elk and Bison Producers, was elected chairman. Dr. Church manages the Canadian Rocky Mountain Ranch with herds of about 400 elk, 100 bison and 55 caribou. He is past chair of the Canadian Cervid Council. He received the *AFAC Award of Distinction for Innovation* in 2003 for the development of the elk velvet removal certification. In his former role as Director of Animal Industry with Alberta Agriculture and Food, he was instrumental in working with the industry to form AFAC.
- **Duane Landals**, representing the AVMA was re-elected vice-chairman. He is Registrar for AVMA, has been a rural practitioner for over 25 years, is owner of a veterinary practice at Morinville, is past president of CVMA and is the North American representative for Canada to the World Veterinary Association and Chair of the 29th World Veterinary Congress.
- **Brian Chomlak**, representing the Alberta Sheep and Wool Commission, joins Duane and Terry on AFAC's executive. He is on the board of the ASWC and is a past director on the Alberta Beef Producer's board. He is Vice Chairman of the Myrnam Agricultural Society, participates in the Vermillion River Watershed Group, the UFA Advisory Committee and the Myrnam 4-H club. Brian and his wife Liz have a mixed farming operation with cattle, sheep, poultry and horses.

the  
livestock  
industry  
working  
together for  
responsible  
livestock care.



Mark your calendars  
**AFAC's Livestock Care  
Conference**  
**Friday, April 4, 2008**  
at the Black Knight Inn, Red Deer

**afac.ab.ca**

### AFAC Board Members

Alberta Auction Markets Association  
Alberta Chicken Producers  
Alberta Equestrian Federation\*  
Alberta Pork  
Alberta Veterinary Medical Association  
Wild Rose Agricultural Producers

Alberta Beef Producers  
Alberta Egg Producers  
Alberta Hatching Egg Producers  
Alberta Sheep & Wool Commission  
University of Alberta  
Alberta Agriculture and Food

Alberta Cattle Feeders' Association\*  
Alberta Elk  
Alberta Milk  
Alberta Turkey Producers  
Western Stock Growers Association

### AFAC Active Members

Alberta Association of Ag Societies  
Canada/Alberta Livestock Research Trust  
Feeder Associations of Alberta Ltd.  
North American Equine Ranching Information Council

Alberta Poultry Hatchery Association  
Canadian Professional Rodeo Association  
Horse Racing Alberta

Bison Producers of Alberta  
Edmonton Northlands  
Lakeland College  
Olds College

\*Active Member on Board

## Conference puts spotlight on progress

### LIVESTOCK CARE CONFERENCE

Fresh ideas and perspectives to drive continued progress for Alberta's livestock industry in supporting animal care were the focus of the **Livestock Care Conference**, March 23, in Red Deer, hosted by Alberta Farm Animal Care (AFAC).

The conference kicked off with a presentation on how animal welfare should be viewed not only on the basis of science, but as a combination of science and ethics. This was delivered by **Dr. Ray Stricklin** of the University of Maryland animal science department, who has been involved with animal welfare related teaching, research and policy activities for over 25 years.



“There is an argument that science alone should be the basis of dealing with animal welfare, but I disagree,” says Stricklin. “As a livestock industry, we want to do what is right for the animals, for the environment and for the public at large. In that sense, science and ethics should always overlap and we should not give up the moral high ground to critics of the industry by focusing on science alone. We care about our animals and we care about doing the right thing – that’s what ethics is all about.”

Providing an international perspective on how livestock industries are responding to new expectations for animal care was **Dr. Joe Stookey** of the Western College of Veterinary Medicine, who shared his recent observations of animal welfare practices, industry programs and Codes of Welfare in New Zealand.

“New Zealand has 39 million sheep, 9.6 million cattle and just 4 million people, all in an area 2.5 times smaller than Saskatchewan,” says Stookey.

“They also have a tourism industry that generates \$5.9 billion annually. As a result, they are very good at implementing programs and practices that place them in a positive light from a global viewpoint.”

An update on how research is leading toward improvements for assessing animal welfare at the on-farm level was delivered by **Dr. Tina Widowski** of the University of Guelph, a leading animal behaviour and welfare researcher. Widowski’s current research focuses on how housing and management practices affect the physiology, behaviour and welfare of pigs, poultry and cattle.

“When we perform on farm assessments, we can’t use the expensive or time consuming techniques we use in a research

setting. So the focus is on developing more practical approaches,” says Widowski.

“One of the things we’re learning is that measures of human factors, such as quality of handling, daily care and technical skills are some of the most important indicators for animal welfare.”

A perspective on the growing need for on-farm audits and certification was offered by **Earl Dotson**, CEO of **Validus Services** (in photo), an Iowa-based company that specializes in third-party certification for farmers and food companies.

“Fifty years ago the average consumer in North America had a direct connection to agriculture, but today the vast majority are at least three generations removed from the farm,” says Dotson. “This brings a new level of challenges as consumers want assurances their food is safe and comes from animals that have been well looked after. We need to provide those assurances and to have our ‘30 second elevator speech’ ready to explain how we’re doing that.”

Helping Alberta’s livestock industry succeed in this challenging environment is a core part of the role of AFAC, an organization that has championed livestock care in Alberta through numerous industry-driven initiatives over the past 13 years, says AFAC Manager Susan Church.

*“... We care about our animals and we care about doing the right thing – that’s what ethics is all about.”*

“Alberta livestock producers are dedicated to responsible animal care and have made a lot of progress to ensure they remain leaders in this area,” says Church. “We see AFAC as a

key ‘risk management tool’ to help them keep up with developments and respond to new challenges.”

The conference agenda wrapped up with a talk on communication strategies by **Jeff Goodwin**, Director for 4-H and Youth Development at Colorado State University. “Most people are middle of the road and understand common sense when it comes to the use of animals,” says Goodwin. “As a livestock industry, we need to use this common sense as our guide and do a good job of telling our story. We are all connected in supporting the well being of animals.”

Visit [afac.ab.ca](http://afac.ab.ca) for presenter PowerPoints and articles on each presentation.

# Livestock Transport in Canada

## CERTIFIED LIVESTOCK TRANSPORTER (CLT) TRAINING PROGRAM

The first CLT *Train-the-Trainer* workshop was held at Olds College, Alberta on May 17, 2007. The program was originally developed by AFAC, in conjunction with an extensive industry advisory group. AFAC's sister groups in Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan are now involved through a joint project, *Putting Farm Animal Welfare on the Agenda*.

CLT is a comprehensive, multi-species training program for Canadian-based livestock shippers, truckers and receivers. The program covers livestock handling, loading, biosecurity and transport regulatory requirements for Canada and the U.S. It also includes instruction on recognizing and dealing with livestock not fit to be transported as well as emergency accident response. There are species-specific modules and videos for beef, hogs, sheep, horses and poultry.

Thirty-six trainers and 11 observers attended the workshop, they included representatives of feedlots, meat plants, assembly yards, trucking firms, government along with independent trainers.

- ✓ “We are in a world of continuous education and it is important for people to be aware of this reality. If I can get people to slow down, think about the animals as individuals, and their needs – then I have achieved something.” - Harvey Wagner, Sask Pork
- ✓ “CLT is not about lectures, but a two-way street of discussion between presenter and participants. The



new CLT trainers understand their audience and will customize the course according to species and location needs.” - Tim O’Byrne, the CLT program developer

- ✓ “CLT has the potential to lead to continual improvement in livestock transportation. It shows industry driving forward, positioning Canada advantageously relative to other OIE countries, and taking the lead on international standards. It would be a positive development for CLT to grow into a national program.” - Gordon Doonan, CFIA Humane Transportation Chief

Visit [www.livestocktransport.ca](http://www.livestocktransport.ca).

## PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE HEALTH OF ANIMALS TRANSPORTATION REGULATIONS

Dr. Gordon Doonan, CFIA Senior Staff Veterinarian, Humane Transportation of Animals, met with livestock industry members in Alberta in May to provide updates on the status of the proposed amendments and to discuss ongoing issues. AFAC organized the meeting.

CFIA has been collecting input for the proposal for several years. “This is not the product of pressure from animal rights groups” said Doonan. “The impetus came from within CFIA originally. Later input was provided by researchers, veterinarians, industry and animal humane organizations.” Doonan noted, “We recognize that any changes require careful consideration, but there is a sense of urgency, as certain sections do not appear to say

what they were intended to achieve.”

The regulations are not expected, or intended, to impact most individuals involved in the relocation of animals. “CFIA deals with individuals who give industry a bad name. This is who the regulations are meant to address.”

The discussion focused on three key proposed amendments: loading density, feed/water/rest, and risk factors.



Wherever possible the regulations will reflect ‘outcome-based’ measures, (i.e., there must be a negative outcome for the animal). Manitoba’s Animal Welfare Act has been referenced for its wording – Codes are referenced, but not adhering to the Code is not an offence unless there is a negative outcome for the animal.

Proposed changes to the regulations may be in Gazette 1 by autumn, at the earliest.

Jim Haggins, PIC Canada, attended the meeting and noted, “I came away from this with a great deal more comfort with the procedure ... There was a clear understanding to base decisions on ‘outcome based results’ and that was certainly encouraging.”

## ALERT Line Update

The ALERT Line coordinator handled 181 calls in the first half of 2007. Of these, 98 were informational calls and 12 were repeat calls on existing cases.

Of the 71 cases, 47 were handled by either a resource team member or the AFAC on-call veterinarian, Dr. Ray Fenton. We involved the SPCA in 35 cases. Note the increase over 2006 and 2005.

### ALERT Case Breakdown (Jan 01 - Jun 30, 2007)

Beef	34	Bison	3	Dairy	3
Horses	23	Pigs	3	Poultry	1
		Sheep	1	Other	3
<hr/>					
Total Cases					71
Repeat calls on existing cases					12
Information calls					98

### EARLY INTERVENTION NEEDED

This past winter and spring, the Alberta SPCA had to deal with an increase of cases involving herd neglect. Director of Enforcement, Morris Airey, told the AFAC board that absentee owners, aged farmers, combined with weather conditions were the main causes.

AFAC, with Alberta Beef Producers taking the lead, has stepped up awareness of the ALERT Line and will increase best management practices messaging.

## Communication Plan for the Horse Industry

### INDUSTRY POSITION

“The Alberta Equestrian Federation advocates the humane treatment of all horses and believes that the equine industry and horse owners have a responsibility to provide humane care throughout the life of the horse. AEF acknowledges that some horses are no longer serviceable, are infirm, dangerous or their owners are no longer able to care for them.

AEF recognizes that the processing of horses is a reality of the equine industry, and provides a humane alternative to allowing the horse to continue a life of discomfort and pain, inadequate care or abandonment.

AEF encourages, fosters and provides education regarding responsible ownership and management that will reduce the number of unwanted horses.

Regarding the care of horses destined for processing, the AEF’s position is that these horses should be:

- Treated humanely & with dignity;
- Transported to the production facility according to current national regulations;
- Euthanized in accordance with the guidelines adopted & published by the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association as of February 2006.”

### 2006 ALERT LINE SUMMARY

Beef	47	Bison	4
Horses	24	Pigs	2
Sheep	1	Other	6
<hr/>			
TOTAL Cases			84
Information Calls			162
TOTAL			246

### 2005 ALERT LINE SUMMARY

Beef	50	Bison	7
Dairy	2	Elk	2
Feather	2	Horse	24
Other	4	Pigs	1
<hr/>			
TOTAL Cases			92
Information Calls			158
TOTAL			250

LIVESTOCK CARE

# ALERT

Call if you have livestock care concerns

## 1-800-506-2273

afac.ab.ca

Supported by Alberta's Livestock Industry

### EQUINE WELFARE PLAN

Animal welfare has become a global issue and the impacts of recent animal activists’ actions in the US and government reactions have implications for Albertan horse owners. Thus, in an AEF / AFAC led initiative, several from the horse industry met in December 2006 “to discuss the development of an agreed upon industry strategy to manage the public pressure related to horse welfare and horse slaughter for food in Canada.”

The agreed result was to develop a collective plan, budget and funding strategy for three deliverables: an industry report / scan; a humane handling guideline booklet for horses; and a communication plan.

## Highlights from AFAC Board Meetings (Jan - Jun 07)

- ✓ U of A Ethologist Position - U of A requested industry be involved in selection process. A. Okkema accepted.
- ✓ Livestock Welfare Framework progress reviewed. Industry commitment statement approved.
- ✓ U of A Animal Policy & Welfare Committee - AFAC manager will be on this committee. Security advisories issued for new radical animal activists group at U of A.
- ✓ Pathology Consultation Program - AFAC supports program together with Alberta SPCA and on-call vet.
- ✓ Certified Livestock Transporter Training Program - Train-the-Trainer planned and delivered in May.
- ✓ Animal welfare audits - being initiated at provincial meat plants by Alberta Ag & Food (AF).
- ✓ Media training session set up by Alberta Egg in respond to anti-cage campaigns.
- ✓ AB Beef Producers launched transport benchmarking study.
- ✓ U of A Ag Faculty Animal Care and Use Committee - AFAC / community representative needed.
- ✓ Animal Transport Regulations pre-consultation process has closed. G. Doonan met with industry to update.
- ✓ Horse slaughter - AFAC board accepted AEF position
- ✓ New Compliance Principles reviewed.
- ✓ Alberta SPCA seizure and causes reviewed by board. Board Agreed early intervention a priority.
- ✓ ALERT Line - revise the voice message to re-emphasize 'confidentiality' and acceptance of anonymous calls.
- ✓ 2007 ALPS Plan reviewed by board. AF looking into how FOIP effects ALPS / ALERT / SPCA.
- ✓ Red Deer Emergency Response Program and new trailer reviewed. AFAC to fund training component.
- ✓ Research funds - uptake has been limited and the need to increase per project limit approved by board.

## AFAC & Industry

AFAC received requests to attend, supply materials and / or present at producer and industry events. Some include:

- |  |                                      |                                   |
|--|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ✓ Wild Rose Ag Producers AGM           | ✓ Ranching Opportunities, Crossfield | ✓ Central AB Safe Communities AGM |
| ✓ AB Horse Owners + Breeders Conf      | ✓ Future Farmers, Rock the Farm      | ✓ CDN Beef & Pork Schools         |
| ✓ Cattlemen's Corral, Lloydminster     | Conference, Red Deer                 | ✓ AB Equestrian Federation AGM    |
| ✓ Banff Pork Seminar                   | ✓ Beef Industry Conference           | ✓ California Farm Bureau          |
| ✓ Raising Cows / Raising Profits,      | ✓ Cattle Industry Council mtgs       | ✓ AB Association of Animal Health |
| ✓ R. Chisholm Ltd. - customized Beef + | ✓ Auction Market AGM                 | Technologists                     |
| Pork School                            | ✓ Poultry Industry Conference        |                                   |

## Purchasing Changes Announced

Since January 2007, major US and Canadian companies and institutions have announced changes to their purchasing policies that relate to animal production practices.

- ✓ Wendy's International Inc. will give preferential treatment to pork and chicken suppliers who adhere to enhanced animal welfare standards: suppliers that don't use gestation stalls; and broiler suppliers that use controlled atmosphere stunning.
- ✓ Burger King - will be buying eggs and pork from supplies that do not confine animals in cages or stalls. They will favor broiler suppliers that use gas or controlled atmosphere stunning.
- ✓ Maple Leaf Foods - will, over the next 10 years, phase out the use of sow gestation stalls in favour of group housing.
- ✓ Some Canadian universities and one city announced they will only buy cage-free eggs. The industry in Canada successfully convinced some facilities to offer 'choice' and encouraged them to learn more about industry.

AFAC prepared some notes to help respond. Key points include:

- Livestock farmers in Alberta raise their livestock using humane methods that meet the needs of each and every animal. These methods are varied and include stalls, group housing, free-run, free-range and outside raised animals. Provision of safe food is a must. Ensuring our animals are free from distress caused by harsh weather, predators and disease is vital.
- Industry practices are always evolving. New on-farm animal care assessment tools look at animal outcomes, or the well being of the animal, not the type of system the animals are raised in. They recognize the diversity of systems and more importantly, different husbandry practices.

## Animal Welfare at Olds College

AFAC asked Peggy Johnson, Ag Production Instructor for over 20 years, to tell us about the animal welfare programming at Olds College.

**AFAC: How is 'animal welfare' presented at Olds?**

**Peggy Johnson:** I coordinated the course AnSC 327-Animal Welfare. It is a 35 hour, 3 credit course that emphasizes the application of critical thinking when considering animal welfare issues. The course is recognized by the University of Alberta as one of the courses that is available for transfer of credits to the university.

**AFAC: Is it mandatory or a prerequisite for other courses?**

**PJ:** Although not a prerequisite for other courses, the Animal Welfare course is a **mandatory course** for students in the Animal Health Technology Program and the Livestock major of the Agricultural Production and Management Program. There are also international students and students from the Equine Program who choose this course. The class consists of about 60 students per year.

**AFAC: What key things are covered?**

**PJ:** The course begins with students doing a self evaluation of their views regarding the use of animals in society. Then students appraise an animal's welfare status based on The Five Freedoms. The course core includes a critical thinking approach to issues arising from the use of animals for entertainment, human food and pharmaceutical research and wildlife issues related to animal welfare.

In order to focus on current examples, several classes are led by industry guest speakers. Each student must choose a unique animal welfare issue and write an extensive critical thinking paper, which they post on WebCT to be read by their peers.

**AFAC: When was it started? Why?**

**PJ:** The course was first offered in 1993. The Canadian public was becoming more concerned about animal welfare issues at that time. Currently, the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association states that animal welfare advocacy is a priority, so to teach a Livestock Program or an Animal Health Program without an animal welfare component would be providing an incomplete education for our students.

**AFAC: How has it changed since its inception? How many students have taken it?**

**PJ:** AnSc 327 -Animal Welfare has grown from an idea and a course description to a **complete module that includes twenty five competencies related to animal welfare**. Students research the issues, sort the facts from the opinions, and make decisions based on the facts. In this information age, sorting the facts from opinions related to animal welfare



is not a small feat. Since its inception, over 600 students have successfully completed the course.

**AFAC: What issues are you challenged on by students? What debates do the students have amongst themselves?**

**PJ:** Many of the students in this class have not met before, so it takes some time to trust each other enough to speak out and share experiences or ask tough questions. Although not program specific, this student group represents about a 50:50 rural / urban split. It has been my observation that animal welfare perceptions of individuals can be very different based on your prior experiences and upbringing.

Managing this diversity and encouraging students to voice their opinions is a challenge. For example rural students may identify gophers as pests that threaten crops and may cause their valued livestock to break a leg, while urban students may see gophers as sentient beings that are part of a natural ecosystem and food for birds of prey. When considering a kind death for a gopher which is more humane, a 22 bullet, being run over by a vehicle and being cannibalized by another gopher or being killed by a hawk? In the debate the opinions are equally valid. The challenge is to get students to accept each others point of view.

**AFAC: What key lessons do students come away with?**

**PJ:** The key lessons are to listen and appreciate other viewpoints, to seek out the facts and to use the facts in animal welfare debates, and as a basis for decisions. Animal industries are under increasing public scrutiny, and while we care deeply about animals and animal care, that's not how we are often perceived by the public.

**AFAC: How does this help / impact industry?**

**PJ:** Animal industries require the support of the general public. They purchase our products and services; they live in our communities and are our neighbors. We need to make good decisions regarding animal care, and to positively influence public perceptions about animal welfare. We need students going into the work force who understand this.

## 4-H Livestock Welfare Project

This three year project included updating the *4-H Learning about Animal Welfare* (L.A.W.) program and the delivery of *Livestock Handling for Youth* workshops to 4-H members throughout Alberta. ALIDF provided funding support.

The L.A.W. program, originally written by AFAC in 1995, was updated and a horse component was completed. The content built upon AFAC's teacher / student resources. All Alberta 4-H livestock project books distributed now include the L.A.W. program. There are over 8,000 members in beef and horse projects each year in Alberta. The L.A.W. program was adapted for use by AFAC's sister organizations in Saskatchewan and Ontario.

AFAC delivered 31 *Livestock Handling for Youth* workshops to over 850 Alberta 4-H members and parents.

Following is a summary of the workshop evaluations:

- ✓ 97% agree they will be able to handle livestock more safely and humanely after attending a workshop.

- ✓ The top things attendees listed as lessons learned include:
  1. Handling techniques (Flight Zone, Point of Balance, etc.)
  2. Animal behaviour (instincts, dominant aggression, etc.)
  3. Recognizing illness, injury & distress
  4. Livestock first aid
- ✓ 95% indicated they would share the information learned and materials with family, friends and other 4-H members either through showing the materials or educating, correcting or demonstrating lessons learned.

AFAC has a new **Agriculture Youth** page. This page, [afac.ab.ca/youth.htm](http://afac.ab.ca/youth.htm), offers livestock handling video clips and materials accessible 24/7. It enables us to expand the livestock handling message beyond the 4-H members who attended the workshops to all youth involved with livestock in Alberta.

## California Farm Bureau Federation

AFAC's manager was asked to provide the California Farm Bureau's Animal Health & Welfare Committee with insight into who, why, what and how of AFAC. The group was most interested in the ALERT Line, on-call veterinary service, humane handling guidelines and that action is industry-driven.

Pictured is Ria de Grassi, CFBF Director of National Affairs and Research with some members of the CFBF Animal Health and Welfare Committee.



## Appointments

### JENNIFER WOODS

AFAC's livestock handling consultant, Jennifer Woods, has been elected to the international Animal Transportation Association Board of Directors. She also took over the position as the Chairman of the Livestock Committee for the association.



### DEREK HALEY

Congratulations to Dr. Derek Haley on his recent appointment with the University of Alberta's Faculty of Agriculture, Food & Nutrition. As Assistant Professor of Applied Animal Behaviour, Derek will be teaching undergrad and grad students, doing research and continuing to offer extension services, working closely with AFAC and Alberta's livestock industry.



Plan to Attend  
**NFACC's 1<sup>st</sup> National Farm Animal Care & Welfare Conference**

September 20 & 21, 2007

Ottawa, Ontario

visit [nfacc.ca](http://nfacc.ca) for details

## Animal Activist Update

### Violent threats against Iowa livestock operation increase

07 Mar 26, *Meatingplace.com* ... The Coalition to Support Iowa's Farmers has identified at least seven significant acts of violence and threats against farms since August, including a dozen cows being gunned down and a fire that destroyed a 370-head hog nursery in what might have been arson.

"We have certainly noticed an escalation in the more violent, threatening types of reports," Aaron Putze, executive director of the coalition.

Putze said hog producers expanding their operations have been the primary targets, although cattle producers have been victims as well. No arrests have been made in the cases, although investigators believe the attacks are the work of locals rather than outside groups. "We don't have any trends that we've identified in the past year or two that would suggest there is any organized effort to attack factory farms or large-scale hog operations," Jim Saunders of the Iowa Department of Public Safety told the Associated Press.

"It could be that farmers are more comfortable reporting incidents these days," Putze said. "But the real question is what is the motivation behind this?"

### Crack down on animal rights extremists, prosecutor vows

23 Mar 07, *Meatingplace.com* ... Federal prosecutor Richard Solano, who once served in the Terrorism Unit at the U.S. attorney's office, served notice to animal rights activists that recent passage of the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act means the federal government has every intention of prosecuting activists who intimidate, stalk and harass with the intention of shuttering farms, ranches, research labs and other facilities that use and care for animals.

"First Amendment rights end when people cross the line from protest to threatening and intimidating others in hopes of getting them to stop their business or quit their jobs," he said during a talk at the Animal Agriculture Alliance Stakeholders Summit in Arlington, Va.

### Farmer found 'not guilty' in animal cruelty charges

11 June 07, *meatnews.com* ... In a blow to animal rights fanatics who believe that animals are not humans to eat, own, or use, Glenn Esbenshade, a law-abiding, tax-paying, job providing farmer in Pennsylvania, and a manager on his farm, was found not guilty of animal cruelty in a case instigated by a Washington, DC-based animal rights group, states a news release.

The case came about because, allegedly under false pretenses, a young man applied for a job on the farm then reportedly took more than two hours of video in the layer houses that possibly included intentionally posed scenes, the news release adds. He then reportedly turned it over to vegan activist group Compassion Over Killing (COK). The COK extremists carefully edited the video and they presented it to Humane Officer Johnna Seeton, who has been sympathetic to other animal rights causes.

Seeton brought charges without ever having stepped foot on the farm, though Pennsylvania law clearly gave her the capability of investigating the farm on her own.

"This verdict is a solid indicator that a farmer with a quality animal welfare program can still be attacked through the legal system by animal-rights fanatics who care more about their agenda than they do the truth," said Kay Johnson, executive vice president of the Animal Agriculture Alliance.

"An important lesson from this attack," Johnson continued, "is that America's farmers and ranchers need to be vigilant. Mr. Esbenshade has a long-term commitment to animal welfare and highly-credible third-parties were willing to attest to his commitment."

### Microsoft funds animal Activist Group

07 Jun 12, *Arlington, VA* ... Microsoft plans to make a \$100,000 donation to animal rights behemoth Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and is partnering with the vegan-led group on a pilot program called the 'I'm Initiative.' Through the new program, whenever a Windows Live Messenger user has a conversation using I'm, Microsoft will give a portion of the program's advertising revenue to one of ten organizations selected by the user. HSUS is one of the choices, and there is no limit to the amount of money that can be donated.

"The Animal Agriculture Alliance is highly concerned about Microsoft teaming with an organization whose leaders have such a radical agenda," said Kay Johnson, Executive Vice President of the Animal Agriculture Alliance. "Clearly someone at Microsoft has not done their homework. Otherwise they would know that HSUS is just like PETA, but in a nice suit."

## Alberta Farm Animal Care

Cambrian PO Box 75028, Calgary, Alberta T2K 6J8

403.932.8050

info@afac.ab.ca

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