

Alberta Farm Animal Care

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In 1993, members of the commodity livestock sector came together to create Alberta Farm Animal Care (AFAC) as a collective voice for an industry that was facing increasing questions about animal welfare. The partners wanted a separate organization that could speak to the practices of all animal agriculture in a way that was honest and credible.

Now, 25 years later, AFAC is still a member-driven organization with over 80 members, and growing - and the public has more questions than ever about the way the livestock industry raises these animals. Many of the original commodity groups have developed comprehensive animal welfare programs and AFAC continues to support the industry with extension resources and activities, and continues to communicate with consumers to build public trust in the sector.

Extension activities include resource development, facilitating partnerships for projects and research, and hosting workshops to enable hands-on learning. Examples include the Cattle Benchmarking Project, a partnership with Alberta Milk, Alberta Beef and Alberta Cattle Feeders to determine the condition of beef and dairy cattle upon arrival at auction markets and abattoirs. Workshop topics include stockmanship, humane euthanasia, small flock care and Technical Large Animal Emergency Rescue (TLAER) training.

AFAC spends much of the year **engaging the public** with information about the livestock sector at events such as the Calgary Stampede, Aggie Days in Calgary and Lethbridge, Amazing Ag in Edmonton, school visits in partnership with groups such as Ag for Life and Classroom Ag Program and a post-secondary program that speaks with students in every ag school from Grande Prairie College in Fairview to Lethbridge College in the south to ensure they are aware of AFAC and the support it offers.

Two critical services offered by AFAC are the **24/7 ALERT Line** and resource team which allows “producers to help producers” with a confidential service that can address issues as they arise. The Line also supports a continuously growing network of Emergency Livestock Handling Equipment Trailers throughout the province (currently 18 are ready for any livestock emergency). Call the ALERT Line at 1-800-506-2273 and look for more details on our website www.afac.ab.ca.

The **Livestock Care Conference** is the highlight of the year. We bring our members from all sectors of the livestock industry together for two days in March to network, learn about new research results, mentor post-secondary students and to collaborate with stakeholders, partners and members on new initiatives for the coming year. Registration is now open for the 2019 Livestock Care Conference.

The strategic direction for 2019-2021 is rooted in partnerships and cooperation as the work continues to ensure primary producers have the tools and resources they need, and that the public has confidence in the way their food is raised. These are targets the industry can only achieve by working together.

For more information on AFAC, its programs and resources, go to www.afac.ab.ca.