



AFAC Update

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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Annemarie's Update

June tends to be the calm before the storm at AFAC and this year is no different. We are in preparation mode for Stampede, we will be hiring someone shortly to

plan and moving forward with a number of initiatives:

- **Streamlining operations-** financially, procedurally and operationally. The bylaws will be getting a major overhaul this year and I attended a governance workshop with Chair Cora Scheele and Director Darrell Dalton last month that has provided some good starting points. There will also be an updated Policy and Procedure manual for the board and a new Operations P&P manual.
- **Membership-** I will be reaching out to more of our members in June to meet with them and discuss the opportunities we have to raise the bar together on the livestock care conversation within our industry and with the public. As well, the membership drive continues. If you are getting this email and haven't become a member yet, please consider it. You can sign up [here](#). Your membership supports the work we do in schools, ag education events, extension and knowledge transfer materials for producers, and supports the ALERT Line.
 - Benefits include free admission to the Advisory Council meetings twice each year, and deep discounts on registration for our Livestock Care Conference in March. If you are selling your products direct to consumers, we can provide you with a proud supporter logo to use in your shop, farmer's market stall, website and materials. Please email me with any questions at annemarie@afac.ab.ca
- **Livestock Care Conference** - this event is a highlight of the year, and planning has already begun on topics, speakers, workshops and more. The conference will be held in Olds at the Pomeroy again next year - March 18-19, 2020. Check our website later this year for more details.



We had a full room for the Advisory Council meeting in Leduc and the topic of biosecurity provided a lot of information for producers and industry partners across sectors. Thank you to all our presenters including AB Hatching Egg, AB Pork and

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The Board of Directors had a successful meeting in Edmonton the following day, and will now adjourn for the summer. Thank you to our host ABVMA for sharing their space and providing lunch - it was great! Members can view the meeting minutes and accompanying materials in the Members Only section on our website. Contact [Kristen Lepp](#) for more information.

I had the opportunity to volunteer with the Classroom Agriculture Program last month, and that was an eye-opening experience. I spoke with over 70 Grade Four students in two hours and they were a lot more aware of where their food comes from than I had expected. They had some really interesting questions though, such as "If I leave the eggs out of the fridge will the chick hatch?" and "Do humans have udders?"(Yikes!)



But also questions like "If a horse breaks its leg, what happens to it?", "Can you catch an illness from a sick animal?", "Do you use the same medicine on cows as on people?"...these are the conversations we want to be having.

And speaking of talking to the public...as you will see below, Kristen is looking for volunteers for our booth at the Calgary Stampede this year, and we would love to have you join us - nothing is more powerful for the public than meeting and speaking with someone who is raising livestock.



While we will have our ALERT line info in Cattle Trail, our booth will be in Country Critters this year to more accurately support and represent all of our member

As always, please contact me with any questions, ideas, concerns or feedback on the work we are doing. We are very proud to be part of the livestock industry and look forward to working with many partners (new and existing) in the months ahead.

[Annemarie Pedersen](#)

Kristen L's Update

May started off strong with one of our favourite events, Amazing Ag, in Edmonton! We had some fantastic volunteers and students come and help us out for the three day event and we couldn't have done it without them. AFAC is so lucky to have such passionate people willing to volunteer their time to come and help represent AFAC and engage with the public all over the province!

On that note.. the Calgary Stampede is coming up quickly and if you're interested in volunteering for that event please [contact me](#) to learn more and sign up for a fun-filled 10 days! We even have a summer internship specifically for the Calgary Stampede for any post-secondary student in Alberta! If you have been enrolled in a post-secondary school in the past year or are heading there in the fall, here's a chance to earn some cash (\$1000!) [send me an email](#) about working at the Calgary Stampede!

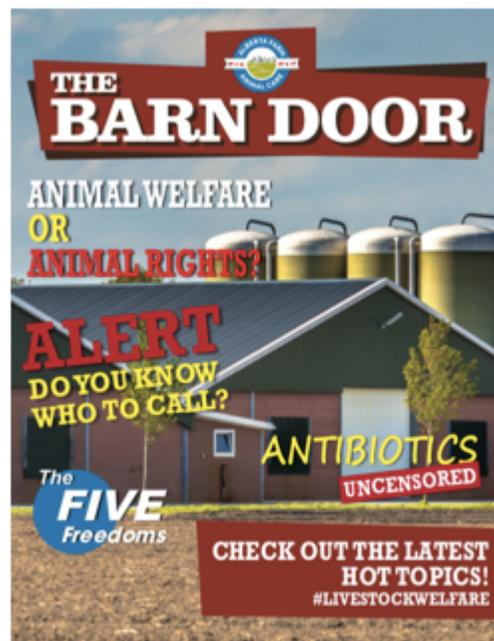


Thank you to Josie Van Lent and Lakeland College for your ongoing support of AFAC...here's Josie helping out at our booth at Amazing Ag in Edmonton last month!

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Council meeting that happened at the end of the month. We decided to move a bit farther north this time and brought the meeting to Leduc. Our Advisory Council meetings are open (and free) to all members and we do invite the public to attend some! If you missed this one, we will be having one more this year so keep an eye out.

We've been keeping our newly renovated website up to date and you can now find our [kid's workbook](#) and [Barn Door](#) online!



Kristen Lepp

Melissa's Update

May has been a preparation month! We've been busy planning project proposals and events. We can't wait to share details with you once they've been confirmed!

One thing I can share with you is that next month we will be publishing our next Insights Newsletter. As always, June's newsletter will have a balance of articles on different livestock species. I think the topics will pique your interest no matter your focus. Keep your eyes peeled for that email coming to you next month!

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This month I attended two industry events.

Early on, I attended a meeting introducing Medium Chain Fatty Acids (MCFA) technology created by Nuscience. Canada is just one of the countries that has started to adopt MCFA technology, a patented blend of MCFA in animal feed for the poultry, swine and cattle industries. Recent research findings suggest that MCFA supports animal health, animal performance, and may be an alternative to antimicrobials. In today's age of antimicrobial resistance, this is an exciting prospect. Learn more [here!](#)

I was lucky enough to attend PAACO Beef Feedlot Welfare Auditor Training in Lethbridge this month. The process was so much more complex and hands-on than you'd assume, and I elaborate on it in a [new blog on our website.](#)

I was also happy to be able to present a summary of the Livestock Welfare Engagement Project at the Advisory Council Meeting at the end of this month. Attendees were excited to hear the industry's perspectives on animal welfare and we look forward to communicating that message further.

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 13 calls in the month of May on the ALERT Line. Four of these calls were passed to the SPCA because of how extreme they were or if we didn't have volunteers in the area, one call was considered unfounded, six calls have been resolved, and two calls are still pending.

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- 8 horse related calls
- 4 beef cattle related calls
- 1 donkey

Common Concerns were thin animals, lack of feed, and livestock at large.

Just a reminder that if you see livestock on a major road or highway please call your local RCMP detachment as they are a human safety hazard. Dead animals or cases of extreme neglect or distress, please call the Alberta SPCA. For animal care concerns, questions, or to access an Emergency Livestock Handling Equipment Trailer you can call the ALERT Line at 1-800-506-2273.

If in doubt about who to call, check out the [infographic](#) and further details on our website.



Upcoming industry events

[Alberta Farm Writers Association tour/ AGM](#)

- June 5-7, 2019

- Vermilion, AB

[Calgary Stampede](#)

July 5-14, 2019

[Check out our blog](#)

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Our mailing address is:

PO Box 5201 #5 112 Centre Street
High River T1V 1M4

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