

AFAC Update - August

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Welcome

Our monthly e-newsletter will give you a quick look at what's kept us busy in the last month and what's coming up. If there's information you would like to see included or if you have any questions about our activities, please let us know!

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Executive Director's Update

I hope everyone is having a good summer - I think we would all like to see a bit more rain though! Work continues here on the new three-year strategic plan as well as a review of internal policies and our by-laws.

The one-day strategy session resulted in an updated Vision Statement which embodies our commitments going forward:

Alberta Farm Animal Care works to ensure farm animals in Alberta are respected, well-cared for and experience a high state of welfare through collaboration with and support of our members and partners.

Applications are now open for Alberta's [Canadian Agriculture Partnership](#) program and we are currently looking for partners in projects under the the Public Trust - Ag literacy and education programs. Our vision of collaboration with partners and members fits perfectly with the requirements for CAP funding.

Our membership drive continues, as well as a revamp of member benefits. One big change is a new supporter logo that farms, ranches and organizations can use to highlight their commitment to livestock welfare. Producer memberships start at \$100 and the updated package will be released shortly. New benefits include a discounted registration fee for our Livestock Care Conference. Become a member today! Register [here](#).



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The Livestock Welfare Engagement survey is going very well (see below) but Melissa would like to see more submissions from all groups, particularly poultry, swine and dairy sectors who are currently under-represented. Click [here](#) to take the survey now and share your insights about the livestock industry in Alberta.

The Urban Hen resources we developed were recently part of an online training session facilitated by our partner Cassandra Kirkpatrick and hosted by the Marigold Library System in Okotoks. You can see the presentation [here](#) and contact us to book a backyard chicken presentation for your community - 403-652-5111.

Friends, neighbours and colleagues currently dealing with wild fires, evacuations and droughts are in our thoughts as summer winds down. Donations are being accepted by the [BC Red Cross](#). Here's hoping for rain and cooler temperatures for us all in the near future.

Annemarie Pedersen

Marketing and Membership Manager's Update

The last month my focus was mainly on **three** things. Kristen Mortensen and I have had a big project on the go that involved trips to Edmonton, Olds, Lethbridge and Strathmore to **film some past students that had been**

sponsored to attend the Livestock Care Conference in the past. The goal is to make a video that we can present to future students to continue the strong presence of this program. This has been an extremely rewarding experience to listen to how much the program has benefitted and will continue to benefit the students in their careers!

This experience ties in nicely with one of our other yearly programs that is coming up very quickly. **Every fall I take to the road to talk to all of the post secondaries that have an agriculture program.** The presentations are focused on animal welfare, AFAC programs, and more specifically encouraging students to attend the Livestock Care Conference in March. This is one of my favourite times of the year!



Speaking of the **Livestock Care Conference**, plans are well underway for our annual event, taking place in Olds, March 20 and 21st! We nearly have our agenda finalized and we have a great line up of amazing people. The theme of the conference is “Partners in Progress: Tools for Success”, and that is exactly what the line up is looking to deliver. With Keynote Speaker, Dr. Rebecca Gimenez (pictured above) leading a condensed Technical Large Animal Emergency Rescue Workshop on Day One plus a presentation on Day Two, the practical side of agriculture will be highlighted. Check our [website](#) where we will post the draft agenda shortly.

Kristen Hall

Communications Coordinator's Update

Well it looks as if this summer is hanging out for a while longer! I hope everyone has stayed cool, safe, and received enough rain. I know we've stayed busy creating some new [resources](#) for you, finishing up our summer season of events, and road tripping around Southern Alberta to interview some fantastic people!



Filming past student, Caitlin Anderson, around Strathmore for an upcoming video promoting the student sponsorship program

As Kristen Hall mentioned in her update, we have been travelling around Southern Alberta filming to promote the Student Sponsorship program of the Livestock Care Conference. So stayed tuned to hear from some inspiring and passionate people!

We had some amazing volunteers represent us at the Vermilion Fair, so if you were there I hope you stopped by and said hi! There was also an Emergency Livestock Handling Equipment Trailer that came to the fair to help showcase the program, which was a great addition.

Kristen Mortensen





Extension Coordinator's Update

This past month was a hot one! With the higher than average temperatures, Alberta Farm Animal Care has received concerned calls and emails about heat stress in livestock. I happily completed interviews with radio stations on the subject to explain what to look for and how producers work hard to prevent heat stress in their livestock.

<https://cochranenow.com/ag-news/agriculture-news-ab/keeping-livestock-cool-in-this-weeks-scorching-temperatures>

We've also been promoting our new [heat stress in beef cattle infographic](#) on our social media accounts, with significant uptake.

We've also been working on finalizing an update to a public-facing infographic and four new fact sheets on cattle transportation.



The Livestock Welfare Engagement Project online survey was launched last month and will be open until October 31st. **To date, we've had great uptake with almost 300 responses. Even with their busy summers, producers still make up almost half of those responses!**

Thank you to everyone that has taken the time to complete the survey. Anyone involved in animal agriculture in Alberta is encouraged to participate in the Livestock Welfare Engagement Project survey and have your voice heard! Focus groups will follow in the fall to grow on the information learned from the survey. Your participation is a vital part of developing a deeper understanding of livestock welfare in Alberta and will contribute to a final report, which will be shared with the Government of Alberta. The Livestock Welfare Engagement Project was requested and is being funded by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry.

[Click here to complete the survey.](#)

Melissa Moggy



DID YOU KNOW?

ALBERTA LIVESTOCK
PRODUCERS CAN BECOME AFAC

PRODUCERS CAN BECOME ALERT
MEMBERS FOR ONLY \$100

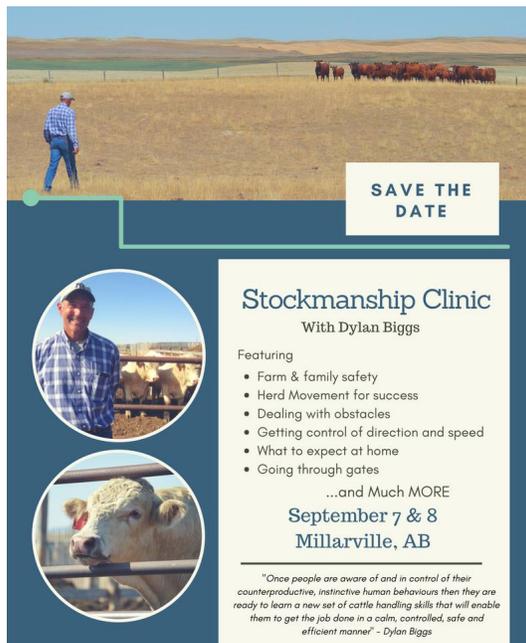
JOIN TODAY!

ALERT Line

The [ALERT Line](#) is an anonymous, producer-helping-producer call line. If you ever see animals in distress, call **1-800-506-2273**

July was another busy month for the ALERT Line, as we took in a total of **22 calls**. Of those 22 calls, **18 of them were Cases**, mostly revolving around livestock at large, and no access to feed and/or water. Three of the cases were unfounded, one was passed to the Alberta SPCA, and the rest were resolved by either the RCMP or one of our very dedicated volunteers. We also had **three Information** calls and **one Trailer** call that was used to help with cattle at large because the RCMP wasn't able to get to the scene.

A reminder that if you ever come across any livestock on or near a road, please call your local RCMP detachment. Because of the human safety risk involved with livestock at large, this is in their jurisdiction. They are familiar with LIS (Livestock Identification Services) and know to contact them if they are unsure of who the owners are.



SAVE THE DATE

Stockmanship Clinic

With Dylan Biggs

Featuring

- Farm & family safety
- Herd Movement for success
- Dealing with obstacles
- Getting control of direction and speed
- What to expect at home
- Going through gates

...and Much MORE

September 7 & 8
Millarville, AB

"Once people are aware of and in control of their counterproductive, instinctive human behaviours then they are ready to learn a new set of cattle handling skills that will enable them to get the job done in a calm, controlled, safe and efficient manner" - Dylan Biggs

Upcoming events

[Mountain View County Antimicrobial Workshop](#)

- August 30
- Sundre, AB

[Stockmanship Clinic w/ Dylan Biggs](#)

- September 7 & 8
- Millarville, AB

2019 Livestock Care Conference

- March 20 & 21



- Olds, AB

Check out our blog

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