

AFAC Update - September

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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

Autumn is my favourite season - and I'm hoping Mother Nature will give everyone something to celebrate! Work ramped up pretty quickly in August as we prepared for a very hectic fall schedule.

The Livestock Welfare Engagement Program - we are very pleased to see that so many producers and partners have already shared their thoughts on the livestock sector through the [online survey](#) and I encourage you to join them if you haven't already.

Please also join us for the **LWEP Focus Groups** - the details are below in Melissa's update. This is a one-day session where we gather industry partners to discuss the key issues highlighted by our surveys and the initial information session - and lunch is on us!

The **Membership Drive** continues and I urge you to consider supporting our work. We have already accomplished quite a bit this year, but we still have a lot to do and the funds we raise through our members provide the foundation for that work. The new membership package is available now- see a glimpse below. Join our team today! Register [here](#).



Collaborate

Better together. Connect industry partners in discussions, research and resource development for the benefit of all.

Work together on research projects that serve multiple players in a sector. Build related extension resources collaboratively to be shared with the entire industry.

Come together for the annual Livestock Care Conference to hear about and discuss issues from different sectors.

Outreach



Partners with other organizations in Agriculture Education presentations and events for school kids and families throughout the province.

Speak to post-secondary students and share the information and resources available to them as they enter the industry.

Develop resources and information to support transparent conversations about livestock welfare with producers and the public.

Producers helping producers



Advisory Council meetings bring the industry together to discuss timely issues, offer direction to the organization.

Meet the Experts program provides AFAC and industry partners an opportunity to meet and mentor the next generation of livestock producers.

ALERT line is a confidential line for livestock welfare information, questions and concerns. The 24/7 toll-free line also supports the Emergency Livestock Handling Equipment Trailer network.

Kristen Mortensen is leading the revamp of our **website** and by this time next month we should have a new, improved mobile-friendly site. We will be launching it through social media as soon as it is ready, so stay tuned!

Kristen Hall has done a great job recruiting sponsors for our annual **Livestock Care Conference** next March, and there are still a few opportunities available. Don't forget the [early bird registration](#) is open now. #LivestockCare2019

The team will be all over the province in the next month between industry events, post-secondary presentations and the LWEP sessions. I look forward to seeing many of our members on my travels...and maybe recruiting some new ones!

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.

Annemarie Pedersen

Marketing and Membership Manager's Update

The last month has been filled with preparation for the upcoming months, however I was able to sneak away from the office for a few family filled day trips.

The Fall is when I have the opportunity to go and speak to all the post-

...and I will have the opportunity to go and speak to all the post-secondary institutions with an agriculture related program. I will be heading to Lethbridge College, University of Calgary, Olds College, University of Alberta, NAIT, Lakeland College and Grande Prairie Regional College: Fairview Campus. This is a lot of time on the road, but it is always so rewarding to speak to the students. With the completion of our student sponsorship video, which I mentioned in my last update, we will be showcasing the testimonial video during all of the presentations. Here is a quick look at the sneak-a-peak promotional student video.



Advice from past students

We have also started receiving sponsorships for the 2019 Livestock Care Conference, and I wanted to send out a big thank you to the following:

Gold Level Sponsors- AFSC

Silver Level Sponsors- Gateway Carriers, Alberta Veterinary Medical Association

Bronze- Western Hog Exchange

Exhibitor Booth- VBP+, Alberta Veterinary Technologist Association

Speaker Sponsors

Dr. Rebecca (Gimenez) Husted- Alberta Veterinary Medical Association

Dr. Joyce Van Donkersgoed- Alberta Cattle Feeders' Association

Casey Buller, McIntosh, Colvin Ag Communications

Sage Patten McIntosh- Cole's Ag Communications
Dr. Karen Schwean- Lardner- Poultry Health Services

Take some time to check out our [agenda](#), and don't forget that early bird registration is already open! Sponsorship Opportunities are still available as well.

Kristen Hall



Karen Schwean-Lardner

Karen Schwean-Lardner is an Assistant Professor at the University of Saskatchewan, working with turkeys, broilers and laying hens. Her work is often multi-dimensional, using production, behaviour and physiological indicators, to examine how various management practices impact both the welfare and productivity of birds. Karen completed her M.Sc. (thesis – Alternative Housing Systems for Laying Hens) and her PhD (Impact of Daylength on Broiler Production and Welfare) at the University of Saskatchewan. During the time of and after completing her Ph.D., she managed the University of Saskatchewan Poultry Research and Teaching Centre. She is also heavily involved in teaching poultry sciences, including production and management, but also behaviour and welfare of poultry and other livestock species.

Sponsored by:



Communications Coordinator's Update

It finally feels like the fall is almost here! Along with the cooler weather, we also have new and exciting things happening at AFAC. We spent the last month getting lots of footage together and I'm happy to say the student sponsorship promo video has gone out! Check out the short video in Kristen Hall's update above.

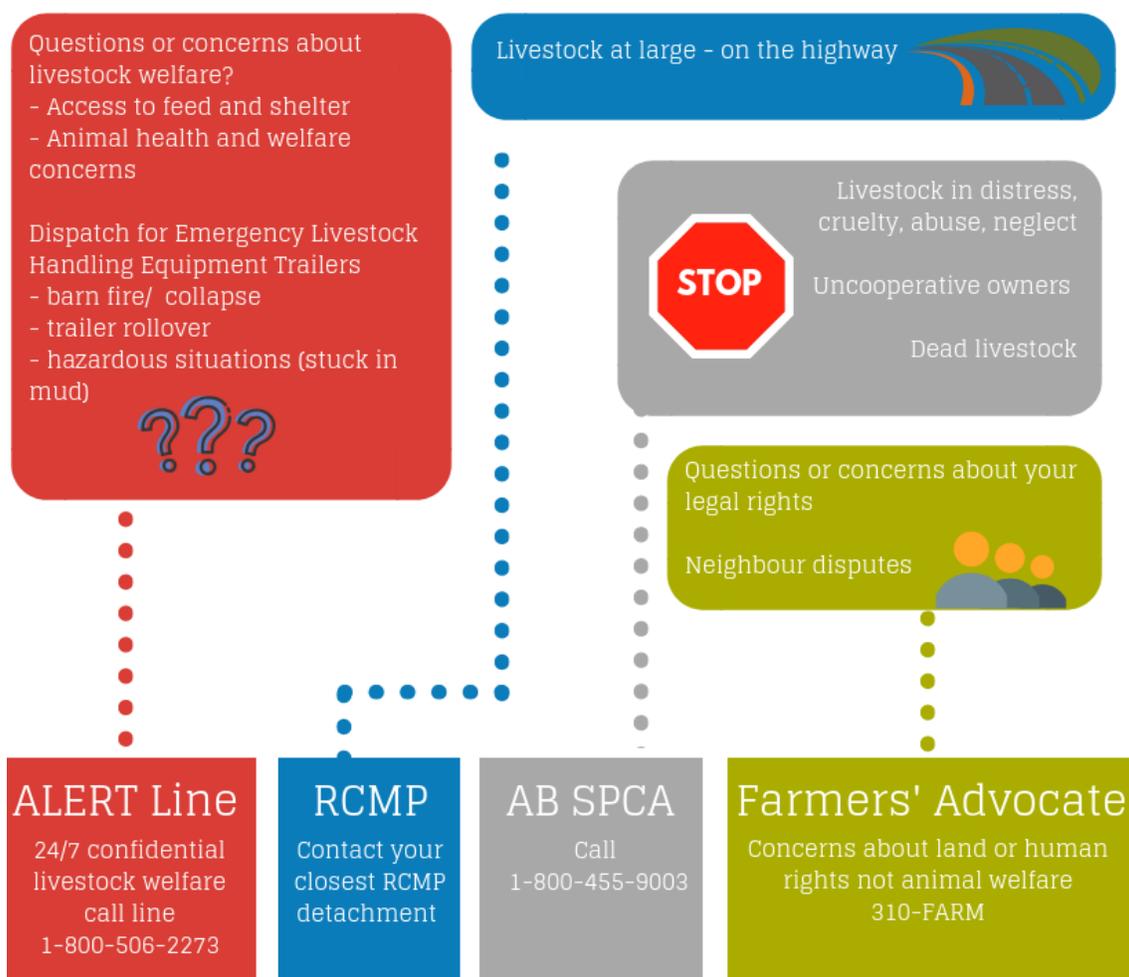
We also released the ALERT Line decision flow chart. If you have any farm animal welfare concerns - know who to call.



WHEN TO CALL

the 24/7 livestock care

ALERT Line



Unsure of who to contact? Call the ALERT Line at 1-800-506-2273

We will be at the Livestock Expo next month in Lethbridge on October 10 and 11 and we have FREE ADMISSION to give away. So if you're interested in coming to the expo, give us an email at kristenm@afac.ab.ca or call at 403-652-5111 to pick up a pass.

We are always looking for passionate volunteers to help represent AFAC at events throughout the year. If you're interested in volunteering, send us an [email](#) or give us a call!

I'm excited to be at the Canadian Farm Writer's Conference this upcoming weekend in Winnipeg and I can't wait to come back with some exciting updates and information to share with everyone! A huge thanks again to the Alberta Farm Writers' Association for the hursary that's allowing me to attend this

Farm Writers Association for the salary that's allowing me to attend this awesome event!

Also a big thanks to [Cole's Ag Communications](#) for designing our new Livestock Care Conference logo! Keep an eye out for it in the upcoming months.

Kristen Mortensen



Extension Coordinator's Update

Anyone involved in animal agriculture in Alberta is encouraged to participate in the Livestock Welfare Engagement Project (LWEP) and have your voice heard!

The LWEP online survey is open until October 31st. To-date, we've had great uptake with over 450 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.**

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

The **Focus Groups** are the final information gathering part of the project. The first session takes place this Thursday, **Sept. 20 at Grande Prairie Regional College in Fairview.**

The remaining four Focus Groups are:

Tuesday, Sept. 25 - Lethbridge College

Tuesday, Oct. 2 - Olds College

Wednesday, Oct. 10 - University of Alberta, Edmonton

Thursday, Oct. 25 - Lakeland College, Vermillion

Register for a Focus Group in your area - go to www.afac.ab.ca and click the link on the home page.

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.

Melissa Moggy





DID YOU KNOW?

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**

August was a bit slower month for the ALERT Line, as we took in a total of **18 calls**. Of those 18 calls, **15 of them were Cases**, mostly revolving around livestock at large, and no access to feed and/or water. One case is pending, three were passed to the Alberta SPCA, and the rest were resolved by either the RCMP or one of our very dedicated volunteers. We also had **two Information** calls and **one Trailer** call this month.

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. Check the flow chart above to find the organization to best help your livestock concerns.



Incoming events



Upcoming events

[Livestock Expo](#)

- October 10 & 11
- Lethbridge, AB

[CanWest Veterinary Conference](#)

- October 13-16
- Banff, AB

[Red Deer Swine](#)

[Technology Workshop](#)

- October 24
- Red Deer, AB

[2019 Livestock Care Conference](#)

- March 20 & 21
- Olds, AB

Check out our blog

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www.afac.ab.ca

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