

February Newsletter

Campaign Preview

HTML Source

Plain-Text Email

Details



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

In this issue

Executive Director's Update

Marketing and Membership Manager's Update

Communications Coordinator's Update

ALERT Line

Upcoming Events

Executive Director's Update

As you can tell by the updates below, we have been splitting our time between industry meetings and conferences, and in final planning for the Livestock Care Conference - which is only three weeks away!

I attended the UCVM Beef Extension planning session last week, the Western Poultry Conference in Red Deer this week and head back to Red Deer next week for the Western Dairy Seminar, and again the following week for the Alberta Beef Industry Conference. I enjoy these meetings as they give me a chance to hear what the issues are for the different livestock sectors and to meet with colleagues and partners. I generally leave these meetings inspired with ideas and new opportunities and contacts. Please let us know if your group is holding a meeting that you would like AFAC staff to attend- and we will do our best to be there.

Most of my work for LCC revolves around our AGM - and a focus on achieving quorum at the meeting on March 21, so we can pass the resolutions needed to ensure the organization is efficient and effective. If you are a current voting member of AFAC and haven't received the *Notice of Meeting* emails from us, please email annemarie@afac.ab.ca and I will make sure you receive the AGM package.

This year the AGM package includes a **proxy form**. If you are a voting member and will not be able to attend the AGM breakfast prior to the Livestock Care Conference, please ensure you provide that form to us no later than March 11, 2019. If you don't have a scanner, take a photo of the signed form and email it to annemarie@afac.ab.ca. You must assign your proxy to a voting member in good standing, which can include one of our AFAC board members. A list with their information is included in the package.

If you are not yet a member and are considering attending the conference, this is a fantastic time to become a member - you will qualify for 50 per cent off the registration price and you can join our Annual Meeting and breakfast!

I hope to see many of you at the Livestock Care Conference March 20 and 21st at the Pomeroy in Olds. This is a highlight of our year, and the team has again pulled together an inspiring day of speakers and panels under our theme *Partners in Progress: Tools for Success*. I look forward to meeting you in my travels around the province.

Marketing and Membership Manager's Update

February has flown by which seems strange as I look at my calendar. I was in the office most of the time, other than having a booth at both the Feeder Associations of Alberta Conference and the Alberta Agricultural Societies Convention. But with the 2019 Livestock Care Conference quickly approaching, my days have been FULL.

In February we had two Livestock Care Conference deadlines come and go:

1. Awards of Distinction Nominations (Closed February 15)- The winners in each of the categories (Communications, Industry Leadership and Innovation) will be announced during the lunch hour on March 21 at the Livestock Care Conference
2. Student Sponsorship Applications (Closed February 22)- We had 28 students apply to attend and thanks to our amazing student sponsors, we are able to accommodate all of them!

We'd like to thank our CONFERENCE SPONSORS!

GOLD



SILVER



BRONZE



We'd like to thank our STUDENT SPONSORS!



Western Stock Growers' Association



We'd like to thank our CONFERENCE SPONSORS!

BOOTH



If you have not yet registered for the upcoming Livestock Care Conference, there is

still time. Come and join us for some or all of the great events that will be going on:

1. March 20 8am-12pm: Condensed Technical Large Animal Emergency Rescue Workshop (\$35/Ticket)- **ONLY 13 SPOTS REMAINING.**
2. March 20 6pm-10pm: RECEPTION: Beers, Beef and Trivia Night (\$50/Ticket)
3. March 21- 2019 LIVESTOCK CARE CONFERENCE. [Click here to view the full agenda.](#)

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

A big shout out to all of our current [Livestock Care Conference Sponsors](#). If you would like an opportunity to showcase your business at our upcoming event OR have any other Livestock Care Conference related questions, please contact Kristen Hall at kristen@afac.ab.ca.

Kristen Hall

Communications Coordinator's Update

With the cold weather we have been getting this past month, we've figured out the way to stay warm is by staying busy!

Kristen Hall and I had the opportunity to travel to the Feeders Convention in Red Deer and the Association of Ag Societies in Edmonton at the start of the month. We have finished up edits on our educational resources, The Barn Door and our kid's workbook and versions 2.0 have been printed so look out for them at ag events near you!





We have been promoting our upcoming Livestock Care Conference ([register here](#)) and working on our 2018 Annual Report which will give you a detailed description of the past year and all of the exciting things we have been working on! It will be available at the conference and up on our website shortly after.

The ALERT Line has been busier than ever with this cold snap, you can check out our stats for this month below. But we would like to give a huge thank you to all of the organizations and volunteers that we work with on the ALERT Line. It really is a team effort and the ALERT Line wouldn't work without the people dedicating their time and resources to help it run so smoothly. Thank you so much!

As well, we are looking for passionate ranchers, farmers, or industry experts in the Lac Ste. Anne and Special Areas No. 3 counties who would like to volunteer with the ALERT Line! Send us an email at alert@afac.ab.ca or give us a call at 403-652-5111 if you would like more information or are interested!

Our social media presence is growing and we are now on [LinkedIn](#)! Follow us to keep up with some exciting blog posts and news articles that we'll be sharing. While you're at it, we are on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) too!

A photograph of a flock of sheep in a snowy field. In the bottom left corner, there is a logo for Alberta Farm Animal Care.

Alberta Farm Animal Care

Farming · High River, Alberta · 5 followers

We are a provincial multi-species livestock welfare organization.

[Visit website](#)

Extension Coordinator's Update

During this past month, I have received individual questions from producers on caring for livestock during these cold temperatures. Is there something more that they can be doing? We also received a request from the media to speak on the topic. I gladly completed an interview with 660 News on caring for livestock in colder temperatures.

We are happy to announce our new heat and cold stress infographic for equines! We are grateful for input from the Alberta Equestrian Federation, Equestrian Canada, and the Horse Welfare Alliance of Canada and encourage our members to share the infographic. At this time, the infographic is only available [online](#), but we hope to have some printed for sharing soon!



COLD STRESS IN EQUINES

If acclimated to cold temperature, equines can tolerate colder temperatures.

WHAT IS COLD STRESS?



Cold stress or hypothermia occurs when the body's temperature drops below average (37 to 38°C). Equines are more sensitive to cold stress if: they still have their summer coats (or their coats are wet); are in poor body condition or health; they do not have access to shelter; they are restricted in their movement; and if they are fed a low-energy diet. Furthermore, very young or old equines cannot handle lower temperatures.

WHAT ARE THE SIGNS?

WHAT ARE THE SIGNS?



Shivering (may stop if condition worsens)



Pale mucous membranes (gums)



Low rectal temp (< 35°C)



Depression, staggering, down, unwilling to move



Skin is cold to the touch



Little interest in food or water

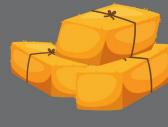
WHAT CAN I DO?



Protect from wind, rain, and snow



Provide clean water*



Provide good quality feed



Provide blanket**



Keep Dry

*Snow is not considered a sufficient sole source of water.

**Equines with good winter coats and in good condition may not need a blanket, but clipped or thin equines may. Check at least weekly for sores or overheating.

LEARN MORE!



NATIONAL FARM ANIMAL CARE COUNCIL

CONSEIL NATIONAL POUR LES SOINS AUX ANIMAUX D'ELEVAGE

The Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Equines

2.1.2 Shade and Outdoor Shelter – Pages 13 & 14



WWW.AFAC.AB.CA

This month I attended a meeting to discuss UCVM's plan for developing a beef

extension program and the Western Poultry Conference. Both events were great opportunities to discover what is currently being done in the respective sectors, in extension and research, and identified the gaps.

Our February [Insights newsletter](#) went out to our members on February 26th and will be posted to our website for public access soon. Articles this month focus on honey bee research, management practices to decrease antibiotic usage, and on producer mental health.

I am also currently working with Dr. Karen Schwartzkopf-Genswein in preparing the results of the Cattle Benchmarking Project for publication.

The Livestock Welfare Engagement Project (LWEP) brought together input from across the industry to provide the Government of Alberta with an understanding of livestock welfare in the province from the industry's perspective. We have submitted a proposal to use the remaining grant funds for extension, communication, and outreach activities based on the results of the engagement process.

Melissa Moggy

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**

There have been 27 total calls in the month of February on the ALERT Line, which works out to nearly one call a day. Of those calls, 20 were cases and 7 were information calls.

Cases:

- 10 horse related calls
- 7 beef cattle related calls
- 1 Donkey, 1 Dairy Cattle, 1 Sheep

Common Concerns: No feed, water, shelter and very cold temperatures. Of the cases, 10 of them were passed to the Alberta SPCA. This could be due to the severity of the cases or that we had a lack of volunteers in the area. Three of those calls were unfounded meaning that a volunteer went out to assess the situation, but

Calls were unanswered meaning that a volunteer went out to assess the situation, but there were no concerns. Five of the calls were resolved meaning that a volunteer spoke with the owner and helped to correct the situation. Lastly, the two remaining calls are still pending meaning they are still awaiting resolution.

The information calls were mostly related to questions about livestock and cold weather, proper feeding tips for certain species and questions regarding legal advice. Find our Cold Weather Infographics in the *Producer Info* section of our website for both [equine](#) and [cattle](#).



Upcoming industry events

[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

Copyright © 2018, All rights reserved.

www.afac.ab.ca

Our mailing address is:

PO Box 5201 #5 112 Centre Street

High River T1V 1M4

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.

This email was sent to [<< Test Email Address >>](#)

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

Alberta Farm Animal Care · PO 5201 · #5 112 · High River, Alberta T1V 1M4 · Canada

