

AFAC Update - November

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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

November marks the end of my first year working with the incredible team at AFAC. As you will see below, we have been hard at work for you. Grant reporting and applications (this is a team effort!), a presentation to teachers at the Ag For Life Education Symposium, the AB Lamb, AB Pork and AB Milk AGMs and the beginnings of budget planning for 2019 are just a few of the things that have kept me busy this month. As well, the upcoming Advisory Council meeting and strategic plan review is our first opportunity to share with our members the direction for AFAC for the next three years. I look forward to speaking with members this week.

I was reminded at the various meetings I attended how important it is for us to work together as a livestock sector. Whether supply managed or not, each commodity group is facing change and challenge but the common theme is still a focus on continuous improvement - and animal welfare remains a key focus for everyone.

We are very proud to be able to support the work being done by our members, to provide emergency support through the ALERT line, and to work in partnership on new initiatives. As always, I welcome your thoughts on the work we do, and ideas for future opportunities to serve the livestock sector. [Contact me anytime.](#)

Annemarie Pedersen

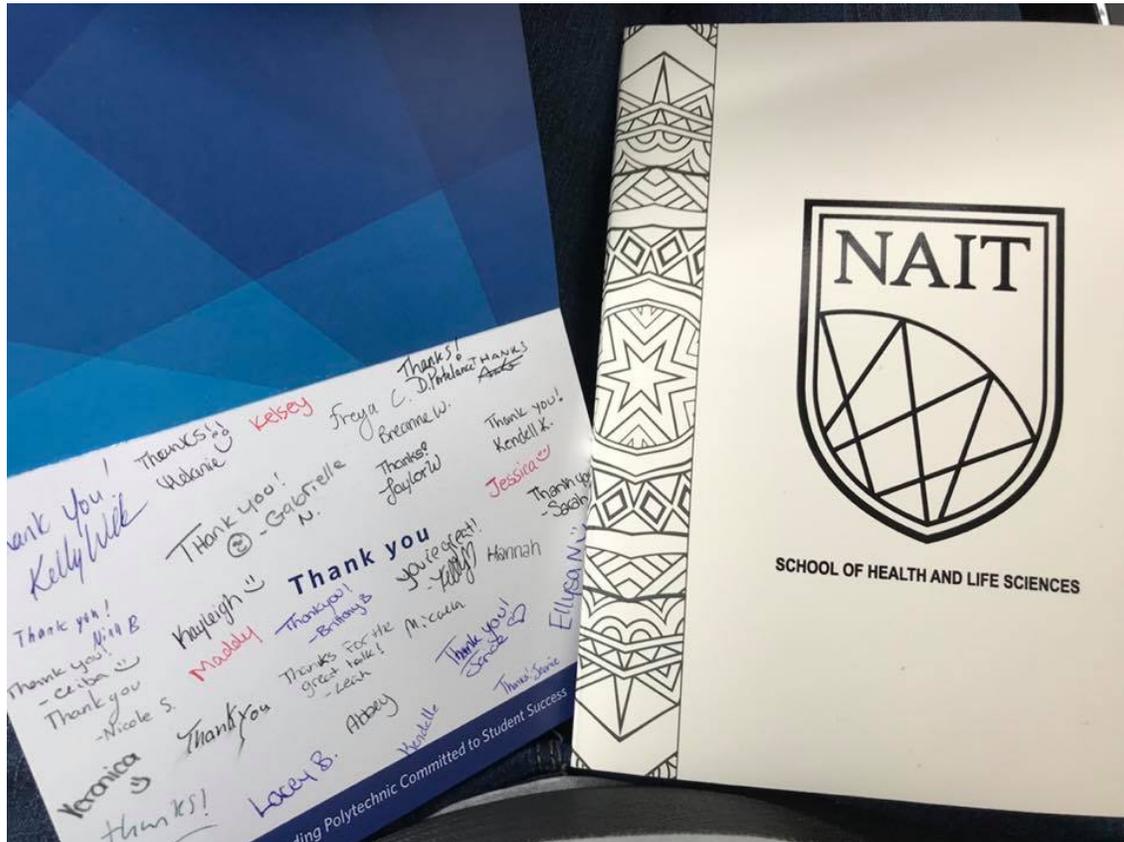
Marketing and Membership Manager's Update

The last month has been another busy one that has involved a decent amount of travel, but also some time in the office to work on the upcoming Livestock Care Conference!

While on the road, I was able to attend a couple of special events. At the beginning of November, I was lucky enough to be able to attend the Alberta Beekeepers Commission Conference and AGM. In an effort for AFAC to be inclusive of all species, a huge effort is being made to interact with the beekeeping community as we have some exciting new projects (hopefully) combining us soon.

coming up soon.

NAIT was another one of my stops on the road over the last month, and this was a ground-breaking moment as this marked the first time that AFAC had spoken to NAIT as part of our Fall, post-secondary presentations. This was also a great way to end off the post-secondary presentations, as this was the last one of the year!



The Canadian Association of Fairs and Exhibitions approached us a few months ago to take part in their webinar series, so we did! This webinar was recorded so once our new website is up and running, this will be available for members to use and access.

Applications have officially opened for student sponsorship to attend the 2019 Livestock Care Conference, and we received our first submission last week! The deadline for applications is February 22, 2019.

Lastly, I wanted to highlight that we are still looking for sponsorship for the 2019 Livestock Care Conference. If this is something you would like to help out with, please head to our website or email myself (kristen@afac.ab.ca) for more information!

Kristen Hall

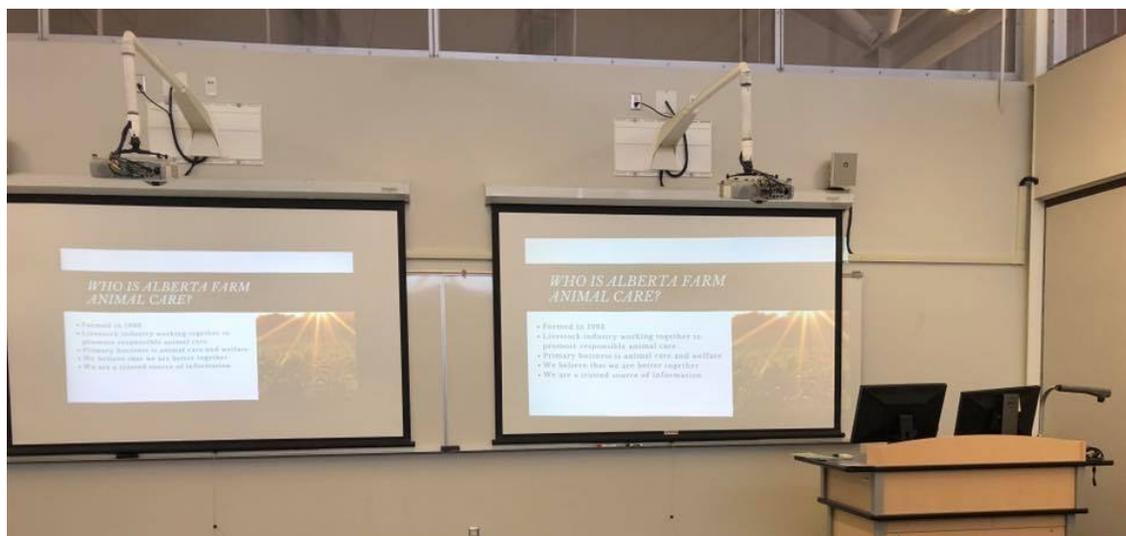
Communications Coordinator's Update

It's been a bit quieter this past month but there has still been lots of exciting things happening!

I was able to spend the day in Red Deer speaking to high school students at the Ag for Life Teacher's Symposium. This was a great event where we got to reach out to teachers and students and talk about animal welfare and resources that they can use when they have questions!

We are so excited to be providing new handouts at the 4-H Leaders Conference this January and we hope to reach out to the 4-H clubs in Alberta better through this event. If you know of a club or district that would like to get involved with AFAC please contact us!

On November 30 we have our last Advisory Council meeting for the year in Airdrie. The topic is on AFAC's strategic direction as well as updates from commodity organizations on animal welfare standards, accountability, and enforcement in their industry. Advisory Council meetings are open to AFAC Commodity, Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze, and Producer members. If you're interested in becoming an AFAC member and attending these events, please email [Kristen Hall!](mailto:kristen.hall@afac.ca)





The Serving Communities Internship Program is up and running so if you are a post-secondary student in Alberta check out these great opportunities! These internships are open for all current post-secondary students in Alberta and students are awarded \$1000 at the end of their internship.

We have internships available for [Livestock Care Educators](#), a [Communications Design Intern](#), and a [Video Editor](#) right now but stay tuned for more internships coming up in the future!

Lastly, my email has officially changed with my last name to kristenl@afac.ab.ca from kristenm@afac.ab.ca so please update accordingly!

Hope everyone's staying warm,

Kristen Lepp

Extension Coordinator's Update

We've accomplished a lot in the last month. The Livestock Welfare Engagement Project online survey closed October 31st and I'm proud to say that we had a total of 588 responses! I am currently working on analyzing the survey responses and working with our great team to prepare the summary report, which will be shared with the Government of Alberta. Perceptions from participants at the focus groups across Alberta will be included in the report to add depth and detail.

The Livestock Welfare Engagement Project was requested and is being funded by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry.



We are currently working on a project proposal through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership Biosecurity program. We always look forward to opportunities to collaborate with partners in our industry and this project is an exciting new opportunity for AFAC to meet and impact even more of the people that care for animals in our province.



I am also in the process of updating 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 currently have only a general introduction to the Codes and two beef entries. We’re now working on numerous entries on diverse species. The design was also updated and can be seen below.



CONSIDERING THE CODES

WHAT ARE THE CODES OF PRACTICE?
The Codes of Practice are nationally developed guidelines for the care and handling of farm animals. They are designed to promote sound management practices for housing, care, transportation, and other husbandry practices. The development of each Code takes into consideration the best available research and stakeholder input.

WHAT ARE REQUIREMENTS?
These refer to either a regulatory requirement or an industry-imposed expectation outlining acceptable and unacceptable practices and are fundamental obligations relating to the care of animals. Requirements represent a consensus position that these measures, at minimum, are to be implemented by all persons responsible for farm animal care. When included as part of an assessment program, those who fail to implement Requirements may be compelled by industry associations to undertake corrective measures or risk a loss of market options. Requirements also may be enforceable under federal and provincial regulation.

WHAT ARE RECOMMENDATIONS?
Recommendations may complement a Code's Requirements, promote producer education and can encourage the adoption of practices for continuous improvement in animal welfare outcomes. Recommended practices are those which are generally expected to enhance animal welfare outcomes, but failure to implement them does not imply that acceptable standards of animal care are not met.



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT NFACC.CA

Melissa Moggy





JOIN US

**ALBERTA LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS CAN BECOME
AFAC MEMBERS FOR ONLY \$100
JOIN TODAY!**

ALERT Line

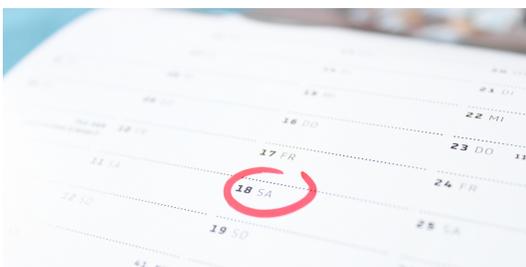
The [ALERT Line](#) is an anonymous, producer-helping-producer call line. If you ever see animals in distress, call **1-800-506-2273**

This last month was one of the slower once in the last few months. Some common concerns revolved around livestock at large and livestock that were being neglected.

October had a total of 14 calls:

- **11 Cases (9 resolved, 1 passed to the SPCA, and 1 monitoring)**
- **1 Information Call (Resolved)**
- **2 Emergency Livestock Handling Equipment Trailer Calls (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

[In Service Training](#)

- December 4-6



- Calgary, AB

[Alberta Beef Producers AGM](#)

- December 3-5, 2018
- Calgary, AB

[NFACC Board Meeting](#)

- December 5-6, 2018
- Ottawa, AB

[2019 Livestock Care Conference](#)

- March 20 & 21
- Olds, AB

Check out our blog

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