

# 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

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# ABOUT AFAC

For over 25 years, Alberta Farm Animal Care (AFAC) has been a collective, trusted voice on matters of livestock welfare. AFAC was founded in 1993 by Alberta livestock organizations and is now the only provincial farm animal care organization in Canada.

As the public's interest and concern for farm animal care increases, there is an opportunity for organizations like AFAC to provide leadership as a progressive animal care organization. AFAC is committed to promoting best livestock practices within the industry, and to promoting an open dialogue with the public about those practices.

These are the two areas of focus for AFAC: creating resources and training opportunities for producers which support them in providing the best care for their animals; and working to build understanding and trust through outreach opportunities with the public. Additionally, AFAC assists in and conducting animal welfare research that focuses on improving livestock welfare in Alberta and beyond.

Alberta Farm Animal Care was not only founded by the livestock sector but also funded by the industry. Since 1993, those committed to and concerned with animal agriculture in Alberta have supported the work of AFAC. From primary producers to livestock associations, municipalities, agriculture societies, animal health companies, auction marts and abattoirs – the entire value chain is represented by AFAC's members.

The first year of AFAC's three-year Strategic Plan, Building for the Future, was put to the test in 2019. New ways of delivering the brand promise had to be found including moving to a virtual office model and creating a nimble and effective plan for managing critical human resources.

While the core goals remain the same, the ways in which AFAC achieves the two-pronged mandate of producer extension and public outreach has evolved. The evolution must continue as changes to grants and government resources necessitate strategic collaboration and the building of new partnerships.

## Vision

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.

## Mission

To promote best practices in care and handling, by working collaboratively towards continual improvement in responsible livestock care. Engaging the public to build trust through transparency.



## MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

As Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, it is my pleasure to extend greetings on behalf of the Government of Alberta to Alberta Farm Animal Care and its stakeholders.

Alberta's producers work hard to ensure their livestock, from cattle to chickens and everything in between, are comfortable and cared for. But they can't do it alone, especially in a world where consumers are demanding more transparency about their food.

Since 1993, Alberta Farm Animal Care has been an important voice for Alberta's livestock producers. Its education, training and resources have consistently proven valuable, moving a changing industry forward while promoting responsible animal care.

Thank you to Alberta Farm Animal Care for your hard work and dedication to the province's livestock producers. The Alberta government is proud to be your partner.

Best wishes for 2020.

Honourable Devin Dreeshen  
Minister, Agriculture and Forestry



CHAIR'S REPORT



I'd like to start this chair's report with a recognition of the collaborative and cooperative nature we experienced from our members, Alberta livestock organizations, and Alberta Agriculture & Forestry. Together we stand up for the welfare of our farm animals. Our vision continues to make sure all farm animals in Alberta are respected, well cared for and experience a high state of welfare.

Another year is in front of us. New opportunities, new challenges, new projects and hopefully new members.

2019 was again an exciting year for AFAC.

Projects like the Cattle Benchmarking project brought individuals and organizations together to discuss ways to improve animal welfare. There was an opportunity through the Transport Round Table meeting for those that play a part in transporting cattle to share information, identify gaps in knowledge, and opportunities to improve transportation practices.

Education is also a big mission for AFAC. Our enthusiastic staff is traveling all over Alberta to give presentations. In the fall of 2019, AFAC staff was able to speak to students in every post-secondary institution in Alberta that has an agriculture program.

AFAC is present at big public events like the Calgary Stampede, and last year at the Vermillion Fair. Multiple volunteers and post secondary students were assisting staff, to fill the shifts. A big thank you for all of them. Education is also provided through other channels, like publications on social media, and of course a lot of information is available on the AFAC website.

With excellent teamwork AFAC is able to continue the 24/7 Alert Line 1-800-506-2273 service. The Alert Line is an anonymous producer-helping-producer call line, for individuals who are concerned about the care or condition of livestock. Some calls were passed on to the Alberta SPCA or to the RCMP. Some calls provide information regarding livestock welfare, and others may result in dispatching the Emergency Livestock equipment trailers (18 in the province).

AFAC is facing new challenges when it come to changes in funding and grant opportunities. Financial and budgetary streamlining are a priority. We face a reduced budget. We will keep in contact with officials from Alberta Government and hope for support for AFAC's important work. AFAC is fortunate to have dedicated staff members who are willing to be flexible and innovative when it comes to reduced resources. Another undertaking was the closing of the physical office in High River. AFAC is now operating as a virtual office. Annemarie and staff found ways to make sure that our mandate will be carried out to everyone's satisfaction. New solutions are found, and staff meetings are commenced in public meeting rooms. Only the mailing address is changed. Phone and email remain the same.

New opportunities are coming up, new initiatives, and new projects. We're exploring and hope to reach out to our neighboring provinces. Alberta Farm Animal Care is now a unique organization in Canada; the western provinces may be missing a farm animal welfare organization. Therefore we hope to spread our wings, and we wish to be valuable to livestock organizations in western Canada and hope to engage with new members. Let's say, there's work in progress.

Last but not least, I like to thank our executive director Annemarie Pedersen, and our truly dedicated staff and contractors, for all their work and commitment. Board directors, thank you for your input and strategic mindset. A big thank you to our members, we need you more than ever. Furthermore, thank you Alberta Agriculture & Forestry. We hope for your continuous support to move forward in the future.

Regards,  
Cora Scheele

Chair, Alberta Farm Animal Care

2019-2020 AFAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF



Back (from L to R): Casey Vander Ploeg, Darrell Dalton, Heini Hehli, Melanie Wowk, Steve Mason  
Front (from L to R): Laurie Fries, Cora Scheele. Missing: James Jenkins



Executive Director  
Annemarie Pedersen



Financial Officer  
Sharron Johannesen



Extension Coordinator  
Dr. Melissa Moggy



Communications Coordinator  
Kristen Lepp



Communications and  
Marketing Coordinator  
Kaylee Sheets



Marketing and Membership  
Manager  
Kristen Hall



# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT



Annemarie Pedersen

If it's true that "the only thing constant is change", Alberta Farm Animal Care certainly proved it in 2019. Streamlining operations was the focus for the year and ties in with a key goal of our three-year strategy.

Our office space in High River was not being fully utilized and when the lease expired in November 2019, we shut the doors and moved to a virtual office model. This was a timely decision; cash flow challenges during the Alberta Government's caretaking period through much of 2019 highlighted the necessity to change where we work. While we were fortunate to receive our Extension and Training grant funds in 2019, we understand the austerity measures being undertaken will likely have an impact on funds available for this work in the future.

Changes to how we work were also necessary in 2019, again highlighted by funding limitations and access. We are building an informal agency within the team at AFAC, with Centres of Excellence at the heart of the plan. Most, if not all,

of the staff will be contractors by the end of 2020. We can scale the hours up and down depending on funding availability and project activity but everyone will have core responsibilities that fit their skill set and experience. This will provide the highest amount of flexibility for our most important asset, human resources.

We also had some significant staff changes during the year; Kristen Hall started maternity leave in April, Kaylee Sheets joined our team in September and Kristen Lepp decided to take a step back from day-to-day work with AFAC to pursue some new opportunities. Kristen has been an important part of our team for seven years and we are thrilled to know she will still be working with us on some key activities and projects going forward. Meanwhile, Kaylee was the driving force behind our transition from bricks and mortar to virtual office and thanks to a federal government work program, she will be with us until at least August 2020.

Funding challenges and changes do not diminish the work that needs to be done. Every year it becomes more critical that livestock care and handling practices continue to evolve, and that public outreach efforts do more to build a sense of trust through transparency than ever before. Alberta Farm Animal Care is the only organization of this kind in Canada, with its dual purpose of extension and outreach. And we are committed to continuing that work and to looking for new ways to deliver this in Alberta and beyond.

We recognize that we are not the only organization seeing changes in funding and we are committed to using membership dollars, contributions and sponsorships to their highest purpose. Reducing overhead costs is part of that commitment. Programs such as the ALERT line, and public outreach activities are high priorities as well as the Livestock Care Conference, Advisory Council meetings and extension and training activities.

Collaboration and partnerships are more critical than ever. The Urban Hen program, which sees growing interest year-over-year, has led to a broad collaboration across the beekeeping sector and we will be developing a similarly comprehensive program for them starting in 2020. We encourage livestock industry stakeholders to share their ideas and programs with others in the industry, including AFAC, when seeking funding and support for these essential extension initiatives. The industry is strongest when it works together.

# FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT



Sharron Johannesen

The principles behind responsible farm animal welfare encourage all who care for animals to continuously evaluate how things are done and adjust where practical, logical and feasible. This same thought process applies to the operation of a not-for-profit. As Alberta Farm Animal Care (AFAC) is answerable to its members and the entities that agree to fund its project initiatives, we must continuously evaluate our practices and work towards utilizing the funds we are privileged to receive in the most efficient manner possible.

In 2019, cash flow became a significant challenge in an environment where funding bodies and their policies and procedures were evolving. We had already planned to become a virtual office but then had to evaluate how to carry out activities and pay for services while waiting for committed funding to be deposited. While closing the physical office does not mean that operational costs have been entirely eliminated, the significant savings being realized can now be put towards deliverables that more directly benefit Alberta's livestock industry. The leadership of the Executive Director and Finance Chair facilitated

this process and made it an easier task to accomplish. Are we done? No. We will continue to evaluate our practises as our operational environment evolves.

Alberta Farm Animal Care closed out 2019 with 78 members in good standing and 14 supporters representing an investment of \$120,316.97 along with another \$46,298.25 in event registrations and program/event sponsorships. Some of these members are commodity groups for whom the welfare of farm animals is an important principle to the several thousand producers these groups represent. Others are individual producers for whom farm animal welfare is a key factor in their daily on-farm and off-farm chores. And yet others are agri-businesses that recognize they have a role in farm animal welfare on-farm and beyond the farm gate that can impact their business success. They all see the value in supporting AFAC in its efforts to champion its vision that "all farm animals are respected, well cared for, and experience a high level of welfare." As well, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry committed \$120,000 to extension and training in 2019. This money is critical in delivering the programing, resources and training activities our members and stakeholders have come to expect.

The concern and interest in how farm animals are raised, fueled by increased social media attention, makes the work we do in industry extension and public outreach more important than ever. In 2019, contractors and staff carried out activities in three extension and engagement projects with funding support from Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AAF), and Service Canada's Youth Employment and Skills Strategy program (YESSP). We are very grateful for the backing of these institutions. Their collective investment substantially enhances AFAC's ability to convey positive, proactive messaging.

A little over 13 years ago, I joined the AFAC team and in that time, farm practices and AFAC operations have come a long way. Going forward, raising livestock will continue to be challenged by those outside the industry; AFAC is a valuable industry partner in meeting those challenges. May 2020 be a year in which all of our animals are the beneficiaries of our best practices.



# EXTENSION REPORT

While 2019 was a year of funding challenges for extension projects, a number of resources were developed: infographics on heat stress and cold stress in equines, optimization of vaccinations, and another about the One Welfare concept. One Welfare recognizes the interconnection between animal welfare, human welfare, and the environment. This ties into the work AFAC has begun incorporating producer mental health into extension efforts. There were also a number of interviews with media about current issues and projects.

Extension efforts included collaboration with the communications team on a social media campaign to share cold stress issues and indicators in multiple species during the cold snap this winter.

On July 29th, 2019, AFAC hosted a Cattle Transportation Roundtable. The purpose of the meeting was to share current information, identify gaps in knowledge, and opportunities to improve transportation practices, and was a direct result of the joint [Cattle Benchmarking Project](#) completed in 2018. The ultimate goal of the meeting was to find ways to improve cattle fit-ness during trade, transport and slaughter, through collaboration among industry stakeholders. The meeting brought together a cross-section of representatives from the beef and dairy industries, veterinary medicine, animal transporters, auction markets, provincial abattoirs, provincial regulation, federal regulation, researchers, and animal welfare organizations. A report on the meeting, along with actionable items for the industry, has been posted on the AFAC website and shared throughout the country.

Alberta Farm Animal Care team members attended and spoke at several industry meetings and events, staying connected with our members, their current issues, and looking for ways AFAC can support the various sectors. The work continued to improve the public's awareness of animal care practices and the industry's commitment to animal welfare. Kristen Lepp and Melissa Moggy completed an extensive post-secondary tour in the fall to discuss animal welfare and AFAC with over 400 agriculture students in six schools from Fairview to Lethbridge.

The work continued throughout 2019 on accessing Canadian Agriculture Partnership (CAP) funds for a project that supports the beekeeping industry. The project will move ahead in 2020 thanks to funds from Alberta Agriculture and Forestry through CAP, as well a number of industry partners who are also investing in this project. The beekeeper program is a prime example of AFAC's project development model. The industry identified a gap and AFAC worked with them to develop a plan, a proposal and build the partnerships to move it forward.

Any organization looking to collaborate with AFAC in a project, or brainstorm possible ideas, please contact Annemarie Pedersen at [annemarie@afac.ab.ca](mailto:annemarie@afac.ab.ca).



# MARKETING AND COMMUNICATION

The Alberta Farm Animal Care year really begins with the Livestock Care Conference in March. The focus of the first few months is planning and preparation for the annual event which took place in Olds, Alberta again this year, with the theme, Partners in Progress. The student mentorship event continues to be a highlight and there was also a packed room for a workshop by Dr. Rebecca Gimenez on Technical Large Animal Emergency Response. Everyone left with fresh ideas and new connections. Our Awards of Distinction winners this year included Brenda Schoepp for Communication and Stacy Simpson for Industry Leadership.

April is the start of the public outreach events season, including Aggie Days, Amazing Ag, the Classroom Agriculture program and the Calgary Stampede. With the help of over 20 amazing volunteers, AFAC's message about farm animal care reached thousands of families and children through these events.

The social media platforms focused on a number of extension topics throughout the year including Winter Preparedness and Cold Weather management. Dr. Melissa Moggy appeared on Prime Time local news in Lloydminster speaking about the importance of feed quality in cold weather. December wrapped up the year with a Focus on Farmers campaign featuring AFAC producer members and photo submissions of livestock in the holiday spirit. Work on building a strong social media presence continues to see results with over 120 new follows on Facebook and 136 new Twitter followers over the course of the year.

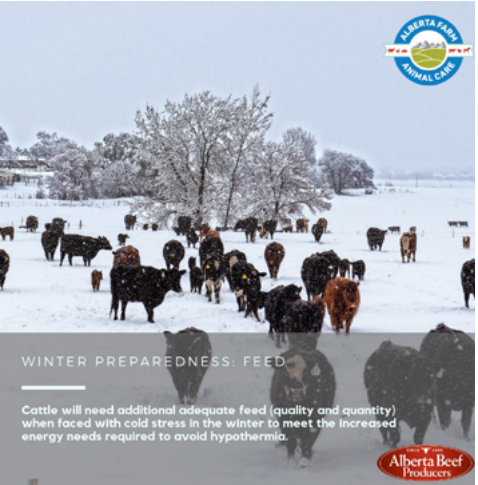
Limited access to funding during 2019 led to an increased interest in finding grants and volunteers to support AFAC's communications and outreach efforts. Mount Royal University Public Relations students developed a strategic communications plan with favourable results and there will be another student project undertaken in 2020. The Service Communities Internship Program (SCiP) provides government funds for project work from video editing, website updates and tradeshow booth volunteer hours and has been an invaluable resource for AFAC. It will be hard to replace these funds going forward.

Project development was also a major undertaking in 2019. Applications to the Canadian Agriculture Partnership program now require a significant increase in industry funds and collaboration – but the result was success and a new project will begin in 2020 supporting Alberta beekeepers.

Stay connected with Alberta Farm Animal Care online at [www.afac.ab.ca](http://www.afac.ab.ca) or on social media:

[Facebook: Alberta Farm Animal Care](#)  
[Twitter: @ABFarmAnimal](#)  
[Instagram: @ABfarmanimal](#)  
[LinkedIn: Alberta Farm Animal Care](#)

With Alberta having to rise to face new challenges in the livestock industry in 2020, AFAC will continue to push forward with initiatives and resources to improve animal welfare and awareness.







## INSIGHTS

Insights: Together. Shaping the Future.

Three of Alberta Farm Animal Care's Strategic Plan goals are to enhance the reputation and future of the livestock industry through support and collaboration; strengthen relationships with like-minded organizations through collaboration and partnership; and increase awareness of and deliver brand promise. One way we pursue these goals is through our Insights e-publication.

Each Insights issue is a collection of three to four articles highlighting new animal care and welfare research or information on a current issue. The ultimate goal of the insights e-publication is to connect producers with research, changes and issues facing their industry. Armed with this knowledge producers can more effectively evaluate their operation's practices for ways to improve the care of their animals.

In 2019, we released three issues, in February, June, and October. Topics included in these issues included:

- Producer mental health
- Antimicrobial use in the cattle industry
- Bee health
- Pain mitigation
- Stocking density in turkeys
- Lighting in broiler operations
- Small lot swine education
- Infrared beak trimming in layers

Researchers and graduate students are welcome to contribute articles at any time. If you think a research project should be highlighted in our INSIGHTS article, please contact the AFAC office.

The INSIGHTS Newsletter can be found online at [www.afac.ab.ca/resources/insights/](http://www.afac.ab.ca/resources/insights/).

## ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Advisory Council Meetings are intended to provide members an opportunity to meet and discuss current issues in the livestock sector, and to provide direction and feedback to the AFAC staff and board. While the Council was originally designed to be for AFAC members only, in recent years the topics under discussion, such as the new antibiotic regulations, were of broader value to the livestock sector and were opened up to all. Members continue to be invited to attend at no charge; non-members are required to pay a nominal fee.

Alberta Farm Animal Care hosted an Advisory Council Meeting in May 2019. Biosecurity in the livestock industry was a high priority for many sectors – the major issue of PEDv in the pork sector early in the year, and a growing concern over African Swine Fever overseas were the catalysts. Speakers from Alberta Pork, ABV-MA and Be Seen Be Safe shared a broad look at the importance of strong biosecurity protocols on livestock operations in Alberta.

While we had to postpone the fall Advisory Council Meeting on mental health, this one-day session is a top priority for AFAC, and plans are underway to deliver it in early 2020.

For more information on the Council, contact Annemarie Pedersen at [annemarie@afac.ab.ca](mailto:annemarie@afac.ab.ca)





2019 LIVESTOCK CARE CONFERENCE - PARTNERS IN PROGRESS

The 2019 Livestock Care Conference was a great example of what Alberta Farm Animal Care is about. The two-day event brought together a wide representation from across the industry, Canada, and North America. The headlining speaker and workshop lead was Dr. Rebecca Gimenez- Husted. Dr. Gimenez-Husted initiated and teaches the Technical Large Animal Emergency Rescue workshops. She has been a partner with AFAC in bringing these workshops to Alber- ta and in the past and her reception at the Livestock Care Conference was phenomenal.

The sponsored student’s program was, as usual, a hit! Which made the ‘Meet the Experts’ program a successful event, once again. Key sponsors made this event possible and brought together students and experts from across the indus- try to network, create connections, and inspire the next generation of producers and industry professionals.

Conference keynote speaker Dr. Gimenez-Husted kicked things off followed by Dr. Bettina Bobsien who spoke about equine rescue, retirement, slaughter, and public attitudes. There were two fascinating panels on antimicrobial use and the regulatory side of the animal welfare industry. The audience navigated tough conversations with Becky Taylor and Sage Pullen in the afternoon, which was followed by an enlightening presentation about poultry behaviour by Karen Schwean Lardner. To wrap up the day, Joyce Van Donkersgoed provided some insight into the Feedlot Assessment Tool.

Special thanks to the generous sponsors who make this conference possible and support AFAC throughout the year.



AWARDS OF DISTINCTION

The Alberta Farm Animal Care Awards of Distinction are a proud tradition started in 2001 to recognize individuals or groups for their exceptional contributions to livestock welfare. Every year, a call for nominations is heard throughout Alberta and an individual or group is chosen as a winner in one of three categories to represent Alberta’s diligence and growth in animal welfare in the livestock sector.

In 2019 there were winners in two of the categories.

The Award of Distinction for Communication

The award honours those that take an active role in effectively sharing the message about livestock issues, and informing the public and agri-food industry about farm animal care in a factual and honest way, to build trust and credibility.

Brenda Schoepp was this year’s winner.



The Award of Distinction for Industry Leadership

The award honours those who integrate animal welfare into their core business strategy, setting their own bar higher for expectations regarding animal welfare.

Stacy Simpson was this year’s winner.





## TELLING OUR STORY

AFAC continued to grow its social media presence and worked toward engaging with the public online across multiple platforms. As well, website updates continued in order to make the AFAC platform as user friendly and full of relevant information as possible.

The communications team created winter preparedness facts and graphics for social media and were able to collaborate with members on these timely, bite-sized images.

There was an amazing response to the social media photo contest and, again, with the help of members provided branded prizes to the winner, that was selected by the Instagram followers! The AFAC presence on social media channels continues to grow and we encourage everyone to follow on the platform of their choice for updates, events, and information.

There were 12 [blog posts](#) in 2019 that were shared on the website and social media channels, monthly e-newsletters sent to almost 800 stakeholders, and video content from the AFAC YouTube channel was broadly shared with followers and members.

The AFAC website is in a state of continuous improvement throughout the year which was supported by some fantastic post-secondary students as part of their capstone projects. The schools that have offered these programs to students to support non-profits in the community have been such a huge asset to AFAC's communications growth this year.

AFAC's place in the livestock industry has only become more relevant as each year passes. Its place in the public's eye, as an organization that advocates in a credible manner for the welfare of all livestock, is something that is not going to diminish anytime soon. AFAC demonstrated in 2019 that it is capable of evolving to, and with, the times.

Collaboration with members, partners, and supporters on new materials is critical. Please advise if there are any resources that can be developed to help tell the Alberta animal agriculture story.



2018: 1,630  
2019: 1,992



2018: 496  
2019: 729



2018: 1,916  
2019: 2,058



## PUBLIC EVENTS

Alberta Farm Animal Care works hard to increase public awareness of animal agriculture practices and continual improvement in animal care and welfare. The activities and events chosen are directly related to AFAC's Strategic Plan objectives to enhance the reputation and future of the livestock industry through support and collaboration; strengthen relationships with like-minded organizations through collaboration and partnership; and increase awareness of and deliver brand promise.

With the help of some amazing volunteers, students, and staff AFAC was present at nine public events:

Calgary Stampede

Vermilion Fair

Amazing Ag

Lethbridge Aggie Days

Calgary Aggie Days

Ag For Life Teacher's Symposium

Young Farmers Safety Workshop

The Farm Advisory Committee Meeting

Lacombe Public Safety Day

AFAC also participated in the Classroom Agriculture Program and spoke to over 100 students!





# INDUSTRY EVENTS

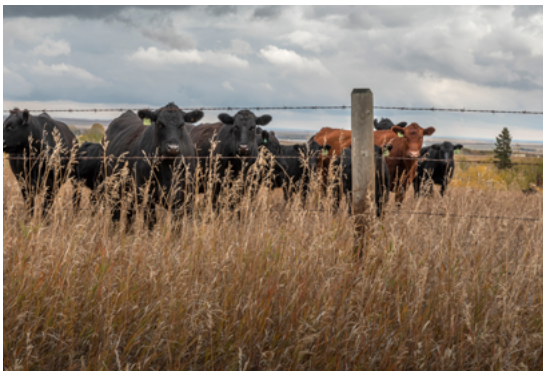
Industry meetings and events in Alberta and beyond allow AFAC to stay connected to members and connect with industry stakeholders. These events provide the opportunity to share animal care information and resources with the Alberta livestock industry.

In 2019, AFAC participated in the following meeting and events:

ABVTA board meeting	Cattle Transportation Roundtable
Ag Society Conference	CIPARS Webinar
Animal Health Emergency Management Project Lunch n’ Learn	Emergency Social Services Network of Alberta
Alberta Auction Market Association Meeting	Feeder Associations of Alberta Convention
Alberta Beef Industry Conference	Ladies Livestock Lessons
Alberta Farm Fresh Producers Association Conference	Meetings with AB Hatching Egg
Alberta Lamb meeting	NAIT meeting
Alberta Milk Health and Safety committee	National Cattle Feeders Association meeting
Alberta Pork meeting	National Tech Transfer Meeting
Alberta Pork Town Hall (2 meetings)	NFACC executive and full board meetings (2 meetings)
Alberta Turkey meeting	PAACO Training – Beef Feedlot 101
AMR Strategy Workshop	Rural Roots Canada Ag Days in Airdrie
Animal Transportation Association	SPCA Meeting about ALERT Line
Banff Pork Seminar	The Mane Event
Canadian Beef Industry Conference	UCVM beef extension meeting
Canadian Centre for Food Integrity webinars (3 webinars)	UCVM Extension Meeting
	Western Canadian Dairy Seminar
	Western Poultry Conference

Anyone wishing to have AFAC attend an industry or board meeting, special event or provide information or resources can contact Melissa Moggy at [melissa@afac.ab.ca](mailto:melissa@afac.ab.ca)

# POST-SECONDARY SPEAKING



The post-secondary tour is one of the most important outreach efforts conducted by AFAC each year. In 2019, approximately 470 post-secondary agriculture students were reached. These students are now armed with an understanding of the work being done by organizations like Alberta Farm Animal Care to support their industry and their efforts when they begin their farming careers.

As always, the point of these presentations is to raise awareness about AFAC, animal welfare and all of the resources that are available to students entering the industry. A fun and exciting aspect of these talks is that the students are curious about the industry and there are always new and unique questions. These sessions are also used to promote the student scholarships and mentorships available to them at the Livestock Care Conference each year and many will attend the event.

The instructors at each of these intuitions make this annual experience possible. It is always so rewarding to interact with the students and instructors; hopefully this is the beginning of a lifelong relationship between AFAC and these future livestock producers.

- GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE: FAIRVIEW CAMPUS
- LETHBRIDGE COLLEGE
- OLDS COLLEGE
- UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
- UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY: FACULTY OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
- LAKELAND COLLEGE
- NORTHERN ALBERTA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY



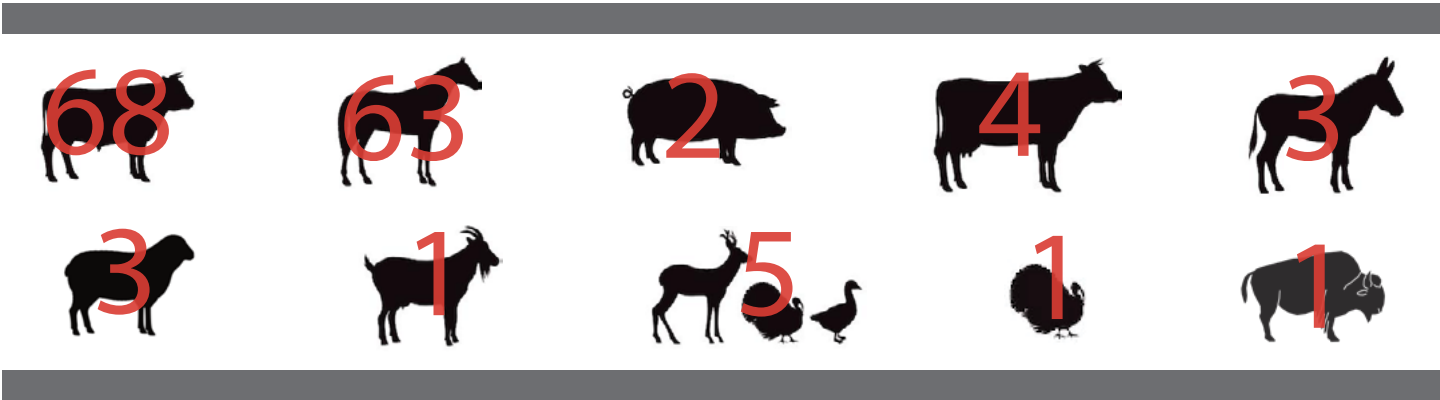
ALERT LINE

The ALERT Line continues to break records. In 2019 there was a total of 183 calls, an increase of 22 calls over 2018. This is likely due to an increased awareness of the ALERT Line, and not necessarily an increase in the number of incidents. We work closely with related organizations to ensure that callers receive the correct information when they call. The total number of animals assisted in 2019 is estimated at 6,362.

CASES

Of the 183 calls, 152 of the calls were cases requiring further action. The most common concerns were regarding animals-at-large, neglect, lack of feed and water, and livestock with poor Body Condition Scores (BCS). Of the cases, 40 of the calls were passed to the Alberta SPCA. This could be due to the severity of the case or a lack of volunteers in the area for the ALERT Line. There were 16 unfounded cases, meaning a volunteer went out and had no concerns. There are 18 calls pending/being monitored for improvement, and the rest have been resolved. This means that the owners have improved the situations of the animals and/or they were directed to the proper person to help with the situation.

Below is the number of cases, broken down by each different livestock species:



INFO CALLS

The ALERT Line also received 25 information calls and they were most commonly about legal concerns and requesting information on production practices. AFAC works closely with the Farmers Advocate on these types of calls.

TRAILER CALLS

Five calls were in relation to an Emergency Livestock Handling Equipment Trailer. We are happy to see that people know that the ALERT Line has the ability to help dispatch these trailers. Most of these concerns were in regard to breakdowns.

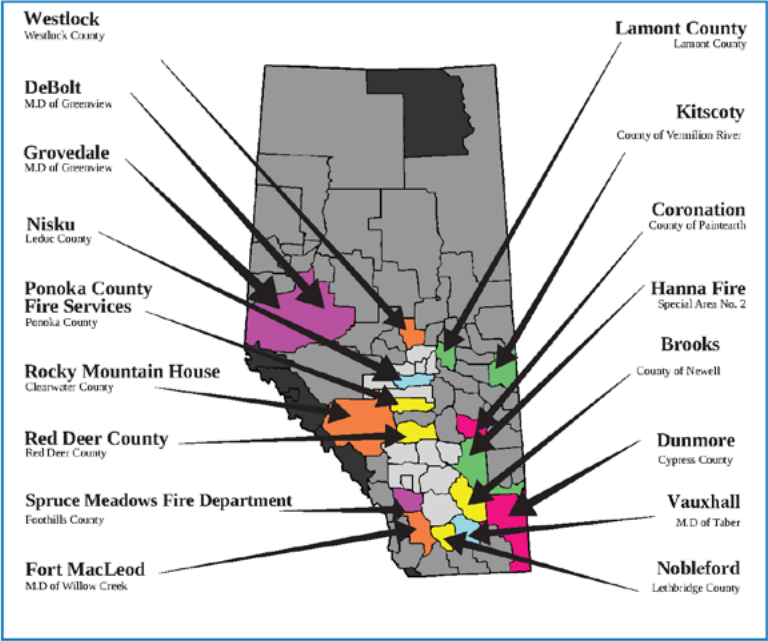
The ALERT Line would not be possible without numerous regional volunteers, the Alberta SPCA and the RCMP Livestock Investigators who go above and beyond to make this program successful. Anyone interested in volunteering for the ALERT Line, can contact AFAC at [alert@afac.ab.ca](mailto:alert@afac.ab.ca).

1-800-506-2273

EMERGENCY LIVESTOCK HANDLING EQUIPMENT TRAILERS

The emergency livestock handling trailers and training program were rolled out in November 2012. As of 2019, there are 18 Emergency Livestock Handling Equipment Trailers:

- MD of Willowcreek – Claresholm
- Cypress County – Medicine Hat
- Westlock County – Westlock
- Vermilion River County – Vermilion
- Alberta SPCA – to be used throughout Alberta
- Red Deer County
- Ponoka County and Town of Ponoka (Ponoka)
- Leduc County (New Serepta)
- Newell County (Brooks Regional Fire Authority)
- Hanna (Special Areas)
- Clearwater County (Rocky Mountain House)
- County of Paintearth (Coronation)
- MD of Greenview (2 trailers)
- Lamont County
- Nobleford Fire Department (Lethbridge County)
- MD of Taber (Vauxhall)
- MD of Foothills



In 2019 the trailers responded to the following incidents across the province:

- 7 Cattle liner rollovers
- 6 Cattle liner motor vehicle collisions\*

\*In two of the six collision incidents, trailers were called off due to the issue being resolved prior to arrival.

The special trailer housed with the Alberta SPCA, which is specifically used for scenarios that require livestock seizures, was used to seize 159 horses, two llamas, 509 cattle, two donkeys, and two pigs in 2019.

In addition to emergency events, the trailers were present at the following community events in 2019:

- Clearwater County Fire Department Training
- Farm Extrication and Machinery Entrapment Training
- Vermilion County Tour and Information Session
- Westlock County Fire Service Training Demonstration
- Foothills County Livestock Course
- Lamont County Farm Safety Day
- Strathcona County Farm Safety Day
- Hanna Fall Fair Parade
- Fire Prevention Week Demonstration
- Wheatland County Livestock Emergency Response Course
- Ponoka Fire Hall Open House
- Nobleford Parade

We continue to see interest from counties and municipal districts to acquire a trailer. There was interest this year in the trailer and ALERT programs from outside Alberta's borders and AFAC continues to work with communities interested in utilizing this emergency response resource. Alberta Farm Animal Care has been working to match interested counties with potential funders in their area to expand the program and ensure prompt action may be taken in the event of an emergency involving livestock. Finally, AFAC has been in contact with the Alberta RCMP senior staff to build awareness of the trailers and ALERT Line.



AFAC Members

AFAC members can show their commitment to animal welfare and support of AFAC by using this logo on their website and materials. Current Proud Supporters include commodity associations, industry organizations and primary producers who sell direct-to-consumers.

Contact AFAC staff for more information.

Thank you for your support.



COMMODITY MEMBERS

- Alberta Beef Producers
- Alberta Goat Association
- Alberta Hatching Egg Producers
- Alberta Lamb Producers
- Alberta Milk
- Alberta Pork

GOLD LEVEL MEMBERS

- Alberta Cattle Feeders’ Association
- Alberta Veterinary Medical Association
- Cargill Foods
- M.D of Greenview
- Solvat (Ab Veterinary Laboratories)

SILVER LEVEL MEMBERS

- Calgary Stampede
- CAN/AB Livestock Research Trust
- Grande Prairie Regional College – Fairview Campus
- Horse Racing Alberta
- Lakeland College
- Olds College
- Sofina
- United Farmers of Alberta
- University of Alberta ALES
- University of Calgary: Faculty of Veterinary Medicine
- Western Stock Growers Association

BRONZE LEVEL MEMBERS

- AgroMedia International Inc.
- Alberta Auction Markets Association
- Alberta Beekeepers Commission
- Alberta Elk
- Alberta Equestrian Federation
- Bison Producers of Alberta
- Boehringer Ingelheim
- Bouvry Exports Calgary Ltd.
- Camrose County
- Clearwater County
- County of Newell
- County of Two Hills
- County of Vermilion River
- Cypress County
- Egg Farmers of Alberta
- Exhibition Park Lethbridge
- Feeder Association of Alberta

- Feedlot Health Management Services
- Flagstaff County
- Gateway Carriers
- Leduc County
- MD of Lesser Slave River
- MD of Ranchland
- MD of Taber
- MD of Wainwright
- Olymel
- Red Deer County
- Rocky View County
- Saddle Hills County
- Starland County
- Strathcona County
- Sturgeon County
- Sunterra Farms
- Vulcan County
- Walbern Agri Systems (1991) Ltd.
- Western Hog Exchange
- Wheatland County

PRODUCER MEMBERS

- ARCO Poultry
- Bee My Honey
- Chinook Ranches
- Deerview Meats
- Diamond 7 Ranch
- Durward Land & Cattle
- Gil Hegel
- Highland Feeders Ltd
- Kobitzsch Farms
- River Ranch (BC)
- Shipwheel Cattle Feeders
- Silverado Horse Center
- Stettler Veterinary Clinic Ltd.
- Stockyards Veterinary Services Ltd.
- Strangmuir Farms
- STS Farms Ltd.
- Sundgaard Poultry
- Winters Turkeys
- Wowk Ranch

AFAC SUPPORTERS

- |                       |                    |
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| Brent Bushell         | Lindsey Anderson   |
| Cassandra Kirkpatrick | Melissa Moggy      |
| Dianne Finstad        | Penny Steffen      |
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Thank you to the AFAC  
members, supporters, Board  
of Directors, partners and  
volunteers for your ongoing  
support of AFAC!



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