

# Alberta Farm Animal Care

## 2007

## ANNUAL REPORT

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animal care  
The livestock industry working together  
for responsible animal care.



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APRIL 4 in Red Deer

[Alberta Horse Welfare Report](#)

[Ag Youth Resource](#)



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To report livestock care concerns CALL

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A resource centre

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Site funding provided by ALIDF

**afac.ab.ca**

## About AFAC

In 1993, Alberta's major livestock groups formed the **Alberta Farm Animal Care Association**; a partnership with a mandate to:

- Promote responsible, humane animal care within the livestock industry;
- Engage in discussion with the public about today's animal agriculture;
- Monitor and participate in issues and legislation that affect animal care;
- Encourage research relevant to animal care.

The members of AFAC recognize that animal welfare issues are a growing international concern and the public expect all animals to be humanely treated throughout their lifetime. The livestock industry expects the same. Thus, our focus is on the continued improvement of livestock well-being.

AFAC, working with industry, has established:

- open communication with livestock protection agencies;
- animal welfare curriculum with agriculture colleges;
- handling and care of livestock guidelines, reports and training programs;
- public communication that farmers care for their animals;
- research programs;
- a livestock care response program.



## AFAC Board Members

Alberta Auction Markets Association

Alberta Beef Producers

Alberta Chicken Producers

Alberta Egg Producers

Alberta Elk

Alberta Hatching Egg Producers

Alberta Milk

Alberta Pork

Alberta Sheep & Wool Commission

Alberta Turkey Producers

Alberta Veterinary Medical Association

University of Alberta

Western Stock Growers Association

Wild Rose Agricultural Producers

Alberta Agriculture & Rural Development

## Active Members

Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies

Alberta Cattle Feeders' Association\*

Alberta Equestrian Federation\*

Alberta Poultry Hatchery Association

Bison Producers of Alberta

CDN/AB Livestock Research Trust Inc.

Calgary Exhibition & Stampede

Canadian Professional Rodeo Association

Edmonton Northlands

Feeders Association of Alberta Ltd.

Horse Racing Alberta

Lakeland College, Agricultural Science

North American Equine Ranching  
Information Council, Inc.

Olds College, School of Animal Science

*\* Current Directors at Large on AFAC Board*

## Associate Members

Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada

Alberta Association of Animal Health  
Technologists

Alberta Goat Breeders Association

Alta Genetics Inc.

ATB Financial

Auburndale Elk Farm

Berdina Farms Ltd.

Bouvry Exports Calgary Ltd.

Calgary Cooperative Association Ltd.

Calico Beef Consulting

Canada Safeway Limited

Canadian Turkey Marketing Agency

Cargill Foods

Carmen Creek Gourmet Meats

Clearwater County

Copperhead Transport Ltd.

Crestomere Veterinary Services

Crossfield Ag Society

Elanco Animal Health

Highland Feeders Limited

L.E.D. Farms Ltd.

Lilydale Foods

Lilyfer Poultry Farms Ltd.

Maple Leaf Poultry

Narwood Turkey Farms

Nilsson Bros. Inc.

Olymel

Oyen Veterinarian Services

J. Woods Livestock Services

Rennie, Mack

Richter Farms Ltd.

Rockyview Animal Clinic Ltd.

Shacklady Veterinary Services

Shipwheel Cattle Feeders Ltd.

Southern Alberta Sheep Breeders Assoc.

Stettler Veterinary Clinic

Stockyards Veterinary Services Ltd.

Stolte Farms Ltd.

STS Farms Ltd.

Sundgaard Poultry Farm Ltd.

Sunrise Poultry

Sunterra Meats Ltd.

The Municipal District of Rocky View #44

United Farmers of Alberta

West Farm Underwriting (Co-operators Ins.)

Wildridge Elk Ventures Inc.

Willabend Angus Ranch Ltd.

Winter's Turkeys

# Message from the Chair

It has been an honor to serve as the Chairman of AFAC in 2007/08. The past year has been both rewarding and disappointing.

Animal welfare practices, particularly in confinement livestock production, are coming under increasing scrutiny by the public and the media. We must keep moving forward, with an eye to the future and the sustainability of livestock production methods, or we run the risk of events running over us and the standards for animal welfare practices being set by non-livestock people.

AFAC is extremely fortunate to have the strong support of its member organizations representing the livestock sector in Alberta. Some of the larger livestock commodity groups have tangibly demonstrated their support for AFAC by increasing their annual contributions by 10% this year, in spite of the financial hardships being felt by both producers and their organizations. AFAC provides a valuable forum to allow industry input, to raise issues and concerns, to agree on common positions and actions. AFAC facilitates and encourages industry cooperation to advance animal care and welfare by livestock producers and animal owners.

AFAC is a founding member of the National Farm Animal Care Council. I attended their first national conference in Ottawa last September and spoke about AFAC. Alberta was very well represented by eight members of the AFAC Board. It was apparent, at this meeting, that Alberta is recognized as a world leader in addressing and improving animal welfare practices. The successes and achievements of AFAC over the past 14 years clearly demonstrate the importance of livestock producer's input and participation in animal welfare issues.

In recognition of the financial pressures being experienced by livestock owners, AFAC developed a *Being Prepared for Winter* plan and information campaign to reinforce the importance of ensuring an adequate supply of feed, water and care particularly for livestock being wintered outdoors. The **ALERT Line** number was also widely promoted to the general public. The enthusiastic participation of

the AFAC members, including the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association, agribusinesses and media throughout Alberta ensured that the key messages were widely transmitted to animal owners and caretakers. I am pleased to say that the number of herd seizures this winter have been greatly reduced from the previous year.

The industry also provided financial support to ensure the successful **on-call veterinarian** service was continued for another year.

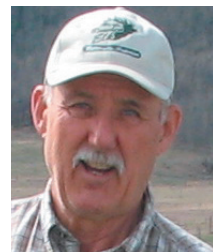
The failure of Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD) to call a meeting of the Alberta Livestock Protection System (ALPS) since April 2007 is a major concern of the AFAC Board. ALPS offers an important role for the livestock industry to ensure that there is a coordinated and responsible approach to animal welfare enforcement actions. Through ALPS, with industry at the table, it is possible to achieve consistency and coordination of the various agencies with responsibility for livestock welfare including the Alberta SPCA, RCMP, CFIA, LIS and ARD. The ALPS meetings facilitate the exchange of information to ensure animal care extension programs and messaging is targeted and we collectively tackle what needs fixing.

Since AFAC started, the industry benefited from an open and positive relationship with ARD staff—at the AFAC board, through ALPS, the Alberta Livestock Welfare Research Partnership and in a team approach to program and contract delivery. This link has been weakened, much to the concern of the AFAC board. We are committed to rekindling it.

I wish every success for the new Chair and Executive of AFAC in the advancement of animal care and welfare in Alberta.



AFAC Chairman  
Alberta Elk Commission, March 2008



## Manager's Report

Over the past 14 years, AFAC has addressed issues in advance of situations arising to help guide decision making for the livestock industry. We have 20 reports on topics from livestock transport, cull dairy cows, animal welfare laws in Canada, animal welfare verification to horse welfare, spent hens, downer benchmarking and animal disease impacts on animal welfare.

Being prepared and having facts on what the industry is doing right and what needs improving has allowed the Alberta industry to respond quickly to activists claims, livestock neglect cases and retailer purchasing decisions based on how livestock are raised.

Anticipating a pending crisis and taking timely action is one of AFAC's strong suits. This approach must be our focus for the future. We build confidence by being transparent.

For example, AFAC initiated action with Alberta's horse industry to address the impact of the closure of US horse meat plants. The

Alberta Equine Welfare Group, in the course of doing a situational report, was alerted to a problem with horses being inhumanely transported into Canada. The group pressured for immediate compliance and supported the proposed ban on double-decker trailers to haul horses.

Another example is the Alberta beef industry's recognition of the need to fully understand how beef cattle are transported. An extensive research project is underway, partly in response to CFIA's proposals to change the livestock transport regulations and also to address what works well and what needs fixing. Alberta Pork and Alberta Chicken producers are also supporting nation-wide transport studies.

In May, AFAC launched the **Certified Livestock Transporter (CLT)**. This is an industry spearheaded training and resource program, with input and guidance from CFIA, that gives truckers and associated handlers the tools they need to humanely transport

livestock. Many thanks to all the funders and the industry for leading the way. Due to demand, a second train-the-trainer session was planned for early 2008 in Lethbridge.

I attended the European Union's Welfare Quality Conference in Berlin. This project aims to standardize animal welfare food labeling claims and welfare criteria for measurement purposes. We need to stay well informed of and learn from this process.

I appreciate the opportunity to work for and with Alberta's livestock industries. To the dedicated contractors working with AFAC, my sincere thanks.

Respectfully submitted  
March 2008,



AFAC Manager





# 2007 AFAC Program Highlights

## GOAL 1:

Promote responsible, humane animal care within the livestock industry.

### AFAC Member & Industry Contact

In 2007 AFAC published one issue of *Livestock Welfare INSIGHTS*. We printed 6,300 copies that were distributed by AFAC, FACS, MFAC, OFAC and NFACC.

Two issues of the *AFAC Update* were published. Over 3,500 copies of each were distributed in print and electronic format. All publications are available for download at [afac.ab.ca](http://afac.ab.ca).

146 people attended the *2007 Livestock Care Conference*. The speakers' presentations generated good media coverage.

### Livestock Protection

AFAC continues to work with Alberta SPCA, Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, the RCMP and CFIA regarding the handling of unfit livestock, cases of neglect and undue suffering and regulatory issues. This working partnership is called the Alberta Livestock Protection System (ALPS). Only one ALPS meeting was held in 2007. AFAC is working to reinstate this valuable communication tool.

### Humane Handling Guidelines

AFAC and the swine, dairy, sheep and beef industries all promoted and distributed the humane handling guidelines. Demand continues to be strong. AFAC mailed out 506 beef guidelines, 181 dairy, 286 swine and 265 sheep in 2007. The guidelines were also distributed at producer events and at livestock trucker training sessions as well as featured in AFAC presentations. Plans are underway for guidelines for horses.

### Livestock Accident / Incident Report

AFAC released a report using data collected from 4 years of livestock accident / incident tracking. *An Analysis of Commercial Livestock Truck Accidents in Canada & the United States: a report to improve the care of livestock in transport* was prepared by Jennifer Woods.

### Euthanasia

A new training program is under development in partnership with the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association.

### Producer Extension

AFAC attended 26 livestock industry meetings, conferences and workshops. This included 14 customized *Livestock Welfare, the Pressures, Challenges & Action* presentations at events including Cattlemen's Corral in Lloydminster, Alberta Milk and Alberta Equestrian AGMs and to students at Lakeland, Lethbridge and Olds colleges and an international meat trading company, among others.

### Rural Youth Extension

With funding support from ALIDE, AFAC coordinated a three-year program, *Livestock Handling for Youth*. This program included updating the 4-H *Learning about Animal Welfare* program and the delivery of 31 workshops to 4-H members throughout Alberta. It concluded in 2007.

97% of those attending the workshops felt they would be able to handle livestock more safely and humanely. The top lessons learned included: handling techniques (ie. Flight Zone, Point of Balance), animal behavior, recognizing illness, injury and distress, and livestock first aid.

AFAC also developed a new agricultural youth page on its website with livestock handling video clips and materials. 3,000 copies of each of the Handle with Care cards (horses & cattle) were provided to the Alberta Farm Safety Centre for rural students.

### Livestock Handling Extension

The demand for regionally based livestock welfare extension programming continues to grow—from Slave Lake to Stettler to Strathmore—thanks in part to county agricultural staff.

AFAC continues to offer matched assistance for the delivery of the **good livestock handling pays** message at these workshops. Eleven groups provided extension / training related to improving livestock care and handling.

AFAC distributed 33 copies of Dr. Temple Grandin's handling and auditing DVDs. Requests came from producers, CFIA, education and industry organizations. AFAC's website now features video clips from Dr. Grandin's DVD series.

## Certified Livestock Transporter (CLT) Training Program

AFAC's launched North America's first multi-species livestock transporters training program, CLT with a Train-the-Trainer session in May. Thirty-six people were trained to deliver the CLT program. Due to demand another session was planned for January 2008.

As of December 2007 there are 88 CLT trained truckers. Species training included poultry, beef, hogs, horses and sheep.

[LivestockTransport.ca](http://LivestockTransport.ca) provides a resource center for CLT trainers and livestock haulers.



## Livestock Care Response Plan

AFAC raised \$21,500 of industry funds to ensure another year of on-call veterinary service by Dr. Ray Fenton.

The ALERT Line dispatcher works with Dr. Fenton, Alberta SPCA, local producers, industry representatives, the RCMP, Ag Fieldmen, Alberta government specialists and the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association to assist with cases. She also links with Alberta Mental Health crisis line should they be dealing with a person with livestock who may need help.

In 2007, 323 calls came into the ALERT Line. Of these, 192 were information calls, 115 were cases and 16 were additional calls on existing cases. Dr. Fenton handled 46 of the cases. AFAC's volunteer resource team members handled the other cases. Some cases were deemed unfounded. Severe cases were referred to the Alberta SPCA.

In most situations, the ALERT team achieved willing change to improve animal care. AFAC only participates with the consent of the owner.

In 2007, a few owners called seeking help. The Alberta SPCA requested Dr. Fenton's assistance four times, Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development called in five times and the RCMP three times.

## Be Aware. Animal Care is Everyone's Responsibility

In response to several livestock neglect cases in the winter of 2006 / 2007, AFAC launched an early intervention awareness campaign, promoting the ALERT Line and offering winter livestock handling tips.

Posters were distributed throughout Alberta to RCMP detachments, auction markets, 4-H clubs and ag supply stores. Member organizations did special articles in their publications. A series of 12 radio spots highlighting the ALERT Line, swathgrazing, winter watering and other basic livestock care needs ran throughout the province.

### Top ten concerns to the ALERT line:

1. Malnourishment
2. Lack of shelter, water, feed or bedding
3. Over-grazing with no visible sign of extra feed
4. Weather concerns - extreme heat / cold, mud
5. Absentee owners - no consistent feed or care
6. Swathe grazing - too much snow / ice
7. Dugouts - not opened every day & safety issues
8. Animals not separated (older or lame) & not weaned (animals born year round - horses & cattle)
9. Poor management, mental anxiety of owner
10. Humane treatment of downers / unfit livestock

At AFAC's request the Alberta SPCA provided the industry with the main reasons / causes for livestock neglect, based on six months of data. They were:

1. Absentee owner / caretaker
2. Age related
3. Inept application of recognized management practices
4. Psychological constraints
5. Insensitivity to welfare of animals

This information helped AFAC develop it's early intervention program.

## 2007 ALERT Line Case Summary

Beef	59	Bison	6
Dairy	6	Horses	32
Other	5	Pigs	2
Poultry	1	Sheep	4
TOTAL Cases 2007			115
Information Calls			192

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TOTAL Cases 2006			84
Information Calls			162

Be Aware. Animal Care is Everyone's Responsibility.

**LIVESTOCK CARE**  
**ALERT**  
 Help Line & Resource Team  
 To report livestock care concerns  
**CALL**  
**1-800-506-2273**

- ALERT is a confidential call line for anyone to report livestock care concerns.
- ALERT strives to assist before animals are in distress.
- ALERT Resource Team includes farmers and other rural community members. They offer solutions to improve animal care.
- ALERT has an on-call veterinarian who provides knowledgeable counsel.
- ALERT is available for self-reporting to assist those who may be experiencing problems in caring for their livestock.
- ALERT works closely with Alberta SPCA and RCMP.

For information on Alberta's Animal Protection Act visit [afac.ab.ca/lawsregs.htm](http://afac.ab.ca/lawsregs.htm)

**AFAC** The livestock industry working together for responsible animal care. [afac.ab.ca](http://afac.ab.ca)

Goal 1: Expenditures*	Grants**	Industry
ALERT Line	\$20,500	\$5,000
Winter Prep	14,800	
On-call veterinarian	41,000	21,500
CLT program	29,300	6,700
Training	9,500	
Guidelines / audits	1,750	10,000
Extension / reports	59,700	8,700
Conferences	34,200	12,200
Updates / INSIGHTS	18,500	
4-H	2,850	1,400
AFAC Membership		49,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$232,100</b>	<b>\$114,500</b>

## Goal 2:

## Engage in discussion with the public about today's animal agriculture.

### AFAC Websites

[AFAC.ab.ca](http://AFAC.ab.ca), is a communication tool for all our target audiences. The site is updated weekly. It averaged 12,405 visits per month in 2007. New features include the ag youth resources and the winter livestock care sections. A new consumer 'seek to understand' page is under construction.

[LivestockWelfare.com](http://LivestockWelfare.com), is a resource site funded by the *Putting Animal Welfare on the Agenda*

program and managed by AFAC. It averaged 1,665 visits per month.

[LivestockTransport.ca](http://LivestockTransport.ca) houses the CLT program and transporter resources. It averaged 1,400 visits per month.

Each site is designed for a specific audience. The information has a common animal care message and the sites are linked.



### Urban Public Interaction

#### 1. Targeted Events

- ✓ AFAC attended four urban agricultural education events in 2007; **City Slickers** in Stony Plain and **Aggie Days** in Lethbridge and Calgary and **AMAZing Agriculture** in Edmonton. These events enable us to connect directly with teachers, students and the urban public.
- ✓ AFAC's member organizations deliver a strong *We Care* message at their live animal displays and booths at major fairs and events throughout Alberta.

#### 2. Teacher / Student Resources

- ✓ AFAC directly targets teachers by participating in the Teachers Ag Expo, hosted by the Calgary Stampede Aggie Day Committee and by advertising in the *Alberta Teachers Association News*.
- ✓ In 2007 we distributed 4,277 hard copies of the elementary student workbooks and 9 junior / senior high packages. These resources are popular downloads from our website as well: the elementary teachers guide was downloaded approximately 500 times last year and the jr/sr high introduction chapter was downloaded about 350 times. We depleted our printed stock of the elementary teacher guides and an upgrade to the original (1997) elementary student resource is in progress. The rulers continue to be a great take home message for students and the rural public; we distributed 7,605 in 2007.

#### 3. Extended Public Messaging

- ✓ Two ads were placed in the Edmonton Journal's Bistro magazine entitled: *Farmers Care for their Animals 365 days a year*. Two accompanying articles (at no charge) were featured: one on AFAC's past chair, Aart Okkema and one on Dave Polak, a current AFAC board member.
- ✓ The ALIDF sponsored *What's on Your Plate?* continues to be featured monthly in the Calgary Herald and Edmonton Journal. This project enables the livestock industry to stand together and deliver the message that we care for our animals and the environment. The following articles featured farm animal welfare, AFAC board members and AFAC's manager in 2007: *Animal welfare: the inside story*, *Committed to the future of farming*, *Research by observation makes sense*, *Healthy animals part of the food safety equation*, *Many hands in healthy food production*, *Christmas on the farm* and *The truth about antibiotics and hormones*. Visit [LivestockWelfare.com](http://LivestockWelfare.com) for a copy of the articles.
- ✓ We continue to distribute the *Farm Animals: Who Cares?*, the 8 page booklet developed by OFAC. This resource is targeted at the urban public. It provides details on how farmers care for their animals and how the industry works with the research community to learn more about animal behavior and ways to improve animal care.



Goal 2: Expenditures*	Grants**	Industry
Student / Teacher Resource	\$6,800	
Urban Outreach (Bistro, Aggie Days)	15,700	
Websites	6,800	
New Display / Brochure		
AFAC Membership		\$24,500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$29,300</b>	<b>\$24,500</b>



## Goal 3:

### Monitor & participate in issues and legislation that affect animal care.

#### Farm Animal Welfare & Consumers

Animal welfare issues continue to make headlines. Wendy's, Burger King, Maple Leaf Foods, University of Guelph and UBC all announced purchasing policies related to sow and laying hen housing and / or gas stunning of broilers. Speakers at AFAC's Livestock Care Conference and articles in *INSIGHTS* addressed consumer communication and industry's expression of ethical commitment to animal care. Speaking notes were prepared for AFAC members.

Cases of animal neglect also hit the headlines and eroded consumer trust in agriculture. AFAC provided media speaking notes and interviews to reinforce the industry's commitment to care.

Activists' messaging also gets headlines. In 2007, the main target was livestock transportation and horse care. AFAC responded with facts.

#### Animal Transport Regulations

AFAC coordinated a meeting for the livestock industry with CFIA to provide updates on the status of the regulatory changes proposed. We learned, whenever possible the regulations will reflect 'outcome based' measures and CFIA is looking into referencing the Code of Practice. Both items have been recommended by the Alberta industry. See *INSIGHTS*, Summer '07.

#### Impact of US Horse Meat Plants Closures

The new Alberta Equine Welfare Group (AFAC coordinated) addressed the rapid influx of US horses into AB and SK, being transported under unacceptable conditions and avoiding proper inspection. A report on horses as food producing animals was prepared for release in 2008.

#### Media Connections

Eight media releases were issued, mainly to the agriculture press. Several interviews resulted in both urban and rural media coverage. The Winter Preparedness and ALERT Awareness radio campaign was praised by the media.

#### Welfare Quality Conference

Together with Jackie Wepruk of NFACC, Susan Church attended the EU Welfare Quality Conference: *Assuring Animal Welfare from Societal Concerns to Implementation*. This EU project aims to integrate animal welfare in the food quality chain ... "from public concern to improved welfare and transparent quality."

Twelve welfare principles have been identified (consumer focus group tested). They will be used for assessment / verification programs. See *INSIGHTS*, Summer '07.

## Goal 4:

### Encourage research relevant to animal care.

#### Livestock Welfare Research

AFAC supports research projects directed to welfare issues that have economic consequences and social impacts, including animal husbandry practices, disease detection, invasive procedures and housing environments. AFAC has increased the funding limit for industry supported projects from a maximum of \$10,000 to \$25,000 per project. In 2007, AFAC agreed to fund:

- ✓ Benchmarking study of current transport practices in the Alberta beef industry
- ✓ Ante-mortem stressors affect on broiler meat value
- ✓ Year 2 of engineering, animal welfare & meat quality considerations of broiler transportation in a heated & ventilated vehicle

#### Projects reviewed and / or under consideration:

- Swine euthanasia decision tree
- Development & evaluation of new effective methods of euthanasia for different ages of pigs
- Osteoporosis in laying hens
- Broiler breeder rooster welfare
- Dairy welfare research at UBC Animal Welfare Center
- Dairy lameness
- Commercial transport of horses
- Beef weaning stress
- Horse behavioural in feedlots

- Pain management regarding castration
- Swine transport & chronic stress in sows

#### Projects completed:

- Economic & welfare comparison of three groups housing systems for gestating sows & gilts



AFAC supplied a letter of support for the U of A to lead the Canadian Virtual Centre and hold the Chair in Poultry Welfare Research.

No meetings of the Alberta Livestock Welfare Research Partnership have been held since September 2006.

Working with the *Putting Animal Welfare on the Agenda* project, an up-to-date listing of **farm animal research projects** is on [LivestockWelfare.com](http://LivestockWelfare.com).

Goal 3/4: Expenditures*	Grants**	Industry
Media Relations	\$10,800	
Issue Management	3,500	
Tech Transfer	4,500	
Research Projects	8,800	
AFAC Membership		\$24,500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$27,600</b>	<b>\$24,500</b>

\* These are approximate numbers. Please see financial statements.

\*\* AB Agriculture & Rural Development, Putting Animal Welfare on the Agenda, Alberta Livestock Industry Development Fund & Diversified Livestock Fund of Alberta

# AFAC Timeline

## 1988-1991

1988-91

- OFAC, MFAC & FACS formed

1990

- Uniform forms ad hoc committee for industry to address issues jointly

## 1992

- Alberta Agriculture sponsors 'Livestock Issues Coalition' meeting. Issues include: animal welfare, food safety / animal health and environment
- Industry meets & agrees value in coalition, strength in number & need for a more effective voice for animal agriculture
- Industry decides to focus on animal welfare & calls group Alberta Foundation for Animal Stewardship

## 1993-1995

- Name changes to Alberta Foundation for Animal Care & by-laws established
- Perspectives newsletter launched
- Active & associate members join AFAC
- Horned Cattle Trust Fund monies directed to AFAC
- Animal Care ALERT Line started
- Livestock Transportation Review completed
- Dr. Jeff Goodwin tells us at the AGM "While it is essential to tell our side of the story, the focus should be less on a positive public perception and more on an accurate one"

## 1996-1999

- 4-H Learning About Animal Welfare launched
- Alberta Livestock Protection System (ALPS) set up
- Livestock Care Conference series started
- Elementary student / teacher resources completed
- Name change to Alberta Farm Animal Care
- Cattle & pig hauling courses launched
- Issue reports & INSIGHTS started

## 2000-2002

- McDonald's adds animal welfare to QA protocols
- AFAC Research fund initiated
- AFAC Awards of Distinction started
- ALIDF supports AFAC's Communication Plan
- Livestock Care Response Plan put in place due to drought

## 2003

- BSE case in Alberta - US border closes to cattle, sheep & bison
- Grades 7-12 student / teacher resource completed
- Livestock care consulting veterinarian Dr. R Fenton joins the AFAC team
- Swine humane handling guidelines completed

## 2004

- AFAC & AVMA co-sponsor Dr. Grandin to speak in Fairview, Vermilion & Lethbridge
- Dairy humane handling guidelines completed
- Horse Welfare in Alberta report / brochure released
- PMU contracts ended
- Do we still need AFAC? review completed
- Begin distributing Dr. Grandin handling DVDs
- Handle with Care cards developed (horse & cattle)
- Alberta Canada Livestock Research Partnership initiated
- AFAC received 2nd research fund installment

## 2005

- International Animal Transportation meeting in Calgary
- US border re-opens to cattle, sheep & bison
- Livestock transport training program underway with industry advisory team
- Beef & sheep humane handling guidelines completed
- Funding received for Livestock Care consulting veterinarian
- Animal Protection Act & Regulations revised
- AFAC manager receives Humane Care award from CVMA
- National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC) launched

## 2006

- What's on Your Plate? consumer messaging started
- Animal Protection Act (APA) & Regulations revisions enacted
- Downer Benchmarking Study completed
- Review of Humane Transport Regs coordinated
- Putting Farm Animal Welfare on the Agenda joint project begins
- Use of monetary fines for APA reviewed

## 2007

- Launched Certified Livestock Transporter (CLT) training program & support services. 58 trainers and 88 truckers trained
- Be Prepared for Winter program launched with radio, news lines & posters
- Beef Cattle Transportation benchmarking survey underway
- Beef, dairy, swine, sheep humane handling guidelines reprinted
- The Alberta Equine Welfare Group is established
- Euthanasia training program started with AVMA

## 2008

- Livestock Care Conference - record attendance