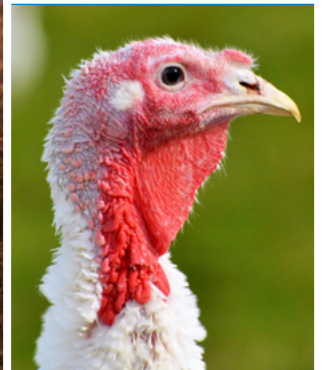
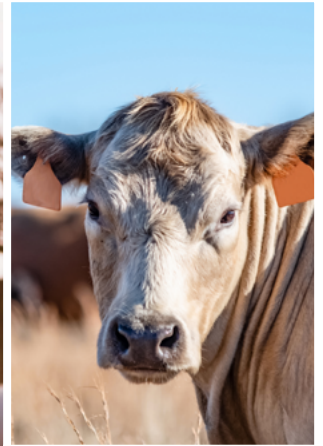


Alberta Farm Animal Care



ANNUAL REPORT

2021



AFAC.AB.CA



ABOUT AFAC

Alberta Farm Animal Care (AFAC) is a collective, trusted voice on livestock welfare. Founded in 1993 by Alberta livestock organizations, AFAC is now Canada's only provincial farm animal care organization.

The three areas of focus for AFAC are:

- Building awareness and commitment to the best animal welfare practices
- Ongoing knowledge and tech transfer in collaboration with industry partners
- Building public trust through outreach opportunities.

AFAC is supported by various stakeholders, including producers, livestock associations, municipalities, agriculture societies, animal health companies, auction marts, and abattoirs.

Vision

AFAC 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.

AFAC.AB.CA

Chair's Report

It has been a year of dealing again with the impact of Covid-19.

It has been a year of dealing again with the impact of Covid-19. We had hopes that we could leave that behind us. As an animal welfare organization, we of course have to focus on our mandate and once again, a lot of that work was successfully delivered online.

AFAC stands up for advancing responsible animal care through joint effort with the diverse livestock organizations and industry partners in Alberta. But it's not only in Alberta that AFAC is active. Through the virtual channels, AFAC has been able to reach out to our neighboring provinces and beyond.

The Livestock Care Conference was virtual again in 2021. It brought people together online, to connect on matters of livestock welfare. Commodity members sponsored students to attend the event. We had speakers who offered lots of knowledge, experience and new insights. Speakers from all over the continent. I hope that attendees enjoyed the content.

The Backyard Chicken Workshop is a strong one. There's a high demand for knowledge and practical insight for responsible care of chickens year-round. New this year was the smallholder swine workshops and two more CFIA transport workshops.

The Alert-line continues to be a great accomplishment. Dedicated staff are answering calls 24/7, day and night if necessary. Calls regarding animals at large, info calls, or calls about welfare concerns or to dispatch an emergency livestock trailer. More serious concerns are forwarded to the SPCA. The trailers are in the province, to assist in emergencies like truck roll-overs, barn collapses, animals at large etc. Trailers are stationed at fire departments and other places in the counties and municipal districts. Another source of important information is the AFAC website: www.afac.ab.ca.

All this work is possible through the support and contribution from our members, sponsors, commodity partners, and government grants. We welcome any support for the work of AFAC. We appreciate the option to apply for funding through the Canadian Agriculture Partnership program and other grant programs. And all this work is possible through the commitment from the executive director Annemarie, the AFAC team and volunteers, and the input of the board of directors. Thank you all.

We're looking forward to continuing this work, to be a leader in advancing and promoting responsible livestock care in Alberta and beyond.

Regards,
Your chair Cora Scheele

The Board



Cora Sheele
Chair

Alberta Hatching Egg
Producers



James Jenkins
Vice Chair

Western Stock Growers



Darrell Dalton
Council Chair

ABVMA



Casey Vander Ploeg
Finance Chair

Alberta Cattle Feeders



Heini Hehli
Director

Alberta Milk



Melanie Wowk
Director

Alberta Beef



Merna Gisler
Director

Alberta Goat



Executive Director's Report - Annemarie Pedersen

The past few years have been ones of great change for AFAC. Aside from a global pandemic our organization has made major shifts in the way we do business. We moved from a bricks-mortar office to a virtual office in November 2019, while also shifting from full-time staff to contractors. This provided more flexibility in managing variable budgets for organizational and project funding, and gave us the opportunity to reconfigure the work we were doing.

The challenges in trying to deliver programming since March 2020 have turned into an opportunity as our smallholder workshops continue to grow in breadth and demand. This format provides extension for producers who may not be accessing resources intended for commercial production and provides income to support program development. Aside from the increasingly popular chicken program we also delivered a smallholder pig series, as well as additional CFIA transport webinars. The work on the beekeeping program continued and it will be yet another workshop for smallholders. More is coming for this program in 2022.

The ALERT Line and our support and training for the livestock emergency trailers located throughout the province, continues to be a critical service provided by our team. Three coordinators share the on-call duties and we also delivered a virtual TLAER refresher course.

More than ever, every dollar we receive as sponsorship, membership or in partnership towards government grants is being put towards extension, training and outreach. I am so proud of the AFAC team; thank you to Melissa Moggy, Kaylee Healy, Maria Swan, Makayla Wowk and Katiesue Ross for their hard work and commitment to the vision of AFAC over the last year.

And thank you to our members and partners for your continued commitment and support.

Financial Officer's Report

Alberta Farm Animal Care continued to work on our mission to promote best practices in animal care and handling in 2021. This work was funded by \$195K from memberships, government grants, industry contributions, and event income. This compares to \$277K received in 2020, with the decline in 2021 due in part to reduced government grants. Despite this decline in revenue the net deficit in 2021 was only \$5K and cash reserves remain solid.

We are grateful for the continued commitment and support of all our funders and look forward to working with you in 2022.

Our Team



Annemarie Pedersen
Executive Director



Melissa Moggy
Extension Lead



Kaylee Healy
Marketing & Comms Coordinator



Maria Swan
Financial Officer



Makenna Moore
Social Media Lead



Makayla Wowk
Social Media Lead



Katiesue Ross
Marketing & Comms Assistant



Marketing and Communications Report

2021 started with AFAC's annual partnership with the Mount Royal University (MRU) public relations class. This year, the MRU student team tackled three projects: a social media content calendar, updates to the communications content pool, and an ALERT Line public awareness campaign.

Focus for the first three months each year is the annual Livestock Care Conference. 2021's theme of 'Are We There Yet?' rang through speaker presentations across industry research, ag support organizations, and producers. More information can be found in the Livestock Care Conference Report.

Continuing the work started in 2020, successful public programs like the monthly 'Questions from the Coop' began again in the spring. Online Urban Hen workshops resumed with a January Overwintering Check-in, then spring and summer brought Introduction to Backyard Chickens, coop building, diseases, and overwintering. Several partnerships were launched with municipalities piloting their first backyard chicken permitting programs, such as City of Cold Lake.

A partnership with Alberta Pork brought a Small-Scale Swine webinar series in the fall and winter of 2021. Interest in this program was overwhelming with over 320 registrants across four webinars. A great thank-you to Javier Barhamon and Cristina Neva with Alberta Pork and Dr. Kelsey Gray with Prairie Swine Health, who developed this program with us.

320 + registrants across 4 webinars



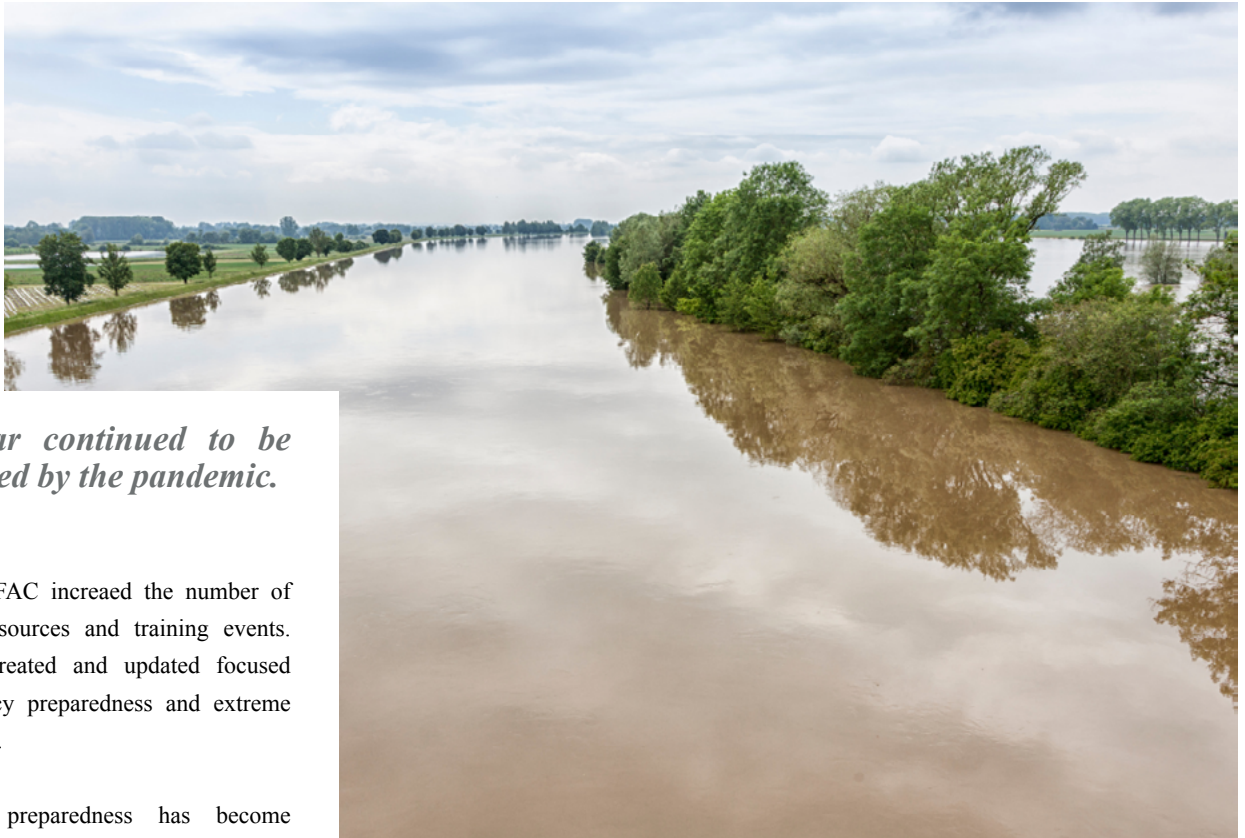
Various funding enabled AFAC to have two summer interns. Diana Chung and Katiesue Ross's work resulted in updates to resources such as Fact Sheets, vet contact lists, and infographics. AFAC welcomed Katiesue as a permanent team member and had Makayla Wowk join as the new social media lead in the fall. With 2022 bringing still more hurdles for communications, the AFAC team is ready for the challenge.

Interested in partnering
with AFAC?

Want to see the latest
resources?

Click to sign up for
the AFAC newsletter

Extention Report



This year continued to be challenged by the pandemic.

However, AFAC increaed the number of extension resources and training events. Resources created and updated focused on emergency preparedness and extreme temperatures.

Emergency preparedness has become a significant focus for AFAC. We were even invited to speak on livestock emergency preparedness on the Emergency Preparedness in Canada Podcast.

The Insights e-publication released two issues in 2021. Each Insights issue highlights 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.

Training events continued to be offered virtually throughout the year. AFAC also expanded its small lot training events by offering webinars on chicken and swine care. We are so grateful to work with the CFIA, Alberta Goat Association, Alberta Lamb Producers, Prairie Livestock Veterinarians, and Jungle Out There Pet Services to offer these events.

Work on the Alberta Beekeepers Education and Enhancement Program continued. This project aims to create an Alberta Beekeepers Handbook, task lists, training videos, and training workshops. This project is funded in part by the Government of Canada and the Government of Alberta through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership. Funding for the project is also contributed by Alberta Beekeepers Commission and Peavey Industries LP.

“Emergency preparedness has become a significant focus for AFAC.”

Check out the Insights articles!



2021 Livestock Care Conference

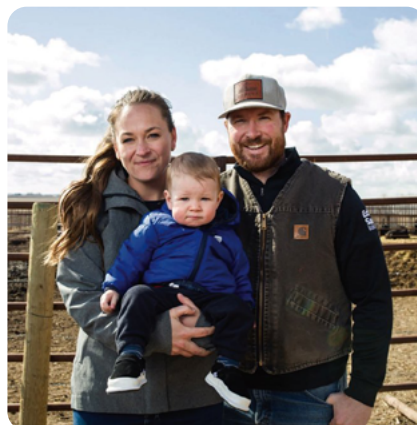
After a chaotic year, the theme “Are We There Yet?” fit for the 2021 Livestock Care conference (LCC) and returned to a virtual platform.

The conference opened with Dr. Jody Carrington’s presentation on resiliency and the importance of leaning into your team. Then, speakers over the month of March shared updates such as the Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef and innovative programs.

Do More Ag gave a workshop on the mental struggles faced by the ag community and coping strategies. Becky Taylor and Lindsey Anderson came together to share communication skills, legal rights, and techniques for dealing with difficult conversations and situations, such as trespassing.

A producers panel discussed how focuses and approaches have changed over the years. A media panel that included Barbara Duckworth and Dianne Finsted also shared their perspectives on how the livestock welfare discussion has evolved.

Both industry and ag students welcomed a small ‘Meet the Experts’ session. A special thanks to the conference and student sponsors for their support.



Top left: Chatsworth Farm
Right: Kendra Donnelly
Bottom: Water Box

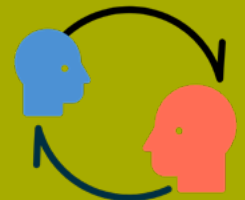
Award of Distinction for Innovation

Lee Smith with the Water Box



Award of Distinction for Communications

Chatsworth Farm



Award of Distinction for Industry Leadership

Kendra Donnelly



Telling Our Story

Facebook

2800 + followers

Reach increased 31.6% in 2021



Reach: 63.9 K

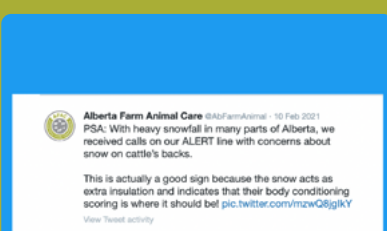


Likes and reactions: 178

Twitter



6778 impressions
203 engagements
3.0% engagement rate



7012 impressions
171 engagements
2.4% engagement rate

2200 + followers

Instagram

1200 + followers

Reach increased 55.6% in 2021



Reach: 4.7 K



Likes and reactions: 69



Post-Secondary Speaking

The post-secondary tour is one of the most important outreach efforts conducted by AFAC each year.

We continued to reach post-secondary agriculture students using a virtual format.

The presentation was updated and focused more on the ALERT Line, the Emergency Livestock Handling Trailers, and assessing animal welfare. Professors were invited to request specific topics such as the Codes of Practice. We also used this opportunity to promote the Livestock Care Conference student scholarships.



Grande Prairie Regional College:
Fairview Campus



University of Calgary: Faculty of
Veterinary Medicine



Lethbridge College



Lakeland College



University of Alberta



Northern Alberta Institute of
Technology

Industry Events

AFAC was invited to speak at 2 conferences (Global Animal Disaster Management Conference and the National Animal Welfare Conference) and 1 podcast.

AFAC was invited to help moderate at the Can-West conference.

AFAC representatives participated in 21 industry events on various topics, including mental health, honey bees, social license, communications, One Health, feed testing, and the Video Ante-Mortem Inspection program.

1 M. ovi awareness webinar

1 Animal Health
Emergency
Management
Webinar

8 Small lot chicken virtual
events and 7 questions from
the coop

2 CFIA transport
regulation webinars

4 small scale swine
webinar series

1 on-farm slaughter webinar

Public Events

AFAC continued to reach out to the public through our social media channels during a time when face-to-face interactions were not possible. Speaking to primary students was also challenging during this time. We continued to collaborate with the Calgary Public Library to present to 6-8 and 9-12-year-olds. The Library invited AFAC to present twice in 2021.

AFAC also had a booth at the Calgary Stampede in the agriculture pavilion.

Industry Resources

Trailer card update

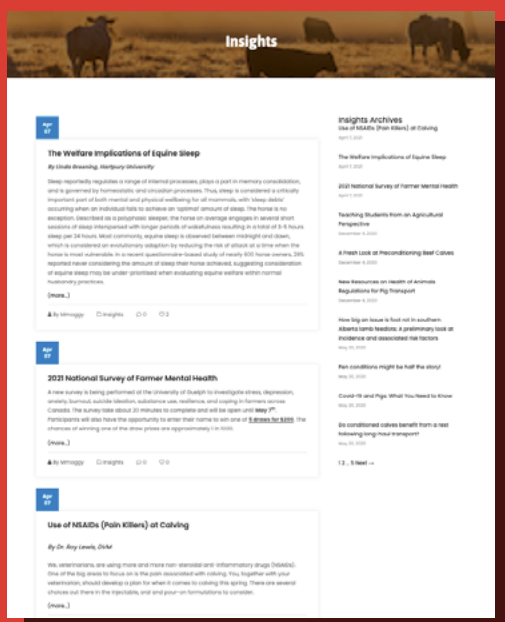
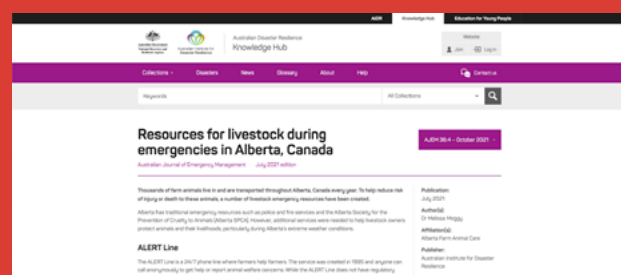
Resources for livestock during emergencies in Alberta, Canada.

Extreme Heat Resources to Assist with Animal Care

ABP magazine article for November on cold stress

Insights e-Newsletter. Two publications with articles focusing on:

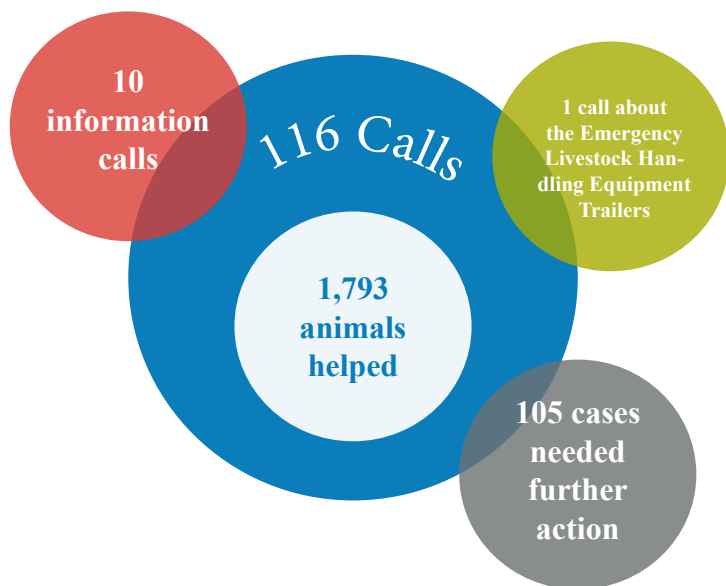
Swine transport
Preconditioning beef calves
Rocky View School students program The Farm
Equine sleep
NSAIDs at calving
2021 National Survey of Farmer Mental health



ALERT Line

In 2021 there were 116 calls to the ALERT Line, assisting approximately 1,793 animals helped. Of those calls, 10 were information calls, one was about the Emergency Livestock Handling Equipment Trailers, and 105 were cases that needed further action.

Fifteen cases were forwarded to the Alberta SPCA and 46 to the RCMP. Only two case calls were determined to be unfounded. Seven calls are pending or being monitored for improvement, and the remaining have been resolved

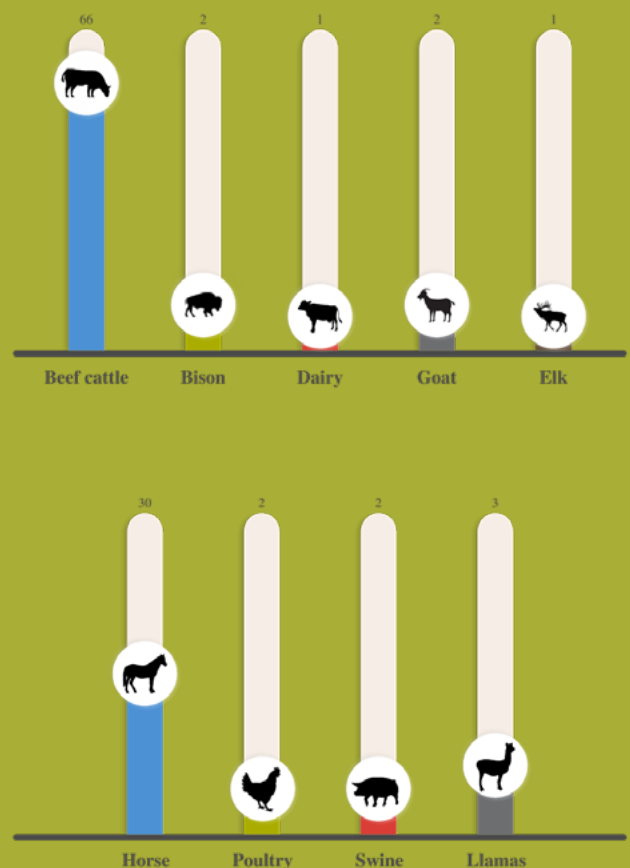


The ALERT Line would not be possible without numerous regional volunteers, the Alberta SPCA and the RCMP Livestock Investigators, who go above and beyond to make this program successful.

Anyone interested in volunteering for the ALERT Line can contact AFAC at alert@afac.ab.ca.

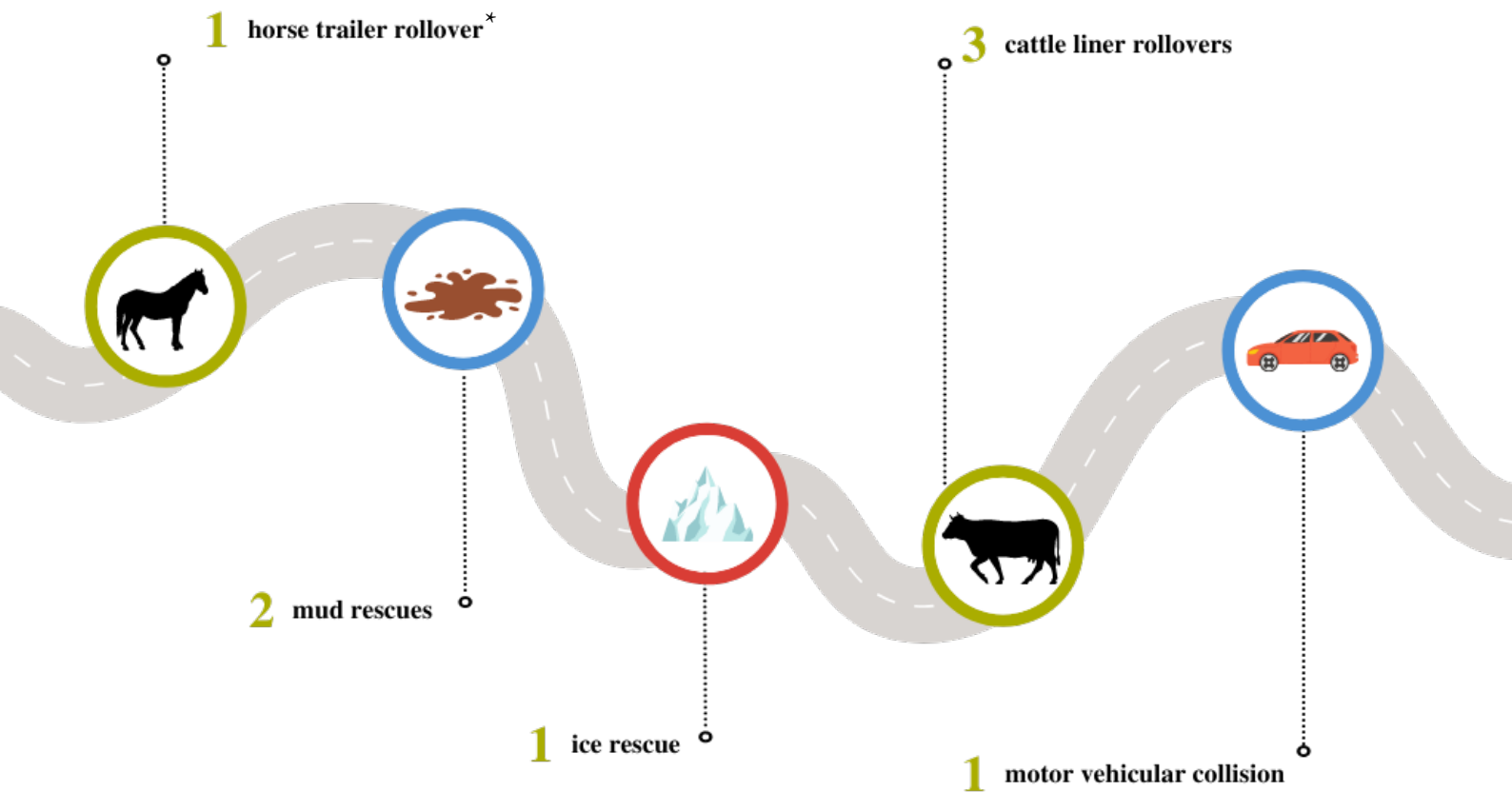
In 2021 there were 116 calls to the ALERT Line, approximately **1,793 animals helped.**

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



The most common concerns were animals at large, neglect, and lack of food and water.

Emergency Livestock Handling Equipment Trailers



Alberta Farm Animal Care is very proud of the role it played in launching the first few trailers but this program continues to grow and flourish because of the dedication of our communities. Thank you for your commitment to emergency planning and preparedness.

The special trailer housed with the Alberta SPCA, which is specifically used for scenarios that require livestock seizures, was used to seize 550 cattle, 33 horses, one donkey, and 20 sheep.

**The horse trailer incident was called off due to the issue being resolved prior to arrival.*

The emergency livestock handling trailers and training program were rolled out in November 2012. As of 2021, there are 19 Emergency Livestock Handling Equipment Trailers at the following locations:

- County of Grande Prairie
- M.D. of Greenview (2 Trailers)
- M.D. of Greenview
- Leduc County
- Ponoka County
- Clearwater County
- Red Deer County
- Foothills County
- M.D. of Willow Creek
- Westlock County
- Lamont County
- County of Vermilion River
- County of Paintearth
- Special Area No. 2
- County of Newell
- Cypress County
- M.D. of Taber
- Lethbridge County



Thank you to our 2021 members and supporters

Commodity Members

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

Platinum Level

Alberta Veterinary Medical Association (ABVMA)

Gold Level

Alberta Cattle Feeders' Association
 Cargill Foods
 Lac Ste. Anne County
 MD of Greenview No. 16
 Alberta Veterinary Laboratories

Silver Level

Calgary Stampede
 Can/AB Livestock Research Trust
 GPRC AHT Program
 Horse Racing Alberta
 Lakeland College
 Olds College
 Sofina Lilydale foods
 United Farmers of AB. Co-operative Ltd.
 University of Alberta ALES
 University of Calgary Veterinary Medicine
 Western Stock Growers Association

Bronze Level

Alberta Auction Markets Assoc
 Alberta Beekeepers Commission
 Alberta Equestrian Federation
 Alberta Veterinary Technologist Assoc
 Bison Producers of AB
 Boehringer Ingelheim
 Bouvry Exports Calgary Ltd.
 Clearwater County
 County of Newell No. 4
 County of Two Hills No. 21
 County of Vermilion River
 Cypress County
 Egg Farmers of Alberta
 Feeder Assoc. of Alberta Ltd.
 Telus Agriculture Solutions (formerly Feedlot Health Management)
 Flagstaff County
 Gateway Carriers
 Grey Wooded Forage Association
 Leduc County
 MD of Lesser Slave River No. 124
 MD of Ranchland
 MD of Taber
 Olymel
 Red Deer County
 Rocky View County
 Saddle Hills County
 Starland County
 Strathcona County
 Sunterra Farms Ltd.
 Vulcan County
 Walbern Agri-Systems
 Western Hog Exchange
 Wheatland County

Producer Level

Liz Munro, All in One
 Arco Poultry Ltd.
 Chinook Ranch
 Deerview Meats
 Diamond 7 Ranch Ltd.
 Durward Land & Cattle Ltd.
 Gil Hegel (on behalf of GWFA)
 Highland Feeders
 Shipwheel Cattle Feeders Ltd.
 Silverado Horse Center
 Stettler Veterinary Clinic No. 3
 Stockyards Veterinary Services Ltd.
 Strangmuir Farms
 STS Farms Ltd.
 Sundgaard Poultry Farm Ltd.
 Sylvia Checkley
 Wowk Ranch

Supporters

Annemarie Pedersen
 Brent Bushell
 Cassandra Kirkpatrick
 Dianne Finstad
 Erika Voogd
 Heather Van Esch
 Sharron Johannesen
 Trails End