

#### The Feedlot Issue

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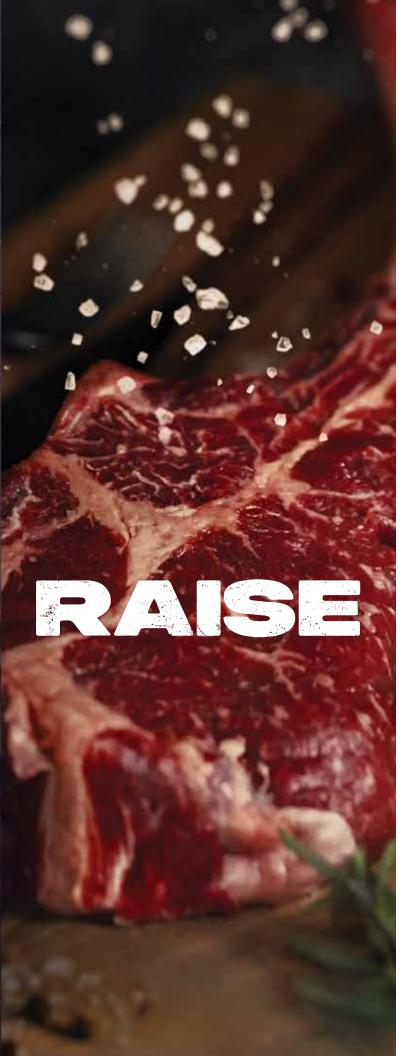
#### SALT OF THE EARTH

Early mornings and late nights, the job of a producer is not for the faint of heart. From breeding and calving the next generation to market-ready cattle, these dedicated professionals care deeply about the health and welfare of their animals.

It all starts with sustainable practices from this special group of people who love the land, working outdoors and producing something they're equally proud to serve to their own families.

Alberta Beef





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#### ON THE COVER

Alberta feedlots are an essential piece to the value chain of the beef industry. Nutrition, getting cattle to finishing weights, all while keeping sustainability and efficiency top of mind – the job of these producers is multi-faceted. This issue's front cover concept is dedicated to the feedlots and their contributions of innovations to the industry. This is the second in a series of front cover spotlights on the beef industry.

## New Year, New Chair, New Perspective

STEPPING INTO A LEADERSHIP ROLE IN ANY ORGANIZATION THESE DAYS IS NO SMALL CHALLENGE. DOING SO IN A BUSINESS MORE THAN A CENTURY OLD, STEEPED IN TRADITION AND LIFESTYLE, WHILE FACING MODERN CHALLENGES OF ECONOMICS AND DIVERSE VIEWS, COULD BE EXTRA DAUNTING. BUT IT IS A ROLE BRODIE HAUGAN HAS THOUGHTFULLY TAKEN ON AS THE CHAIR OF THE ALBERTA BEEF PRODUCERS.

Even though at 32, he bears the title of the youngest-ever ABP chair, Haugan has already logged eight years of experience in the organization. Becoming part of the group seemed like a natural progression after his experience in the Canadian Cattle Young Leaders mentorship program, and then the Canadian Cattle Youth Council.

"It just opened my eyes to seeing there's so much more that's happening," recalls Haugan, who ranches with his fiancée Melissa Lemmer, and his folks Byron and Sheila, in the very southeastern corner of the province, at Orion.

Haugan soon realized the best way to find answers to questions and have an influence on issues was to get involved.

"So many times you just complain to your neighbours and nothing changes. It's hard to understand how you actually make changes, and the proper people and the mechanisms that are in place to really drive change. That's been my passion. I've learned a lot of those connections now, and as a young person, I see value to being in those positions, and at those meetings."

"At the producer meetings we go to and a lot of the events, we're seeing that next generation trying to make a go of it, and they're looking to ourselves for people who are trying to do the same."

Both Haugan and ABP General Manager Brad Dubeau see this as a good time for the organization to look in the mirror.

"Within ABP right now, we're definitely taking an internal look to saying what does an organization look like for the future, and everything is on the table," emphasizes Haugan.

"We all recognized we had to be more responsive to producers as a commission," says Dubeau. "So we set out two years ago on this path, finding new ways to connect with all the different demographics within the beef industry. Brodie was a part of that path, and now we're diving deeper."

Under development is a document that will serve as a conversation starter for the upcoming feedback sessions. From there, information gathered will be refined and sent back out next year, so any substantial changes can be in place before the next ABP plan review with government.

"We want to hear from producers and other organizations what a successful commission looks like," says Dubeau. "In the end, we really want a beef industry commission that serves producers well. We're under no illusion that everyone will agree on every issue, but check-off contributors need to feel confident the commission is providing leadership for the beef industry, and advocating on their behalf, so they can be as successful as possible in their operations."

While current beef market factors seem to only be pointing upwards, like so many experienced producers, Haugan is cautious about jumping up and down quite yet. He realizes the need to do more with less and bigger outfits required for economic viability are still hurdles facing the cattle business, not to mention competition for land base with grain production or urban expansion.

Haugan is closely watching the rollout of a price and production insurance program with federal support for cow-calf producers in the U.S. this summer, as part of their drive for overall food security.

"Brodie brings that perspective of a young person trying to make a go in the cattle industry, both economically and environmentally sustainably," notes Dubeau. "It bodes well for what we're trying to do at ABP, because we need our industry to be competitive against other commodities in agriculture. We're working towards it and appreciate AFSC's efforts to listen and look at different business risk management tools.

"We're just looking for tools that producers, at each one of those levels in producing beef, can engage with to protect their investments, so that our youth feel like there's a way to be successful in the event of a downturn that is out of their control. That's part of our job – to advocate to make these programs work when they're needed."

As the striving continues for ABP to reach a fully funded position, there are some encouraging signs in reduced refund requests.

"In the last two years, transparency and communication, and understanding of where the money actually goes, has really triggered some people to give it a second thought," says Haugan. "Continuing work towards a fully funded industry with one voice, with everyone at the table, for the better good of the industry as a whole, is my task."



Dubeau takes that challenge very seriously as well, focusing on bridges while dealing with a broad range of issues often impacting sectors in very different ways.

"ABP continues to strive to build relationships with the membership organizations because we all need to work together to represent beef producers in this province," he says.

After three years of punishing drought on his home range, Haugan is encouraged the long winter brought a replenishment of moisture to green up the shortgrass country and boost optimism on all fronts.

"It has been many years since we've had a spring that looks this good. We can still see the marks from the drought, but we are hopeful a couple of wet years and some reduced grazing will heal the landscape."

Improving the economic viability of ranching remains paramount for Haugan, so he's willing to invest time off the ranch leading a group he believes can help move the target closer.

"I really want to see if a young guy chooses to be a rancher, or in the beef industry, he can make a profit and have a good lifestyle doing what he loves. That's my number-one goal."

The devastating early season wildfires provided extra challenges for beef producers in central and northern Alberta, forcing evacuations and emergency movement of livestock, often still in the midst of calving season.

ABP was quick to gather and provide information on where producers could take their animals. ABP Daily had everything from a map of hosting offers to emergency plan information.



















#### OPENING KEYNOTE **Brian Burke**

NHL Leader, Community Activist and Philanthropist

Presented by



#### CLOSING KEYNOTE **Diana Rodgers**

Executive Director, Global Food Justice Alliance

Presented by



www.canadianbeefindustryconference.com









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### **4-H Alberta Projects** 2023 Highlights

#### 4-H MEMBERS AROUND THE PROVINCE HAVE MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE IN 4-H ALBERTA EVENTS.



The 4-H Alberta Provincial Carcass Competition is a relatively new competition moving into its fifth year of completion. The program has grown from approximately 40 members to more than 120 members competing in this great

initiative that focuses on the carcass animal. Carcass project calves are weighed in the fall at a club's weigh-in, fed, and then slaughtered within a four to six-week period in May and June.

Carcass project calves meet criteria that lead to the final score for the competition. Projects are judged on their marbling, cut yield, ribeye area, carcass weight, fat thickness, muscling, fat colour, and ribeye colour. The unique part of the competition is that the carcass project still needs to be quiet, halter broke, and clean. The 4-H member can also add points to their final score by completing a presentation. Each carcass project requires a completed 4-H record book.

Added to the Carcass Competition this year are three bursaries for three senior members from the Canadian Beef Grading Agency (CBGA).

Another event held each July is the 4-H Alberta Beef Heifer Show. We are going into our 47th annual show. When the show started it was held in Bashaw, AB. It has since moved to the Olds Regional Exhibition and is held in conjunction with Summer Synergy.

The 4-H Alberta Beef Heifer Show allows members an additional opportunity to showcase their beef female project, hone their skills, and gain further knowledge of trends in the industry - all within an experiential environment designed for their learning and development.

4-H members are provided with an educational opportunity at the provincial level to broaden their knowledge of showing, fitting, and judging beef cattle, as well as the general beef industry.

While we move into June there are many beef club achievement days where 4-H members proudly showcase their projects. Many 4-H clubs have charity calves and raise thousands of dollars to go towards very worthy causes. 4-H members are taught that giving back to the community is rewarding and satisfying. Watch for these calves being sold across the province!

For more information go to 4hab.com





#### ALBERTA BEEF

#### **Competitiveness Study Update**

On March 14, 2023, Alberta Beef Producers (ABP), Alberta Cattle Feeders' Association (ACFA), and Canadian Cattle Association (CCA) released the Alberta Beef Competitiveness Study, including:

Part A: Building Resiliency in Alberta's Beef **Processing Industry** 

#### Part B: Feasibility Assessment of Canadian **Wholesale Beef Market Reporting**

In Part A, there were five key barriers identified by those interviewed in Building Resiliency in Alberta's Beef Processing Industry – labour shortages, SRM regulations, access to capital, pathways and regulatory compliance, and market access.

Serecon has provided detailed recommendations throughout the report addressing each of the barriers, and ABP, ACFA, and CCA are drawing attention to three Actionable Recommendations - addressing immediate labour crisis, harmonizing processing standards, and increasing processor support.

In Part B, Schultz and Schroeder noted that the goal is to have a Canadian Boxed Beef report that summarizes prices and quantities representative of the wholesale beef market.

Historical requirements for the Canadian Boxed Beef report mirrored the USDA daily report, which focused on negotiated sales with delivery to the domestic market within 21 days. Several types of sales and products were excluded from the report.

Schultz and Schroeder noted that adjusting eligibility would increase volumes to meet confidence levels.

Specifically, creating a comprehensive report that includes all sale methods, all delivery periods, all product types as well as including exports to the U.S. and Mexico and beef x dairy crossbred cattle.

For confidentiality, they added that USDA moved to a 3/70/20 rule in August 2001 to allow them to continue reporting. The 3/70/20 rule requires meeting all three of the following conditions:

- · At least three reporting entities need to provide data at least 50 percent of the time over the most recent 60-day time period.
- · No single reporting entity may provide more than 70 per cent of the data for a report over the most recent 60-day time period.
- No single reporting entity may be the sole reporting entity for an individual report more than 20 per cent of the time over the most recent 60-day time period.

Adoption of the 3/70/20 guideline resolved many, but not all, problems associated with nonreportable trade due to confidentiality in the U.S. and has the potential to do the same in Canada.

Recognizing that Canada does not have the regulations to implement mandatory price reporting federally, they recommended adding rigour to voluntary reporting by automating reporting to ensure consistency from week to week. While not addressed in the report, given the three plants needed for reporting are in Alberta it is possible to change to an Alberta Boxed Beef report with mandatory reporting implemented under provincial legislation.

With this report in hand, ABP, ACFA, and CCA are continuing to work with industry and stakeholders to consider ways to further improve the sustainability and resiliency of the beef processing industry.

To view the full study visit bit.ly/42DaBF4





Our goal is really to optimize profitability, or in this case, cost of gain is really the metric that we're focused on.

With fluctuating costs and tight margins, feedlot producers are constantly innovating and working with some of best service providers to seek solutions for increased profitability and sustainability.

Challenges for the feedlot sector include regulatory and competitiveness issues that impact profitability. Canada often does not have the same range of health or feed products that other jurisdictions do, and convincing companies to commercialize new products can come with a lot of red tape. This adds complexity to an everevolving and often misunderstood industry.

Producers throughout the value chain are working together on research to make the industry more competitive, more sustainable, and more profitable.

#### EXPLORING FEEDING OPPORTUNITIES

According to the Beef Cattle Research Council (BCRC) the cost of feed remains high and volatile because of grain-growing conditions, the use of feed grains in ethanol production, and increased competition between crop land and urban development.

Dr. Matt May is a veterinarian and the Director of Production Services at Telus Agriculture. He and his team of scientists, engineers, and nutritionists compare their baseline protocols to new, innovative research to assess the best management practices for various classes of cattle. Working with industry partners across North America, Dr. May and his team conduct data-based research on animal health, feed, ration and supplement formulation, and pharmaceuticals.

Recently the team has focused some of their research on ration formulation and inclusion of different feed ingredients. They've seen positive changes in average daily gain, feed conversion, morbidity, and mortality. Using baseline information from small pen studies,

the team will assess economic opportunities and then conduct large pen research to get results for factors that help to refine their models.

"Our goal is really to optimize profitability, or in this case, cost of gain is really the metric that we're focused on," says Dr. May.

Some producers are also beginning to access and evaluate interesting by-product streams, like grocery store waste, bakery waste, distillers' grains, and products from the potato processing industry. There is an increasing opportunity for feedlots to utilize non-conventional feeds and divert them from the landfill. Researchers are looking into testing the nutritional content of these feeds to appropriately balance rations.

Another innovation Dr. May says he and his team are working on is bio digestion – using the manure to create a source of sustainable energy.

Though these are some great sustainability stories, there's still much work to do to understand bio digestion and resource utilization in feedlots and to create a steady supply of by-product feed.

"It has to make sense," says Lyle Adams, owner of 6A Cattle Co. "Cattle are a very regimented species. I don't like putting things in the ration one day and then have to take it out the next day because I don't have supply."

Adams and his wife have been in the feeding industry for more than 25 years, and for them consistency is key. With a finishing yard of 8,500 cattle, Adams says they speak to grain brokers and their nutritionist daily to evaluate grain trends, pricing, and indexes to maximize performance.

#### UTILIZING ROLLER COMPACTED CONCRETE

Another big innovation in feedlots is the use of roller compacted concrete (RCC) to mitigate mud, reduce pen cleaning and pen floor upkeep costs, and improve manure quality. Dr. May says there's a huge cost to maintain pens by hauling and leveling soil. The data his team has generated estimates that a producer can likely pay for roller compacted concrete in three to five years just on reducing the amount of soil hauling.

"Pen cleaning is still really, really important," says Dr. May. "There's a lot we need to understand about things like area required per animal, bunk space, and bedding, but it certainly is an innovative technology that we're pretty excited about."

At 6A Cattle Co., the team has created its own flooring product out of recycled concrete and clay mixed with water. It is placed in six-inch lifts, wet down, and packed multiple times. Adams says he did more than half of his feedlot last year and the product is doing very well.

"It's a fraction of the cost [of RCC]," says Adams. "I'm very excited about it. I'm going to do some more this summer at my feedlot, so it's definitely been a very good practice we've started."

#### IMPLEMENTING SMART DOSING TOOLS

Some producers, like Adams, have noticed a real benefit using tools like the Te Pari Revolution Smart Dosing Gun. This is an automatic dosing gun used chute-side when providing medication to cattle. As an animal comes into the chute, their weight is registered and the software will automatically send the correct dose to the gun. This avoids any risk of over or under dosing and supports antimicrobial stewardship.

"Every animal is getting the appropriate dose they need according to their weight," says Adams.

As the feedlot industry evolves, it's more important than ever for producers to collaborate across all levels of the value chain. Decreasing input costs, consumer costs, and environmental impact all while increasing profitability for producers is no easy feat.

"There are a lot of intricacies when it comes to feeding cattle," says Dr. May. "That's an area that we like to certainly focus on is working with those people that are on the ground doing the jobs to help them be successful."

By sharing innovative best practices throughout the industry and learning from other 'boots on the ground,' producers can help ensure that we all continue to benefit from Alberta beef.

## Have Your Say on Bill C-235

BY MARK LYSENG

PAST-CHAIR OF ABP, MELANIE WOWK, WITNESSED BOTH THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD AND HOUSE OF COMMONS STANDING COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY REGARDING BILL C-235, BUILDING A GREEN PRAIRIE ECONOMY ACT.

#### AND NOW IT'S YOUR TURN TO PROVIDE YOUR LOCAL INSIGHT!

Bill C-235 calls for a framework that promotes clean economic growth and stronger collaboration between the federal government and partner organizations on the prairies.

Through witnessing to House and Senate Standing Committees, Alberta Beef Producers has emphasized the essential role ranchers play in the environmental stewardship of the prairies and their unique ability to safely sequester carbon while working with ecological processes. We certainly did not want governments to overlook the extremely beneficial aspects of ranching. Beef is a green industry that massively benefits the prairie economy.

ABP tried to get an acknowledgment of the importance of prairie ecosystems as the bill reference trees; however it was not added.

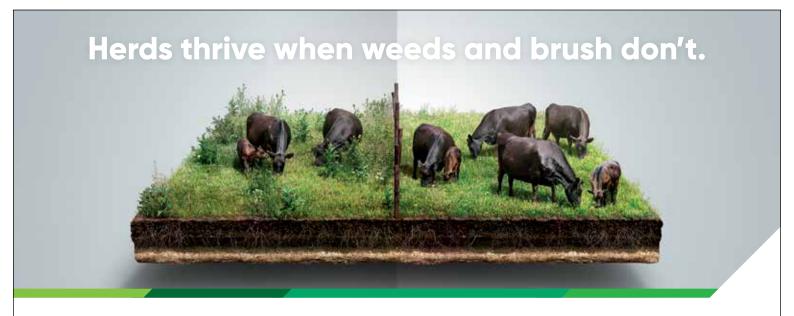
We invite you to provide your feedback to the Government of Canada on the implementation of the Act!

#### VISIT https://bit.ly/3ofB5h4



#### **QUICK FACTS:**

- Alberta's cattle sector is an important economic driver by generating \$13.6 billion in sales, contributing more than \$4.9 billion to the province's GDP, including \$2.7 billion in labour income.
- The sector is responsible for generating 55,125 full-time jobs. Every job in the sector yields another 2.7 jobs elsewhere in the economy.
- Beef producers have a symbiotic relationship with grasslands that allow them to uniquely store as much as 97 per cent of the carbon below ground. This includes up to 200 tonnes per ha in the first metreof soil alone, which is the opposite of forest and peatland, which store their carbon above ground, making it easily released through fire.
- Globally, grasslands store approximately 34 per cent of the global terrestrial stock of carbon.
- Up to 50 per cent of this carbon is immediately released if tilled or developed.
- Without the beef industry, massive amounts of carbon would be released to get an economic return from the land.



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Survey closes July 1, 2023

If you are a core participant (core producer) in any of the three Living Labs (Alberta AgriSystems, Regenerative Alberta, Peace Region) in Alberta, please do not complete this survey.

## ABP Supports Families at Ronald McDonald House

For the second year, Alberta Beef Producers, in partnership with the Canadian Beef Centre of Excellence (CBCE), was proud to host "Home for Dinner" events at Ronald McDonald House Canada (RMHC) locations in Calgary and Edmonton.

The two events in March provided home-cooked meals for families staying at the Ronald McDonald House while requiring medical or hospital care or treatment.

This is the second year that ABP and CBCE have partnered to host these events. Delegates and their families joined ABP staff and CBCE chefs to serve 70 people at the Calgary event and almost 100 people at the Edmonton location. We served Alberta beef steak sampler as an appetizer, followed by roast beef with spring vegetables, Caesar salad, and a candy "bar" for dessert.

"Connecting over a family meal has always been a part of the values and culture of those who live and work in this industry," said Lindsay Roberts, ABP's Marketing and Communications Manager. "We recognize that those who are utilizing the services that RMHC provides are families that have to travel from (typically rural) areas to receive specialized care. We love that with these events we can take the stress of preparing a meal for these families off of the families themselves."

Next year we hope to expand these events to all four RMHC locations across the province.

Ronald McDonald House Charities® Alberta supports families seeking vital medical treatment for their seriously ill or injured child. There are currently four Ronald McDonald Houses in Alberta located in Calgary, Edmonton, Red Deer, and Medicine Hat, providing a warm, compassionate home for those who need to travel for medical reasons.





Top to bottom: Chef Mathieu Paré, Canadian Beef Centre of Excellence, prepares dinner at the Calgary event.

Southeast Zone Delegate Nanita Blomquist and her daughter Emma Cook set out the treats for dessert.



BY ROBIN GALEY

## THE RESULTS OF A FOUR-YEAR ANIMAL TRANSPORT RESEARCH STUDY, FUNDED IN PART BY ABP, SUGGEST THE MOST IMPORTANT ANIMAL WELFARE FACTOR IN TRANSPORT MAY BE CONDITIONING BEFORE THEY GET ON THE TRUCK.

Since we last reported on this story in January 2022, researchers have completed their final year of a study to help improve animal welfare outcomes by determining the effects of animal conditioning and rest stops when cattle are transported long distances.

Stricter livestock transport regulations came into force in Canada in February 2022, reducing the length of time animals can travel between rest stops from 48 to 36 hours and increasing the length of the rest stops required from five to eight hours.

After four years of study, researchers found that rest stops had minimal impact on animal welfare. "What we consistently found through all of these experiments is that the biggest difference was in conditioned versus non-conditioned calves. If I had bet on it before we did these studies, I would absolutely not believe what we found here. It was pretty eye-opening for us," says Dr. Karen Schwartzkopf-Genswein, Principal Research Scientist, Beef Cattle Physiology and Welfare with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada in Lethbridge, who led the study with research associate Dr. Daniela Melendez.

The final year of study explored a gap in prior research relating to how far cattle were transported after a rest. "In our previous studies, we didn't find that rest had much of an effect. But typically, animals transported a long distance will go 15 or 16 hours and then have a rest, and then travel another 15 or 16 hours to their final destination. In our previous two studies, we only looked at four hours of transport following the rest," Schwartzkopf-Genswein explains.

Researchers looked for indicators of reduced welfare based on both physiological and behavioural measurements...

In the latest study, Schwartzkopf-Genswein looked at health and welfare outcomes in 500 to 600-weight calves following transport. The calves studied included both conditioned and non-conditioned animals from the same ranch. Conditioned calves were weaned, vaccinated, and adapted to a backgrounding diet for 18 to 26 days before the study started, while non-conditioned calves were weaned and loaded. They were transported for 20 hours, given a rest of either zero hours or eight hours, and then transported another four or 15 hours.

Animal measurements were taken at the initial loading onto the truck, following unloading at the rest stop, just prior to reloading at the rest stop, at their final destination, and five times afterward (days 1, 2, 3, 4 and 14) with the last check being 28 days after transport. Researchers looked for indicators of reduced welfare based on both physiological and behavioural measurements, including immune function, muscle fatigue, infection and trauma, use of fat reserves, dehydration, stress, lameness or injury, mortality, and morbidity.

"In every one of these studies, I was expecting that we would see a difference in either rest duration on calf health and welfare, or as a result of the post-rest transport duration," says Schwartzkopf-Genswein. "But in this study, we saw very little impact in calves rested zero or eight hours, nor much difference on the impact of the rest whether they traveled four hours or 15 hours afterward."

Among calves transported four hours after their rest, those rested eight hours had greater shrink than those not rested, regardless of whether they were conditioned or not. However, in those calves transported an additional 15 hours after their rest, shrink was greater in the conditioned animals given eight hours rest compared to conditioned calves given no rest or non-conditioned calves rested zero or eight hours. Both findings can be

explained by the fact that, when animals eat and drink well, they have more gut fill and water retention to lose.

The shrink was temporary, and animals came back from it quickly. "When we look at dry matter intake, the major difference we see is between conditioned and non-conditioned calves. Overall, conditioned calves had higher dry matter intake for the first three days post-arrival, and numerically they stayed higher until about two weeks at the feedlot," Schwartzkopf-Genswein says.

The only impact of rest was seen on the first day after arrival, where conditioned calves rested eight hours had higher intake than conditioned calves provided no rest or non-conditioned calves that were rested or not rested. Another interesting finding was that all non-rested calves had higher gains than rested calves between 14 and 28 days after transport due to compensatory gain. Says Schwartzkopf-Genswein, "Rest didn't have the impact we thought it would. Overall, it didn't help nor hinder them."

The most consistent finding of the research study was the impact of conditioning prior to transport. "The results suggest that the rest stop and the difference in transport time after the rest really didn't make a big difference. The thing that made the difference was whether the animals were conditioned prior to transport. The findings tell me that conditioned calves are more ready and fit to accept transport stress than non-conditioned animals," Schwartzkopf-Genswein says.

Schwartzkopf-Genswein would like to do future research to break down the components of preconditioning to see which are most impactful for transport and welfare outcomes and to look at the impact of driver versus animal rest regulations on vulnerable cattle like cull cows.

As a result of these four years of study, Schwartzkopf-Genswein's recommendation for producers is to support conditioning prior to transporting animals. "If I could tell producers one thing, it's that animals – in this case calves – have to be in good condition when they enter the trailer. The better conditioned they are when they go on, the better the outcome is for the transport, and this finding likely applies to all classes of cattle," she concludes.

Learn more about all three experiments on ABP Daily at: bit.ly/3o2MuAJ



## Round Rock Ranching

BY DIANNE FINSTAD

WHEN YOU AIM TO PRODUCE THE 'BEST BEEF IN A BETTER WORLD,' YOU'VE GOT A LOT ON YOUR PLATE. BUT SEAN MCGRATH TACKLES THE TARGET BITE BY BITE.





McGrath also appreciates the Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef (CRSB) process emphasizes principles and is adaptable on practices.

"I know ranchers don't like being told what to do, and I would probably be very near the top of that list," he chuckles. "The principle applies, and then how you accomplish it on your operation is up to you."

A big part of ranch sustainability in McGrath's mind is economics. So the price to becoming certified has to make sense.

"I think that's where some of the funding from FCC and Cargill comes in. It's not necessarily going to change life on our farm, but at least the recognition to reward the effort I think makes a difference.

Farm Credit Canada has announced the second year of its Sustainability Incentive Program, providing up to \$2,000 to FCC lending customers who are CRSB certified and current on renewals.

"The annual incentive is typically higher than the cost to get certified. The exciting part is it not only could it help pay for someone to get certified, but it also recognizes there's time and effort that goes into the process, so that's why we thought it was important to have the incentive payment be above what the certification costs are," explains FCC Sustainability Program Director, Curtis Grainger.

to pay off a tractor or buy a new truck, but even just the recognition helps."

When it comes to aiming for improvements on his ranch, or as an industry, McGrath's philosophy is to aim for progress over perfection.

"We're probably better to start and be 75 per cent right, and make 2 per cent improvement a year over twenty years, rather than wait twenty years to start."

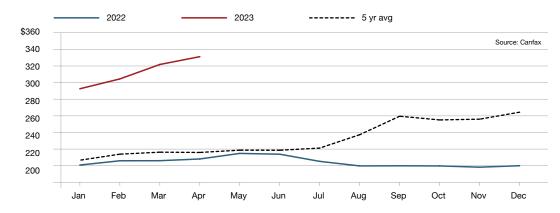
Did you know? The FCC Sustainability Incentive has been expanded beyond beef. While the partnership with CRSB was first out of the gate, launching in May of 2022, there were two other partnerships established later in the year. One was with McCain's Regenerative Agriculture Framework on potatoes and the other with the Cargill RegenConnect program for grains and oilseeds.

"Consumers are demanding sustainable commodities, not just in beef but in all sectors. At FCC, we represent all of agriculture and food, so we think it's our role to provide this type of programming not just in a couple of sectors, but in all the sectors we do business with," says Grainger. "So CRSB was really critical in establishing that first step in creating something that could be duplicated across industries, which is really exciting."



#### Alberta 5-600 lb Feeder Steer Price

Cdn\$ per cwt



#### **Canfax Cattle Market Update**

#### GRASSER MARKET REACHES NEW HIGHS

Cow-calf pairs and yearling grassers are working away, turning marginal land and perennial grasses into high-value food for Canadian consumers. Now that calving and planting are in the rear-view mirror, talk has turned to expectations for the calf and feeder market this fall.

The Canadian beef cow herd as of January 1 is down 2.5 per cent from last year, heifers kept for breeding are down a significant 4.3 per cent, and calves under one year old are down 3.9 per cent. This will keep Canadian supplies of feeder cattle tight this fall and force feedlot operators to rely on feeder imports to fill pen space. However, the U.S. beef herd is also shrinking with beef cow inventories on January 1 down 3.6 per cent and breeding heifers down 5.8 per cent. The U.S. calf crop in 2022 is down 2 per cent.

The Alberta feeder market has been strong as market signals continue to indicate tighter cattle and beef supplies moving forward. Yearling grasser operations are aggressively procuring cattle that will be market ready in the fourth quarter of 2023 and the first quarter of 2024. Alberta feeder steers in April were 10 per cent higher on average than in January. The largest price increases were for the 5-600 lb and 6-700 lb weight classes, up 11 per cent and 15 per cent respectively, with both weight classes of steers putting in new all-time high prices in April. Heifers followed suit, up 17 per cent on average

between January and April. Like their steer counterparts, the largest percentage price increases were on heifers suitable for grass; 5-600 lb heifers were up 21 per cent and 6-700 lb heifers were up 22 per cent. Any softening in the feed grain prices will support the feeder market in the second half of the year.

The non-fed slaughter market continues to trend stronger for both cull cows and bulls. Alberta D2 cows began their surge in January and maintained that momentum right through April. Averaging \$137/cwt, D2 cow prices in April were 39 per cent higher than January. As of the first week of May they shot up again, at \$150/cwt they are only \$1/cwt shy of their all-time highs set in April 2015. Cull cows typically put in their spring highs near the end of May, when demand for ground beef for summer grilling is highest. As concerns about recession heat up, demand for ground beef is expected to be strong. It wouldn't be surprising to see D2 cow prices overtake their previous highs later this spring before moving sideways to softer through the summer. The slaughter bull market trended sideways in January and February, then caught fire, averaging \$155/cwt in April, up 25 per cent from January.

While tight supplies are guaranteed, the big question is how consumer demand will hold up in the face of inflation and potential recession. For ongoing market analysis and to become a Canfax member, visit www.canfax.ca



# Have You Heard of AGLA?

THE SUCCESS OF ALBERTA'S BEEF INDUSTRY RELIES ON AN EFFICIENT AND PRODUCTIVE COW HERD WITH ACCESS TO AN EXTENSIVE FEED SUPPLY. APPROXIMATELY 20 PER CENT OF THIS FEED COMES FROM THE USE OF CROWN GRAZING LEASES, MAKING THESE LANDS AN INTEGRAL FOUNDATION FOR ONE OF ALBERTA'S MOST IMPORTANT INDUSTRIES.

The first grazing leases were instituted in 1881. Today, there are more than 5,700 grazing leases in Alberta covering over 8 million acres of the province. The most common grazing disposition on Crown land is the lease (other dispositions include permits, licenses, and head tax permits). These Crown lands have a designated priority use for agriculture and most are best suited to cattle grazing. The average lease in Alberta is just over a section and supports approximately 50 cows.

Grazing leaseholders undertake a significant management role on public lands; they are responsible for managing grazing, infrastructure, and property tax costs, managing other uses such as industrial activity and recreational access, and they serve to both protect and maintain environmental values. Crown lands under grazing disposition have benefitted from the intergenerational knowledge of its stewards, and the succession of those stewards depends on security and profitability. Continued stewardship of Crown land in Alberta is reliant on the recognition of property rights in grazing leases and legislation supporting it. This is where Alberta Grazing Leaseholders Association (AGLA) comes in.

AGLA's mission is "To protect Alberta's grazing leaseholders from erosion of rights and property and to preserve the assets and income of grazing lease owners." We strive to be the voice of reason in matters of land use, property rights, and surface rights. AGLA has represented the interests of leaseholders provincially, nationally, and locally since 1998 and works closely with other industry groups such as Northern Alberta Grazing Association, East Central Grazing Association, Western Stock Growers' Association, Rocky Mountain Forest Range Association, Special Areas, and Alberta Beef Producers.

AGLA actively fosters ongoing engagement with elected officials, bureaucrats, and other stakeholders for continued recognition of the importance of the leaseholder role on Crown lands under grazing disposition. Current issues include modernization of the grazing-timber integration manual, preparing for a review of the Recreational Access Regulations, and access/liability concerns over undeveloped road allowances. And there are the ever-present conversations on recreational access and surface compensation where we continue to sit at the table to represent leaseholders.

All of the advocacy work that AGLA does is done by the volunteers that sit on the board of directors. The board is comprised of very capable leaseholders who are committed to the continual effort it takes to maintain and improve the grazing lease system. Province-wide representation on the board is a testament to the strength of our organization. To keep costs down, AGLA directors do not take an honorarium nor do they claim expenses. The administration and other management duties is filled with a part-time contract position. AGLA is run solely on memberships and donations so the support of the membership is everything. It keeps the organization accountable and closely tied to the producers we represent.

If you are already a member, we thank you for your support and hope you continue to be a member. If you have not purchased a membership, please consider offering your support for the important work AGLA does for leaseholders. At \$50 per year, it is the best deal out there for representation and advocacy.

Contact: Lindsye Murfin, AGLA Manager, 587-435-4072, albertagrazinglease@gmail.com

#### **CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF AGLA**

From the very beginning, AGLA has amplified the voice of leaseholders and advocated upon their behalf on issues relating to Alberta's public lands. It was from one such issue that this organization was formed 25 years ago.

During a series of meetings in 1997 asking
Albertans for input on how public lands should be
managed, leaseholders felt their perspectives were
being overshadowed by those favouring recreation
and wildlife conservation. The resulting 1998 report
on public land management in Alberta, which was
later introduced into the Legislative Assembly as
Bill 31, prompted outcry from hundreds of
leaseholders, who met in Medicine Hat to discuss
a path forward. To defend against this legislation,
AGLA was created, and it has worked in this spirit
ever since to ensure that leaseholders have a say in
the management of the lands they care for.

# Federal Funding Announced for FMD Vaccine Bank

BY PIPER WHELAN



The Canadian beef industry breathed a collective sigh of relief to learn a foot-and-mouth-disease (FMD) vaccine bank is on the horizon.

As part of the 2023 Federal Budget, \$57.5 million over five years was designated to create the FMD vaccine bank within the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and to develop an emergency response plan.

"While we hope this vaccine bank is never needed, we are grateful for today's investment and its establishment," said Canadian Cattle Association President Nathan Phinney in a March 28 press release.

Alberta Beef Producers, along with our partners at the national level and other provincial beef organizations, have advocated for a federally funded FMD vaccine bank for several years.

"We appreciate the Government listening to our concerns and understanding the critical need to put in place emergency preparedness plans to control the spread of the disease and protect our export markets for Canadian beef."

With outbreaks of the disease in countries in Africa and Asia, reducing the impact of a potential outbreak is a key priority for the Canadian livestock sector. A widespread outbreak would have an estimated \$65 billion impact on Canada's GDP, according to CCA.

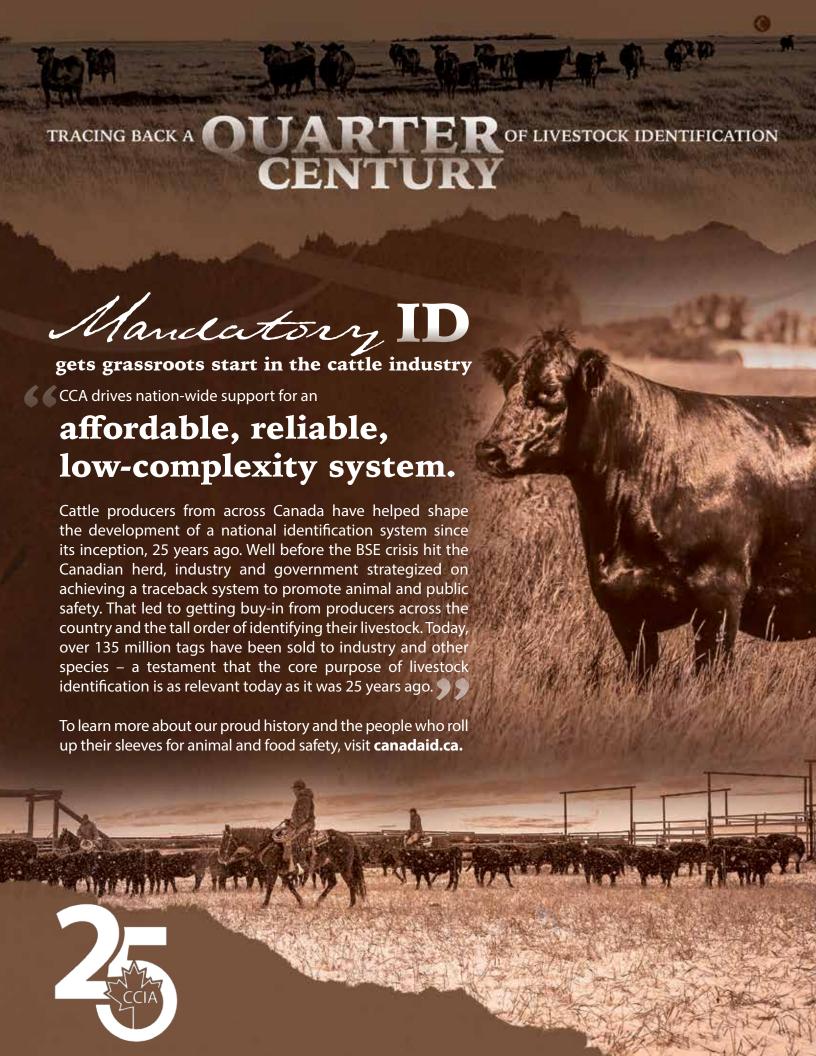
Alberta Beef Producers, along with our partners at the national level and other provincial beef organizations, have advocated for a federally funded FMD vaccine bank for several years. The limitations of the existing North American vaccine bank have been highlighted by many, with its supply deemed insufficient in the event of an outbreak in Canada.

Among the people who worked hard to bring this issue to the forefront were past ABP Chair Dr. Melanie Wowk and ABP Director Miles Wowk, who is a past chair of CCA's Animal Health Committee.

ABP would like to thank the Wowks for their commitment to championing this priority, as well as Minister Nate Horner and Deputy Minister Jason Hale, Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation, for their support of the beef industry and their efforts in bringing attention this issue.



Canadian Cattle Association President Nathan Phinney speaks with Minister Marie-Claude Bibeau, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (Supplied)



## All (the) Ways

#### WE ARE KICKING OFF THE 23/24 CONSUMER CAMPAIGN

BY LINDSAY ROBERTS

With summer in full-swing and event season upon us, keep an eye out for our brand-new consumer marketing campaign for the 2023-2024 year. This campaign aims to showcase the passion Alberta producers put into raising this iconic product. From all the ways producers show steadfast dedication to their work, to the ways a chef passionately prepares this essential ingredient and to the ways consumers enjoy it, there's ritual and tradition in every bite of Alberta beef.

The powerful imagery brings forward a sense of nostalgia and identity that goes hand in hand with Alberta Beef. We have created sets of visuals that connect with the different facets of our consumer audience:

- All-ways to raise: brings attention to the blood, sweat, and tears that
  producers put into raising the best and most sustainable cattle.
- All-ways to cook: showcases the versatility of the product and the many ways Alberta beef can be prepared.
- All-ways to eat: draws focus to all the ways Alberta beef can be enjoyed. From the grill, to the home kitchen, the pub or the five-star restaurant, it doesn't matter where you enjoy your Alberta beef.

Once again in partnership with Canada Beef, this campaign will be featured on billboards across the province, and digital ads encouraging consumers to try something new with their beef. A dedicated landing page is being developed that showcases all the ways cattle are raised in Alberta, where different cuts of beef come from on the carcass, as well as recipes and content from restaurant chefs, home cooks, and influencers.







Catch us for our first event at Kitchen Theatre in the Big Four on Stampede Park, July 14/15/16 at 2 p.m. where we host our first-ever 'Beef Black Box' challenge. BBQ pitmasters and Michelin star chefs will compete head-to-head with a mystery cut of beef and will only have an hour to create an amazing dish.

## ACFA 50th Anniversary

50 YEARS! THE CATTLE FEEDING INDUSTRY HAS FACED MANY HIGH AND LOWS, FROM RECORD HIGH PRICES TO BSE, AND THE ALBERTA CATTLE FEEDERS' ASSOCIATION (ACFA) HAS BEEN HERE THROUGH IT ALL.

February 2023 marked the 50th anniversary of ACFA being the voice of Alberta cattle feeders. Cattle feeding was just getting started in the late 1960s and early 1970s, and the cattle industry was changing, having been dominated by stock growers. In February 1973, after years of not feeling well represented, cattle feeders came together to form ACFA. The early years were a struggle to say the least, and the founding members were the only reason the association survived.

"At that time, I don't think any of us had any idea how significant cattle feeding in this province would become," said Garnet Altwasser, ACFA founding member.

The 1980s saw fed cattle being marketed to the United States for the first time. And to try to gain financial stability, ACFA decided to host an annual meeting and tradeshow as well as publish a magazine. That first annual meeting and tradeshow grew to become the Alberta Beef Industry

Conference, first hosted in 2004. The conference has now become one of Canada's premier beef events and this year celebrated its 20th anniversary.

The next few decades had their successes and challenges. The feeding industry doubled in capacity, creating new issues for cattle feeders including animal welfare and environmental responsibility. To combat these challenges, ACFA decided to develop a study to determine the economic impact of the cattle feeding industry on the economy. BSE's arrival made for some of the toughest times cattle feeders had seen in a while. ACFA worked with the provincial and federal governments to develop compensation programs and worked with other associations to help all sectors of the beef industry survive the crisis.

Through it all, ACFA has continued to advocate for cattle feeders on trade, animal care, environmental



sustainability, and consumer outreach, to name a few key matters. Bringing awareness to the government has been maintained through meetings, the MLA dinner, and feedlot tours.

Over the last 50 years, ACFA has maintained three core priorities: advocacy, member value, and partnership and collaboration.
By focusing on these priorities, ACFA is able to help enhance the competitiveness of the cattle feeding sector in Alberta, strengthen the Alberta and Canadian beef industry, and remain the voice of Alberta cattle feeders.

ACFA has a member event planned this summer to celebrate this remarkable milestone.

A full history of ACFA can be found in "From Start to Finish" on the ACFA website.

# Out and About with Alberta Beef Producers



BY TAYLOR KALBFLEISCH

Spring has sprung in Alberta, and with folks coming out of winter hibernation and the weather starts warming up, you can bet we are gearing up for event season.

We began our spring auction mart tour in Beaverlodge, Alberta. This quarter we focused our messaging towards cow-calf producers by providing detailed calving sheets that producers could add to their records. In my travels, I was fortunate to have many conversations with with producers as well as consumers who were genuinely curious about the beef industry and what role ABP plays.

When speaking with producers, there were some common themes that played on everyone's minds, which ABP is currently engaged in. With the change in legislation behind the Transfer of Care (TOC) documents, there seemed to be a large amount of concern around the increase of responsibility being put on the transporters and auction markets. ABP has been actively involved with government and research committees to ensure that TOC regulations will be in the best interests for all of those involved.

Our marketing team headed to the Calgary Stampede grounds to participate in their annual Aggie Days. We had the pleasure of combining forces with Public and Stakeholder Engagement (PSE) and Canada Beef to create a presentation that gave students an opportunity to experience a part of the beef production story.

Students between the grades of 4-6 in the Calgary area were challenged in the Guardians of the Grassland game where they learned about the impact of rotational grazing and wildlife interactions that cattle may have. Based of their decisions on rotational days/ soil health and wildlife interactions they would receive points accordingly. Students were also walked through the Hi-Hog squeeze, demonstrating its operation and purpose in cattle production.

The education didn't stop there as each student would also be provided with a take home informational pamphlet on nutrition, greenhouse gases, hormones and antibiotics in beef production, a beef by-products scavenger hunt, and other miscellaneous items to continue their education on beef in their own home.

Our consumer education journey will continue as we will be participating in the Mountain View Aggie Days in June and Calgary Stampede's Cattle Trail in July. Along with our participation in other events during Calgary Stampede we will also be preparing for the 2023 Canadian Beef Industry Conference in the upcoming months. We hope to see you at some of these amazing events this summer.

## AGM Recap

At the onset of March, we held our Annual General Meeting. Attendees heard updates from staff, saw discussion on resolutions, and had the privilege of hearing from the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, Nate Horner.

Delegates also elected the 2023 Board of Directors (pictured on the next pages), and CCA and Beef Cattle Research Association (BCRC) representatives.

**BCRC:** Lyle Adams and Lee Irvine (joining Darren Bevans, Graeme Finn, Craig Lehr, and Fred Lozeman)

**CCA:** Jana Harman, George L'Heureux, Graham Overguard, Doug Roxburgh, Greg Schmidt, Curtis Vander Heyden, and Miles Wowk

Thanks to all ABP delegates – past and present – for their continued commitment to the industry.

This year we did something a little different with our Annual General Meeting. We paired it with a dedicated day for delegates. Delegates had a chance to review ongoing work with ABP and discuss options for further involvement, from committees to volunteering at events.

Are you interested in the different ways you can be involved with Alberta's beef industry? Email communications@albertabeef.org to find out more!

#### RESOLUTIONS

#### **NE ZONE**

 Be it resolved ABP explore the possibility of the creation of a training program to certify livestock haulers that would qualify them for the ABP/ Feeders insurance and in addition include safe cattle handling, and traffic safety.

#### Referred to Board - Defeated

 Be it resolved that ABP lobby our government to establish a program to control/monitor/compensate the disease Johne's.

#### **Defeated**

Be it resolved that ABP lobby CCA to make CFIA accountable to the Canadian agriculture industry and sustainability of it in the future.

#### **Defeated**

#### **CENTRAL ZONE**

4. Be it resolved we would like ABP to work on further BRM programs and other business development ideas for the cow-calf industry.

#### Carried

5. That farmers be given a license signed off from their practicing vet allowing them to walk into any clinic in the Province of Alberta and purchase medications and vaccines with no form of a script from the vet in which they have the relationship. This gives producers free access on their purchasing decision based on location they choose to buy from at that time.

#### **Defeated**

6. That farmers and ranchers be exempt from the carbon tax due to the fact that we sequester carbon in our soils from cropping pastures and trees

#### **Defeated**

7. Be it resolved the ABP magazine keeps the current format as an information resource for the membership

#### Referred to Board - Defeated

8. Be it resolved ABP lobby the Alberta Government to establish community pastures and grazing reserves in the green zone around forested communities to reduce fire risks to urban areas while also increasing available grazing land for cattle.

#### Referred to Board - Defeated

#### **SW ZONE**

 Be it resolved that ABP communicate the risks for entering into these solar installation agreements to concerned stakeholders.

#### Carried

**10.** Be it resolved ABP to work to win over industry groups to create a unified voice for industry.

#### Carried

11. Be it resolved ABP work with the education system.

#### Carried

12. Be it resolved ABP work with GOA, AFSC along with CCA and GOC to enhance Risk mitigation in the Beef Industry. Explore subsidized WLPIP, whole farm margin insurance or production programs more closely aligned with crop production programs.

#### Carried

**13.** Be it resolved ABP lobby the Provincial Government to strengthen the regulatory oversight on renewable energy projects.

#### Carried

**14.** Be it resolved that Alberta Beef Producers align with Provincial and National Auction Market associations to lobby both the provincial and federal governments to:

- a) Rescind regulations that impede commerce in the livestock industry, such as but not limited to, Transfer of Care and Electronic logs for livestock haulers.
- To require all government organizations to properly consult with all members of the livestock industry prior to implement policy.

#### Carried

**15.** Be it resolved ABP have a real time emergency preparedness plan that is communicated to all producers.

#### **Defeated**

**16.** Be it resolved ABP takes steps to develop strategy to reduce and eliminate check-off refunds.

#### **Defeated**

17. Be it resolved ABP lobby the Government of Alberta to preferentially admit a percentage of students based on rural acuity (general experience and familiarity with rural Alberta lifestyle)

#### **Defeated**

**18.** Be it resolved ABP focus on helping Alberta local packers open and grow. Focus on increasing large packer capacity in Alberta.

#### **Defeated**

**19.** Be it resolved ABP with CCA lobby the federal government to fund and maintain an adequate FMD vaccine bank.

#### Redundant

20. Be it resolved to work with other groups from Auction markets, beef working groups, cattle feeders and all aspects beyond just grass roots to show a united front, one voice.

#### Redundant

## ABP Zones and Delegates

#### **ABP ZONE REGIONAL LISTINGS**

#### **SOUTHEAST ZONE**

comprises those lands that are located within the following areas:

- (a) Cypress County;
- (b) County of Forty Mile No. 8;
- (c) County of Warner No. 5;
- (d) Municipal District of Taber;
- (e) County of Newell;
- (f) Vulcan County;
- (g) Wheatland County;
- (h) Kneehill County;
- (i) Starland County;
- (j) Town of Drumheller;
- (k) County of Stettler No. 6;
- (I) County of Paintearth No. 18;
- (m) Special Area No. 2;
- (n) Special Area No. 3;
- (o) Special Area No. 4;

**CENTRAL ZONE** 

the following areas:

(a) Lacombe County:

(c) County of Wetaskiwin No. 10;

(b) Ponoka County:

(d) Leduc County;

(e) Strathcona County;

(g) City of Edmonton;

(h) Sturgeon County;

(i) Thorhild County:

No. 124;

Athabasca County;

(m) Woodlands County;

(o) County of Barrhead No. 11;

(p) Lac Ste. Anne County;

(n) Westlock County;

(q) Parkland County;

(r) Brazeau County;

(s) Yellowhead County;

- (p) Municipal District of Acadia No. 34;
- (q) any city, town, or village that is encompassed by the land described in clauses (a) to (p).

comprises those lands that are located within

Improvement District No. 13 (Elk Island);

(k) Municipal District of Opportunity No. 17;

Municipal District of Lesser Slave River

#### SOUTHWEST ZONE

comprises those lands that are located within the following areas:

- (a) Cardston County;
- (b) Improvement District No. 4 (Waterton);
- (c) Municipal District of Pincher Creek No. 9;
- (d) Municipality of Crowsnest Pass;
- (e) Municipal District of Willow Creek No. 26;
- (f) Lethbridge County;
- (g) Municipal District of Ranchland No. 66;
- (h) Foothills County;
- (i) City of Calgary;
- (j) Kananaskis Improvement District;
- (k) Rocky View County;
- (I) Municipal District of Bighorn No. 8;
- (m) Improvement District No. 9 (Banff);
- (n) Mountain View County;
- (o) Clearwater County;
- (p) Red Deer County;
- (q) any city, town, or village that is encompassed by the land described in clauses (a) to (p).

#### NORTHWEST ZONE

comprises those lands that are located within the following areas:

- (a) County of Grande Prairie No. 1;
- (b) Municipal District of Greenview No. 16;
- (c) Big Lakes County;
- (d) Municipal District of Smoky River No. 130;
- (e) Birch Hills County;
- (f) Municipal District of Spirit River No. 133;
- (g) Saddle Hills County;
- (h) Municipal District of Fairview No. 136;
- (i) Municipal District of Peace No. 135;
- (j) Northern Sunrise County;
- (k) County of Northern Lights;
- (I) Clear Hills County;
- (m) Mackenzie County;
- (n) any city, town, or village that is encompassed by the land described in clauses (a) to (m).

#### **ABP ZONE MAP**



#### NORTHEAST ZONE

comprises those lands that are located within the following areas:

- (a) Camrose County;
- (b) Flagstaff County;
- (c) Municipal District of Provost No. 52;
- (d) Municipal District of Wainwright No. 61;
- (e) Beaver County;
- (f) Lamont County;
- (g) County of Minburn No. 27;
- (h) County of Vermilion River;
- (i) County of Two Hills No. 21;
- (j) Smoky Lake County;
- (k) County of St. Paul No. 19;
- (I) Municipal District of Bonnyville No. 87;
- (m) Lac La Biche County;
- (n) Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo;
- (o) Improvement District No. 24 (Wood Buffalo);
- (p) Improvement District No. 349;
- (q) any city, town, or village that is encompassed by the land described in clauses (a) to (p).

#### (Willi

(u) Municipality of Jasper;(v) Improvement District No. 25(Willmore Wilderness):

Improvement District No. 12 (Jasper National Park);

(w) any city, town, or village that is encompassed by the land described in clauses (a) to (v).

## ABP WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME OUR NEW DELEGATES AND DIRECTORS, AND THANK OUTGOING REPRESENTATIVES FOR YOUR TIME AND COMMITMENT TO THE ALBERTA BEEF INDUSTRY.

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## DECADES OF RELIABLE RODENT CONTROL

#### **CONSISTENT • INNOVATIVE • VERSATILE • PROBLEM SOLVER**

These words aren't applied to just any rodent control bait. They are applied to Rozol RTU & Ground Force, rodent control baits that have been helping protect your range & cropland for many years.

Rozol RTU\* is labeled for the control of Ground Squirrels & Pocket Gophers
Ground Force Paraffinized Pellets\* is labeled for the control of Voles, Ground Squirrels, Rats & Mice

