

Spring 2002

AFAC - Into the Next Decade

Highlights from March 27 AGM

- * Update of Fast Food Industry Animal Welfare Audits
- * Livestock Protection System - Renewed Funding
- * NEW! Enhanced Farm Animal Welfare Communications Plan
- * NEW! Livestock Welfare **Research** Partnership
- * **Awards of Distinction** to **Tim O'Byrne** and **Holborn Poultry Farms**
- * Alberta Auction Markets Association - now Director on AFAC Board
- * Three New Reports Available
- * **AFAC Executive** for 2002/03: Guy Fontaine, Karl Chomlak and Aart Okkema

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Tuesday, June 25, 2002

Livestock Care Conference

Speakers include Chester England, Senior Director, Product Safety & Regulatory Burger King Corporation

Friday, November 29, 2002

Animal Welfare Audits

Dr. Temple Grandin

afac.ab.ca

AFAC's website is a showcase of the work we do. Visit the site for current information on farm animal welfare including:

- New Cull Dairy Cow Report
- Bill C-15b; Cruelty to Animals
- Media Releases
- Farm Animal Welfare News Issue 2
- **AFAC** Positions on Current Issues
- New Spent Hen Report
- New Transport of Livestock Report
- Livestock Training Courses

The livestock industry working together for responsible animal care.



AFAC Board:

Alberta Auction Markets Association

Alberta Chicken Producers

Alberta Hatching Egg Producers

Alberta Milk

Alberta Sheep and Wool Commission

Alberta Elk Association

Western Stock Growers Association

Wild Rose Equine Ranching Association

Alberta Cattle Commission

Alberta Egg Producers Board

Alberta Holstein Association

Alberta Pork

Alberta Turkey Producers

Alberta Veterinary Medical Association

Wild Rose Agricultural Producers

Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development

Alberta Farm Animal Care (AFAC) Association

Cambrian PO Box 75028
Calgary, Alberta
T2K 6J8

Phone: (403) 932-8050

Fax: (403) 932-8052

Email: info@afac.ab.ca

www.afac.ab.ca

New Livestock Welfare Programs Announced

At AFAC's Annual General Meeting on March 27, 2002 three key funding developments were announced for:

- * continued role in livestock welfare extension and training;
- * enhanced efforts in farm animal welfare communication with the livestock industry and the public;
- * partnership in livestock welfare research initiatives.

Training, Extension & Livestock Protection

AFAC will receive funding for developing and implementing livestock welfare training and extension courses from Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development (AAFRD).

AFAC is also working closely with industry to develop the Guidelines for the Humane Handling of Unfit Livestock. And, will continue to work closely with the Alberta SPCA in its role of providing province wide livestock protection and enforcement services.

Communication

Funding through the Livestock Industry Development Fund (LIDF) will allow AFAC to build upon its communication efforts, including:

- * Livestock Care Conferences;
- * Farm Animal Welfare News;
- * Increased profile at major fairs;
- * Expand 4-H Learning About

Animal Welfare (LAW);

- * Regular columns in agriculture related publications;
- * Development of a Livestock Welfare Course, partnering with Olds College;
- * Interactive teacher resources;
- * Technology transfer of livestock welfare research.

Darcy Fitzgerald, LIDF General Manager said, "LIDF supports initiatives that promote an environmentally and socially responsible livestock industry. We are very pleased to provide financial support to AFAC over the next three years to look at farm animal welfare communication programs."

Research

Federal and provincial Agriculture Ministers, along with AFAC, announced a three-way partnership during a press conference after AFAC's AGM. Alberta-Canada Livestock Welfare Research Partnership will support research based at the Lacombe Research Centre. (See page 3 for more details.)

Dr. Al Schaefer, a researcher at the Lacombe Research Station, said "Consumers have a right to know that animals are raised humanely. Research will provide those assurances." He added, "Research can give producers the information they need to continually improve."

Shirley McClellan, provincial

Agriculture Minister, believes Alberta already has a high standard for farm animal care, but this important agreement will further ensure a sustainable livestock industry.

At the AGM, Susan Church, AFAC Manager said, "the livestock industry is actively involved in improving animal well-being. The food industry is stepping up its demands for humane handling assurances through audits. We must deliver our messages to the public when the public trust in agriculture is continually eroded by animal rights activists." AFAC

!! Matched Funds for Communication and Welfare Extension !!

Funds are available from AFAC thanks to the new LIDF grant to help sponsor speakers at your conference. These funds must be matched. A maximum of \$500 per event is available.

Through the ALPS grant, AFAC has dedicated funds for matching **INDUSTRY INITIATIVES** in extension/training on livestock welfare. **Maximum amount per project: \$1,000**, based on matching. Contact Susan for details.

A defining attitude of the animal rightist, was illuminated by Alan Herscovici in his address to the Farm Animal Council of Saskatchewan at its January, 2002 Annual Meeting. In the words of Steven Best, International Fund for Animal Welfare: "The reason you guys will never beat us is because when you want to challenge what we do you have to find the money. We make our money doing this."

Livestock Welfare Research Focus of New Partnership Funding Agreement

A new Alberta-Canada Livestock Welfare Research Partnership to support new research based at the federal Lacombe Research Centre was announced by Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Lyle Vanclief and Alberta's Deputy Premier and Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development Shirley McClellan on March 27, 2002.

The two governments are partners in the project along with AFAC.

"This partnership is a great example of cooperation in research and promotion of animal health and well-being," said Mr. Vanclief.

Mrs. McClellan said animal welfare is a priority in the province. "We already have a high standard of farm animal care plus one of the strongest pieces of legislation in Canada, the Animal Protection Act.

However, it is important to better understand factors influencing livestock welfare and to **implement proactive changes based on sound science**. Both the industry and consumers will benefit from this new research," said Mrs. McClellan.

Four research categories have been identified for study under the partnership:

- animal husbandry and transport;
- disease, stress (early detection);
- invasive procedures;
- environment and housing.

AFAC chair Guy Fontaine said animal welfare is an integral component of today's livestock industry. "We know that proper animal handling is directly linked to improved productivity, meat quality and producer profitability. Thus, the more we know about animal behavior, the better it is for the animals and the industry."

"Some major retailers and fast food players now require animal welfare protocols from suppliers. Alberta's livestock industry will be required to meet these science-based protocols in the future. We are pleased to be partners in this program and to provide industry input," said Mr. Fontaine.

Initial contributions to the partnership are \$1.5 million over the next three years. The in-kind and cash



Guy Fontaine, AFAC Chair and Hon. Shirley McClellan signing Research Partnership agreement

funding will be allocated toward such areas as research, scientists, technicians, laboratory equipment and operations and extension support.

The program will not duplicate research being conducted at other research establishments except where needed to evaluate technologies for Alberta conditions.

The partnership will be looking to cooperate with other researchers involved in livestock welfare research around the world. AFAC

Research Projects Underway

AFAC is supporting the following projects:

Effect of Preconditioning and Hauling Distance on the Welfare of Cattle During Transport

Lead Researcher: K. Schwartzkopf-Genswein

Partners: Lethbridge Research Centre, AAFRD and AFAC

Development of a Humane and Efficient Spent Hen Disposal Unit

Lead Researcher: J. Church, M. Zuidhoff, D. Slingerland

Partners: AB Egg Producers, Canadian Egg Marketing Agency, AAFRD, AFAC and Northern Alberta Producers

Redesigning of Battery Cages to Improve Laying Hen Welfare

Lead Researcher: J. Church, J. Feddes, F. Robinson, N. Cook

Partners: Canadian Egg Marketing Agency, AAFRD, AFAC and Specht-Canada

AFAC Awards of Distinction

AFAC announced the recipients of its second annual Awards of Distinction at the AFAC Annual Meeting held March 27.

Tim O'Byrne of Calico Beef Consulting was recognized in two categories: **Communication** and **Innovation**. He received the Award of Distinction for Communication for his efforts in promoting humane livestock transportation and handling through courses, presentations and numerous published articles.

The Award of Distinction for Communication acknowledges a person, organization or company that takes an active role in effectively 'getting the message out' about livestock issues and informing the public and agri-food industry about farm animal care in a factual and honest way, to build trust and credibility.

With AFAC and industry, O'Byrne has developed and taught courses on cattle and pig handling and transportation to truckers, farm workers and students. Tim's communication is two-way. He delivers information to those who handle and haul livestock. And, he makes sure their concerns are fed back to the industry.

The courses cover livestock welfare, transportation laws, and the differences between animal welfare and animal rights. O'Byrne discusses how the Alberta SPCA works with industry to promote good animal care.

The Award of Distinction for Innovation recognizes a person or company that has developed a new process, product or source of knowledge that has made a significant

impact on the improvement of livestock welfare and the livestock industry. Honorees are saluted for their effort to work collectively with the industry to share the innovation.

Tim O'Byrne received this award for the 'Buller patch', he developed, an odor repellent that prevents mounting behavior in cattle, an animal welfare advantage. O'Byrne has also developed a vibrating prod as an alternative to electric prods.



Guy Fontaine, Tim and Chris O'Byrne

O'Byrne is also spearheading an organization called The Livestock Transport Association of North America (LTANA) that represents livestock transporters.

Manfred Kanehl, of Holborn Poultry Farms Ltd., received the Award of Distinction for **Industry Leadership** due to the Kanehl family's ongoing industry leadership with regard to farm animal care.

The Award of Distinction for Industry Leadership honors a person or company that has integrated animal welfare into their core business strategy and set their own bar higher regarding animal welfare. The honoree demonstrates leadership and commitment in dealing with relevant animal care issues and acts as a 'teacher,' leading by example. This award recognizes an

active producer or livestock production company.

For years **Holborn Poultry Farm** has been open for farm tours, particularly encouraging SPCA visits to show that well-managed layer barns are humane. Manfred and his wife Elke have passed along their humane ethic to their children, Martin and Susan. Susan and her husband, Tom, now run the day-to-day operations of **Holborn Poultry Farms**.

AFAC exists in large part due to Manfred's foresight, effort and leadership. He recognized the need for an organization to promote responsible animal care before animal welfare became the public issue that it is today. Manfred was also instrumental in developing Alberta Egg Producer Board policy to adopt a minimum cage size requirement for laying hens.



*Guy Fontaine, Holborn Poultry Farms
Elk and Manfred Kanehl, Susan and
Tom Schafers*

Manfred and Martin, started Specht-Canada Inc. in 1998. The company sells and installs European made enriched cage systems that meet or exceed European guidelines for humane standards.

For more information on Awards of Distinction visit afac.ab.ca. AFAC

Alberta Livestock Protection System Update

The Alberta SPCA will continue to deliver rural animal protection services in the province under a new \$2.2-million three-year agreement with AAFRD.

An additional \$240,000 three-year agreement with **AFAC** will improve industry awareness and help set standards for livestock welfare.

Both agreements renew a unique three-way partnership among Alberta SPCA, **AFAC** and AAFRD called the Alberta Livestock Protection System.

“Effective, credible welfare protection services are essential to the growth and development of Alberta’s \$5-billion livestock industry,” said Shirley McClellan, Deputy Premier and AAFRD Minister. “Industry and the public can be confident Alberta will maintain a high level of livestock welfare and protection in this province.”

Joy Ripley, President of the Alberta SPCA Board of Directors, said the agreement continues Alberta SPCA’s 33-year history as an independent enforcement agency.

“Province-wide, our partnership with industry and the government is recognized as an effective, consistent means to deliver animal protection services in rural Alberta.”

Guy Fontaine, **AFAC** Chairman, said **AFAC** supports Alberta SPCA’s enforcement role. “The livestock industry does not tolerate neglect and abuse. We consider responsible animal care a priority.”

The agreements follow a department review initiated in January 2001 on provincial involvement in the delivery of Alberta’s livestock welfare protection services. The review considered the effectiveness of the existing system and recommended improvements.

As a result the agreements will include specific performance measures, which Alberta SPCA and **AFAC** must meet to ensure that an effective farm animal welfare system continues in Alberta.

Special Constable Morris Airey was appointed the position of Director of Enforcement, Alberta SPCA in January. He stresses the Alberta SPCA’s commitment to building a unified consistent integrated enforcement program.

The lines of communication between industry and the public must be improved.

The Alberta SPCA has also hired Julie Goforth to work in a new office based in Grande Prairie. Other constables including Blair Rogers and Stuart Dodds in Edmonton; Nancy Simmons, Nolan Payne and Chris Whitfield in Strathmore; and Ken Dean in Red Deer. AFAC

Guidelines for the Handling of Cull Livestock

A few years ago, sick or weak animals were brought to an auction market and were killed within two days at a local abattoir.

With fewer small plants and none of the large plants willing to take poor quality animals, the cull animal can now spend two or three weeks shunted between auction markets and assembly yards before being trucked long distances to a US slaughter plant.

At **AFAC**’s AGM the head of the Alberta SPCA enforcement branch, Morris Airey, asked producers to stop shipping weak animals and stem the

increasing number of animals collapsing in trucks on the way to slaughter.

Aart Okkema of Vermilion, AB (and director on **AFAC**’s board representing Alberta Milk), said the dairy industry is working on solutions to shipping culled dairy cows. It has developed a guide to help producers decide what is and isn’t an acceptable animal to ship. While still in the draft form, the industry has agreed it is not acceptable to ship animals that have broken legs.

The pork industry is developing a similar approach.

The general accepted practice is, if an animal isn’t in good strength, it should be killed on the farm or kept at home until it can be shipped.

“We have to work with the industry to set standards and provide inspectors and enforcement staff with these standards.” Susan Church, **AFAC** Manager said.

While many people point fingers at the truck drivers for transporting weak animals, Darren Malchow, CFIA Inspector, said the responsibility lies with the producer, who knows the animal, to make the final decision on whether it should travel. AFAC

AFAC Projects Update

Horse Hauling Course - NEW

"The transport of horses is considered to cause more episodes of stress than any other husbandry practice." - Dr. S. Cregier

This comprehensive course is designed to improve the welfare of horses in transport.

There is more to hauling horses than hitching a trailer, loading a horse and heading down the road.

The course is designed and presented

by Lynn McLeod. Lynn and her family breed and train horses on their ranch west of Cochrane.

She is a Equine 4-H leader, is on the Agriculture Media Committee and has worked with AFAC for 7 years.

The Horse Hauling Course will give horse owners, handlers and drivers facts about preventative measures that can be taken before transport, how to minimize stress during transit, and the laws pertaining to



horse hauling.

This course has received positive feedback. Renowned horseman Bill Collins and Norm Luba of NAERIC have both reviewed the course and praise its thoroughness.

Call Lynn McLeod at (403) 932-2819 or AFAC for details. AFAC

Safe Livestock Handling Course - NEW

"Understanding the behavior of animals helps prevent injuries to both people and animals."

- Dr. Temple Grandin

The major causes of livestock handling injuries include: fearful animals, faulty equipment, male dominance aggression, and maternal aggression.

This workshop, developed and presented by Jennifer Woods, covers safe and humane handling of

livestock including cattle, horses, pigs, sheep, goats, poultry, bison, elk, llama and ostrich.

Course includes:

- Flight Zones;
- disease and human health hazards;
- facility design and workplace safety;
- recognizing and handling sick, injured or distressed livestock;
- livestock first-aid;
- capture, calm and restrain;
- livestock and the law;

- euthanasia;
- disposal of dead stock, and;
- child safety.

Call Jennifer at (403) 684-3008 or email ReflectedJ@aol.com for details. AFAC



Livestock Emergency Response Course

Per day in Alberta there are 300-400 loaded cattle liners on our highways. As well, over 200,000 chickens and 10,000 hogs are transported per day.

Fire fighters, police, RCMP and Special Constables are well trained professionals, ready to tackle most situations. But sometimes the line of duty may put them into a new situation not covered in training.

One such situation could include livestock rescue. When a large trailer carrying cattle, pigs, sheep or other animals is involved in an accident, what is the proper way of getting the livestock out? What do you do with the animals once they are out?

This course deals with these concerns and several others. Jennifer Woods developed and has been presenting this AFAC course for 4

years across Canada.

This course is a mixture of animal behavior and extrication techniques. Jennifer talks about different species and what works best for the rescue.

Contact Jennifer at (403) 684-3008 or email ReflectedJ@aol.com for details on how to get this course to your local emergency response team. AFAC

AFAC Projects Update

Cattle Handling & Hauling Course

The Cattle Handling and Hauling Course has been presented across Canada for the past 5 years. Over 450 drivers have completed the course. It has also been presented in a Train the Trainer format.

Truck drivers are trained to drive. This AFAC/Canadian Cattlemen's Association sponsored course offers animal welfare handling techniques to deal with the load.

Tim O'Byrne, course developer and presenter notes that the course has

received an unofficial endorsement from the procurement personnel at Cargill Foods Ltd. in High River. This acceptance has led to the participation of several transport companies.

The industry is constantly changing, and as a result Tim is working on a course update, a testing procedure and certification.

Insurance companies need be contacted and premium reductions for certified drivers need to be investigated.

The Animal Transport Association is recommending international participation and standardization. They are exploring ways to work with any groups interested in the same certification strategy.

One spin off of this course is the Cattle Handling Course. Intervet is one company that has purchased the one-time rights. Dr. Bill Sanders presents the course for Intervet. Contact Tim at (403) 577-3266 or email Calico@handlingcattle.com for details. AFAC

Hog Handling & Hauling Course

AFAC's Hog Handling and Hauling Course has been well received since it was introduced in March, 2001.

This practical course explains what you or your drivers need to know and use every day on the job.

Working with a training video and discussion sessions, this course covers basic hog behavior, hog handling, laws and regulations as well as special cases and emergencies.

Tim O'Byrne, course developer and presenter says the next step is a certification course to increase the competence level of hog transporters in Canada, similar to the one introduced by the National Pork Board in the US. This would ensure humane transport of hogs in Canada.

Contact Tim at (403) 577-3266 or email Calico@handlingcattle.com for details. AFAC

Farmers Care Display

In 2001, the AFAC Farmers Care Display and I CARE program was present at 8 major fairs and numerous producer conferences.

Funds from the Livestock Industry Development Fund have been delegated to updating the display as well as to purchase another quiz wheel.

An Olds College student has been hired to update the animal welfare questions for the trivial wheel as well as man the booth at fairs.

The purpose of this program is to get the 'farmer's care' message out to the public with one-on-one dialogue. Our target is events with major student/teacher tours and ag awareness programs.

Look for the display at the Calgary Stampede, Westerner Days in Red Deer and Farm Fair in Edmonton this summer.

Contact **AFAC** for information on the display or to book the display. AFAC

Education Resources

Lynn Munroe, Educational Consultant for AFAC's Junior/Senior High Educational Resources confirms the resource will be completed by September.

Learning materials for this resource are put in a Social Science context, thereby satisfying Social Studies and Language Arts objectives a well.

Lesson plans include:

1. Who do you believe?
2. Defining Animal Welfare
3. The Needs of Animals
4. Management Practices and Animal Behavior
5. Animal Welfare and Advocates
6. The Circle of Life
7. Case Studies
8. Animal Welfare Action Plans
9. Animal Welfare Spectrum Revisited

(Industry sponsors have contributed over \$45,000 for this AFAC program).

Animal Handling and Stunning Conference - February, 2002

At the American Meat Institute (AMI) event, over 300 beef, poultry, pork processors and major food industry reps addressed the animal welfare audit expectations of the fast-food industry.

Phil Clemens, AMI Chairman and Chairman of Hatfield Quality Meats presented 'Creating an Animal Welfare Mindset in Your Company'.

What impressed me the most was the positive interaction of US livestock

organizations, meat plants owners and operators and food industry QA executives all discussing how to raise the bar regarding animal welfare.

The US food retail and restaurant industry is working together to develop one set of consistent animal welfare audit standards.

Attend AFAC's June 25 Livestock Care Conference to get the latest details on this. - SMC

PETA in Canada Again

At press conferences in Vancouver, Calgary and Winnipeg. PETA called for a boycott of Canada Safeway stores.

Susan Church in a Calgary Herald article, stated "we don't tolerate neglect or abuse of farm animals here."

They have no right to talk about Canadian farmers this way. Animal welfare is a priority for the livestock industry here."

PETA said they have uncovered systemic abuse of animals from Safeway's suppliers. Canada Safeway spokeswoman Toby Oswald said there are already stringent practices in place, adding, "I question the information that they have. Safeway doesn't condone in any way the mistreatment of animals."

She added that Calgary-based Canada Safeway already works with suppliers to set up "humane practices for the care and handling of livestock. All of our plants are open for audits."

Canada Safeway has been a member of AFAC for 7 years. - SMC

AAFRD and Animal Welfare

The Animal Welfare Branch of AAFRD promotes the humane care and responsible use of animals. The Branch is responsible for administering the provincial Animal Protection Act (APA) on behalf of the Minister of AAFRD.

AFAC works closely with Dr. John Church, Provincial Animal Welfare Specialist. John's hands-on livestock experience includes working with bison, elk, deer, beef, dairy, poultry, swine and pork.

John serves on AFAC's board, representing AAFRD, a founding member of AFAC.



New Reports Available

Handling of Spent hens in Alberta

In just two years there has been a significant shift in how the industry humanely disposes of spent hens. Learn what the Alberta industry is doing.

Livestock Transportation in Alberta

Update of AFAC's 1994 report and includes what has changed and improved. Stats on increased volumes of

livestock on our highways AND extensive feedback from truckers, brokers, equipment manufacturers. Full study available in print for \$20.00.

Handling of Cull Dairy Cows in Alberta

An assessment of how cull dairy cows are handled and marketed, with an emphasis on those culls that are shipped to US abattoirs. Recommendations for action are included. Contact AFAC for copies.

Humane Labeling

'Winnipeg Humane Society Certified' pork, beef and turkey hit the shelves of a small retailer in late March. According to MFAC, the suppliers of turkey and pork have run out and no other producers have signed on. MFAC and the industry plan to send **accurate** information to the meat and dairy retailers. The WHS product is processed in provincial plants, so CFIA labeling approvals are not needed. MFAC continues to monitor the situation.