

AFAC
ALBERTA FARM ANIMAL CARE

Industry Cooperation to Advance Animal Care



Responsible Animal Care

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Alberta Farm Animal Care Goals

Since 1993: - a partnership of Alberta's livestock industry to...

- **Promote** responsible animal care
- Monitor **issues & legislations**
- Engage in discussion with **public**
- Encourage **research**



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Why is AFAC Successful?

- *AFAC fosters a positive animal care attitude*
- *Industry is open to fix problems and address issues.*
- *We build on the successes of our member groups.*
- *Promote continuous improvement and search for ways to humanely raise animals, maximize production, without compromising welfare.*

Here are some examples


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AFAC Action ... Responsible Animal Care

Legislation and Funding:

- Animal Protection Act
- Enforced and funded in Alberta
 - Alberta SPCA contract
 - Meat Inspectors
 - CFIA
 - RCMP
 - Consistent, fair, responsive
- ALPS



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AFAC Action ... Responsible Animal Care

PURPOSE:

- ❖ Ensure all animals receive good care.
Reach out & help.

95 ALERT Cases, 200 info calls average/yr

AFAC vet involved in 26 cases,
visited 15 farms

- Careless management
- Emotional Burn out

- ❖ Work closely with SPCA




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AFAC Action ... Responsible Animal Care

Humane Handling Guidelines

- What is Acceptable – What is Not
- Industry - Driven Change
- Improve Animal Welfare

Fix what needs fixing



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AFAC Action... Responsible Animal Care

Training

- Livestock Emergency Response Course
- Accident Data Reports



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Certified Livestock Transporter Training

- ✓ We did our homework
- ✓ Listened to truckers and did 2 major transport reports
- ✓ Part of quality continuum
- ✓ Public nature of hauling livestock
- ✓ Pressure for proof of competency

www.livestocktransport.ca








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AFAC Action ...
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Extension and Training

- Livestock Handling for Youth
- Livestock Handling for Injury Prevention

GOOD LIVESTOCK HANDLING PAYS
AFAC programs on livestock handling, injury prevention and facility audits.

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AFAC Action ...
Improved Animal Care



Federal plant audits & on-going improvements




Provincial meat plant audits & training

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AFAC Action ...Monitoring
Issues and Legislation

- Providing industry with reports & then developing industry positions on research.
 - Examples (8 of 16) include:
 - Spent Hen Euthanasia
 - Handling of Cull Dairy Cows in Alberta
 - Foreign Animal disease outbreaks
 - the animal welfare implications
 - Livestock Transportation in Alberta
 - Horse Welfare in Alberta
 - Broiler Welfare – balancing production and welfare
 - Animal Welfare Law in Canada
 - Animal Welfare Verification in Canada

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AFAC Action ...Monitoring
Issues and Legislation

- Actively participate in provincial legislation related to livestock welfare:
 - ✓ saying “its inhumane to load downers”, well before BSE crisis hit.
 - ✓ recommending consolidation of animal welfare related regulations under one *Animal Protection Act*
 - ✓ making it easier to seize livestock when conditions are deteriorating.
- Track federal legislation & developing industry position
- Provide security notices



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AFAC Action ...
Reaching out to the Public

Focused on students & teachers



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AFAC Action ...
Reaching out to the Public

Educational Resources



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AFAC Action...Communicating
Ideas, Future Trends,

- ✓ Livestock Welfare INSIGHTS
 Eight issues to keep our industry informed. Now national.
- ✓ LivestockWelfare.com

- ✓ Encouraged the formation of the National Farm Animal Care Council

- ✓ Livestock Care Conferences - focused on animal welfare advancements, research and communication

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AFAC Action ...
Research

The road to continuous improvement

Key Areas

- Husbandry and transportation
- Livestock health
- Livestock housing
- Pain management and measuring chronic stress



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Industry Supported ... Research

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- ✓ Effect of Preconditioning & Hauling Distance Beef Cattle Transport
- ✓ Humane Spent Hen Disposal Poultry Avian Flu
- ✓ Bison Dehorning, Impact on gains, meat quality Bison Pain Mgt
- ✓ Group housing of Sows (Retrofit) Pigs Codes of Practice
- ✓ Laying Hens, Alternative Housing Poultry Future Housing
- ✓ Non-invasive ways to Measure Stress All Reduce losses
- ✓ Early Disease Detection Beef All species
- ✓ Transport Studies Beef, Pig and Poultry



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AFAC Action ... Industry Leadership

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Animal Well Being

- * Animal health & safety
- * Food safety
- * Worker safety
- * Meat quality
- * Satisfied customers
- * Reasonable return



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