

AFAC Update - January

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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!
info@afac.ab.ca

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Executive Director's Update

Happy belated New Year! We ended 2018 with final reports, grant applications and plans well underway for 2019...and things picked up quickly in January. As you will read below the team has been hard at work updating our resource materials, finalizing the plans for LCC, building the annual report and providing industry support through the ALERT line.

My focus has been on meetings with industry partners, finalizing the new three-year strategic plan for launch at LCC, bringing in new partners and members, and streamlining our bylaws and budget. We will have more to share with you at the [Livestock Care Conference](#) - and I am looking forward to a great turn out this year.

January is the perfect time to renew or begin your membership with AFAC. We offer discounts on LCC registration, training and workshops, invitations to member-only Advisory Council meetings, and coordination of workshops or meetings for your organization. As well, you have access to AFAC materials and an AFAC Proud Supporter logo that can be used on your website, promo items or farm-gate sales materials. All members from Producer to Platinum have a vote at the AFAC AGM and are eligible for a position on our board.

The coming year promises to be an exciting one of change and transition - I hope you will join us!

Annemarie Pedersen





...are you waiting for?

Join AFAC today!

Marketing and Membership Manager's Update

Travel has slowed down for me over the last two months which has been a nice break- BUT the time is still flying by!

Over the last two months, I was lucky enough to attend the Agricultural Fieldmen's In Service Training Conference at the beginning of December. This is a great time for us to touch base with existing county members (of which we have 22) and network with other potential county members! The event is also filled with great speakers and presentations which makes it even more worthwhile to attend. The other event that I was able to take part in was the Ladies Livestock Lessons in Airdrie. A quick presentation on Alberta Farm Animal Care was delivered to the group of over 70 women!



With the 2019 Livestock Care Conference just around the corner, I have been

busy trying to coordinate speaker travel plans, conference and student sponsorship applications and Awards of Distinction nominations. For all of the details on the conference, and to register, please head to www.afac.ab.ca/livestock-care-conference-2019/

Early bird pricing will be in effect until February 20, 2019. See you there!

Conference Sponsorship

There are sponsorship opportunities still available, please [click here](#) for more details or contact me at kristen@afac.ab.ca

Student Sponsorship Applications

Student Sponsorship Applications will be accepted until February 22, 2019. For more information on what is required to apply, please [click here](#). Applications can be submitted on the [website](#) or directly to kristen@afac.ab.ca

Awards of Distinction Nominations

The Awards of Distinction Call for Nominations is happening now! We are looking for exceptional people in all three categories: Communications, Industry Leadership and Innovation. Nominations should be submitted in letter format and can be sent to kristen@afac.ab.ca or on the [website](#). Don't forget to include which category you are nominating that person for.

Condensed Technical Large Animal Emergency Rescue Workshop

Join Dr. Rebecca Gimenez for a Condensed Technical Large Animal Emergency Rescue Workshop on March 20. Tickets are only \$35, space is limited and tickets are selling quickly! [Click here to register.](#)

Reception- March 20

Join the AFAC team for Beers, Beef and Trivia! Discounts available when you register for the reception and the conference, and we encourage you to bring friends and family even if they aren't planning on attending the rest of the conference. For more information and to register, [click here](#).



BEEF BEER TRIVIA!

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Come help us kick off the 2019 Livestock Care Conference with a night of AAA beef, beer tasting, and a trivia night!

\$50/ticket

6PM-6:45PM	Olds College Brewery Beer Tasting and Social
6:45PM-7:30PM	AAA Baron of Beef dinner and cash bar
7:30PM-10:30PM	TRIVIA Night & Cash Bar- Questions on ALL topics

SIGNIFICANT OTHERS AND FRIENDS ARE WELCOME!

March 21- Livestock Care Conference

We've got our draft [agenda](#) finalized and we are so excited to highlight the theme "Partners in Progress: Tools for Success". The day will feature many very talented speakers and two interactive panels. Discounts available for members. [Click here to join us!](#)

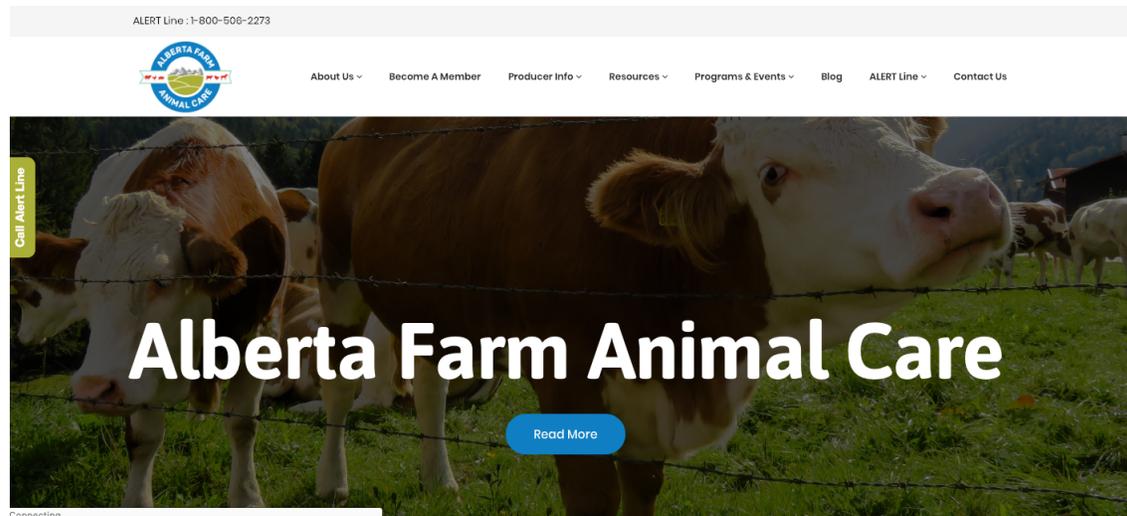
Kristen Hall

Communications Coordinator's Update

I hope everyone's new year is off to a fantastic start, I know that we've jumped back into it after our Christmas break here at AFAC!

December was a busy month with lots of updates to our existing materials including new versions of our ALERT Line and trailer infographics, trailer cards, little meetbooks, and Down Debut Game of our infographics were also

cards, kid's workbook, and Barn Door! Some of our infographics were also revamped before the holidays and we are excited to showcase them at upcoming events. Our brand new website is almost ready to be unveiled, although it is up and running we're just cleaning up some final things this month!



We have six new interns through the Serving Communities Internship Program: four Livestock Care Educators, one Video Editor, and one Communications Design Intern. They have already started working hard at developing new materials and videos for us! This program has been a valuable asset for us in previous years and we are grateful we can add eager interns whose work is funded through this program.

We have also started work on our 2018 Annual Report and they will be hot off the press in March at our 2019 Livestock Care Conference. Hope to see you there!

Finally, our social media has steadily been growing and we've been showcasing some great things on all channels - so whether [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), or [Instagram](#) is your tool of choice, give us a follow to find out what we're doing, learn some fascinating facts, see what's going on in the industry, and more!

Kristen Lepp

Extension Coordinator's Update

We accomplished a lot in the last two months! The Livestock Welfare Engagement Project team completed the analyses of the online survey responses and the focus groups. Those analyses were summarized in a summary report that was submitted to the Government of Alberta on December 31st. We would like to, again, thank everyone who participated in this project. We are currently working on our next steps. The Livestock Welfare Engagement Project was requested and is being funded by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry.



We are waiting on industry feedback on some additions to our “Considering the Codes” series. This series goes over requirements in the Codes of Practices and summarizes how the requirements may improve animal care and strengthen an operation. We’ll let you know when those get posted to our website!

I am currently creating a new infographic for producers on a heat and cold stress in a common livestock species found in Alberta. The beef edition is up on the website and we hope to share others with you soon! In the meantime, don’t forget that in the colder temperatures it's important to keep an eye on your livestock for signs of cold stress.

Melissa Moggy



COLD STRESS IN BEEF CATTLE

Cattle tolerate cold temperatures well if acclimated. However, calves, cattle in poor condition, wet cattle, and those fed a low-energy diet are more sensitive to cold stress

WHAT IS COLD STRESS?



Cold stress or hypothermia occurs when the body's temperature drops below average (38°C). Beef cattle in Alberta can usually handle -20°C in the winter, assuming calm winds (or shelter from the wind), good body condition, and a dry winter coat. However, if cattle still have their summer coats, are in poor body condition, and if they don't have access to shelter, then they cannot handle such low temperatures. Furthermore, small calves lose body heat faster than adults and cannot handle as low temperatures.

WHAT ARE THE SIGNS?



Shivering (but cattle may stop if worsens)



Low rectal temp (< 35°C)



Cold mouth



Not suckling (calves)



Unable to get up



Frostbite

WHAT CAN I DO?



Protect from the wind



Provide water*



A winter feeding protocol with additional high energy feed



Keep cattle clean & dry

Bed cattle well

Monitor the weather

*Using snow as a sole winter water source is not appropriate in all geographic areas. Contact your local beef cattle specialist or your veterinarian for advice.

LEARN MORE!



NATIONAL FARM ANIMAL CARE COUNCIL
CONSEIL NATIONAL POUR LES SOINS AUX ANIMAUX D'ÉLEVAGE

The Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Beef Cattle
1.1 Protection from Extreme Weather - Page 8



WWW.AFAC.AB.CA

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**

December was a bit slower, but January has picked right back up. The most common concern that we had over the last couple of months was access to feed.

December had a total of 5 calls:

- **4 Cases (2 resolved, 2 passed to the SPCA, and 1 unfounded)**
- **1 Emergency Livestock Handling Equipment Trailer Call (resolved)**

January had a total of 15 calls (with still a couple of days to go)

- **13 Cases (2 pending, 1 resolved, 1 follow up call, 5 passed to the SPCA, 4 unfounded)**
- **1 Emergency Livestock Handling Equipment Trailer Call (resolved)**
- **1 Information Call (resolved)**

Do you know where the closest Emergency Livestock Handling Equipment Trailer is to you? Check out this [video](#) to learn about all of the locations and how to access a trailer if you need one.



Upcoming industry events

[Feeder Association Conference](#)

- February 1 & 2
- Red Deer, AB

[Ag Society Conference](#)

- February 8-10
- Edmonton, AB

[Western Poultry Conference](#)

- February 25
- Red Deer, AB

[Alberta Forage Industry Network AGM](#)

- March 5
- Leduc, AB

[Western Canadian Dairy Seminar](#)

- March 6-8
- Red Deer, AB

[Alberta Beef Industry Conference](#)

- March 12-14
- Red Deer, AB

[2019 Livestock Care Conference](#)

- March 20 & 21
- Olds, AB

Check out our blog

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