



ABP

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

SINCE  1969

**Alberta Beef
Producers**

Volume 6 Issue 2 **MAY/JUNE 2026**

RETURN UNDELIVERABLE ITEMS TO

ALBERTA BEEF PRODUCERS
120, 7777 10 STREET NE
CALGARY, ALBERTA T2E 8X2

BEEF CATTLE CODE OF PRACTICE PUBLIC COMMENT OPEN

Draft updates to the Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Beef Cattle are now available for public review.

YOUR VOICE MATTERS

Producers and stakeholders are encouraged to review the proposed updates and provide feedback.

APRIL 13 – JUNE 12, 2026

Learn more about the draft and how to provide input at [abpdaily.com](https://www.abpdaily.com)





Published by:

Brad Dubeau,
Alberta Beef Producers

Editor
Katie Songer

Creative
Tracy Irving

Front Cover Illustration
Megan Weir

Copy Editing
Laura Laing

Writing
Kate Ayers
Brad Brinkworth
Emma Cross
Dianne Finstad
Robin Galey
Jamie Kerr
Dr. Roy Lewis
Mark Lyseng
Debra Murphy
Cale Place
Karin Schmid
Katie Songer
Gina Teel
Sam Vriend
Andrea White

Printing
Burke Group

CONTACT

Advertising Opportunities
Katie Songer
katies@albertabeef.org

Editorial
Katie Songer
katies@albertabeef.org

Publisher
Brad Dubeau
bradd@albertabeef.org

Subscription/Contact Information Updates
Kathy Jardine
kathyj@albertabeef.org

To read ABP online:
ABPDaily.com

f @ABBeefProducers

x @albertabeef

@loveabbeef

in Alberta Beef Producers

www.albertabeef.org

Return undeliverable
CDN addresses to:
Alberta Beef Producers
120, 7777 – 10 St NE
Calgary, Alberta T2E 8X2
403-275-4400

Funded by the
Government
of Canada

Canada

ABP is published four times a year by Alberta Beef Producers. No part of this publication may be reproduced without the written permission of the publisher.



ON THE COVER

“Night Check,” an original oil painting by Alberta artist Megan Weir, based on a photo by Terri Mappin.

Highlights from the Chair

WITH DOUG ROXBURGH, CHAIR, ABP



Between calving, bull sales, breeding season and getting cows out to pasture, spring is always a busy time. Alberta Beef Producers has also been active on some key issues and policies over the last few months.

Many producers have been asking about the planned withdrawal of ABP from the Canadian Cattle Association. Prior to the CCA's annual meeting in March, the Provincial Working Group of the general managers and chairs from all nine member provinces got together to finalize what we believed the framework of CCA should look like. CCA Chair Tyler Fulton and Executive Director Andrea Brocklebank joined us at the end of the discussions, to get an overview of what was being proposed. I think it's important producers understand the changes far exceed what was originally outlined on the withdrawal of ABP, as we dove into the overall structure of the organization at a much higher level.

I really want to highlight that the members of the Provincial Working Group have been fantastic. Alberta Beef Producers may have been the ones to rip the band-aid off to get the ball rolling, but I would say the engagement and interaction from other provinces has been ten times greater than I even anticipated. A lot of the recommendations we supported came from other provinces. So it certainly was not a case of Alberta saying, "this is what we want." The other provinces had a tremendous amount of input. I'm really excited to see the work being implemented at the CCA. Chad Ross, the chair of the Saskatchewan Cattle Association called these changes "generational," and I think that's a great way to sum it up.

We then had really productive meetings in Ottawa at the CCA AGM. There were a number of motions put forward, which were all supported in principle. After everything is finalized by the individual provinces, we've still got work to do on implementation details. It will definitely take some time, because we have bylaw changes and legalities to make happen, but I think we have a very well laid out framework of what the CCA would look like. You can read more details on the proposal on page 20 of this magazine. I'm extremely energized to see how all provinces came together to support how we can build a stronger national organization.

Definitely the hot-button topic at our tour of 15 ABP Producer Meetings across the province this winter was traceability. We heard producers' concerns, and were able to take those in resolution form to our March AGM in Calgary. Our response included a traceability open forum at the start of the meeting, both in person and online. It gave an opportunity for those who hadn't been to a producer meeting to talk directly to the provincial government and CCIA. Once we got into the resolutions at the AGM, we committed to forming a Traceability Working Group, including a very broad but strategic spectrum of people, to have a discussion on what we feel traceability should look like going forward.

I think no producer undervalues the premise of traceability within our industry, but they had meaningful concerns over what they saw being outlined with further traceability regulations. We definitely heard them, and saw the need to reconsider the process, so we could circle back and look for a better path.

We encourage producers to read and give their input on the updated draft Beef Code of Practice recommendations

from the National Farm Animal Care Council. The public comment period is open now until June 12. You will see Alberta Beef Producers sharing information on how to be part of the conversation. It is a national program that affects all beef producers, and now is the time to engage, because your input is important.

We support the CCA in its efforts around the South American trade bloc called Mercosur. Concern arose when, by mid-January 2025, the entire annual quota of beef imports to Canada had been filled in record time by Mercosur countries. The CCA is worried about the potential impacts of an expansion of imports from there, because these countries have different beef production approaches and standards than Canada. The CCA is calling for grassroots action against the inclusion of beef in the current Mercosur trade negotiations.

Still on trade, ABP along with other Canadian provinces hosted a dinner with nine U.S. states at the NCBA convention in February. We are focused on building relationships with these states to understand the importance of the CUSMA agreement and how integrated trade is flowing in our industry today—from the imports of American feeder cattle into Canada, to the exports of fats going back to harvest facilities in places like Utah. Now we're working on getting those states to come up to our Stampede Summit in July, for more discussions on how vital free trade is to both sides of the border.

Our delayed spring has put us a touch behind getting crops in the ground. But I certainly believe the moisture is needed in many parts of the province, and so we'll work through it the same way we do every year. I'm hoping we can have a productive year, and everybody enjoys the summer. 🍷



PRODUCERS WANTED:

Join ABP's Local Beef Directory

Consumer support and demand for locally grown beef continues to increase, and ABP is frequently asked where consumers can buy straight from producers in their area.

To help connect customers to ranches around them, ABP is developing a producer listing that will be published at allwaysalbertabeef.ca

This will be a self-listed, non-vetted directory. To keep it current, we will send out a brief email twice per year. Producers must respond to remain on the list; those who do not respond will be removed.

A submission form is in development. In the meantime, producers interested in being included should email marketing@albertabeef.org and will be notified when the form is available. ▼

AD INDEX

19 Beef Talks
22 Canadian Cattle Identification Agency
39 Area One/Western Land Group

67 Ty Wilson Alberta Realty
67 Corteva

Table of Contents

24



INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY

The Evolution of Lidobands

8



TRAILBLAZERS

Every Road Led to Ranching

16



TRAILBLAZERS

Connecting Buyers, Sellers and Policy

50



BUSINESS TOOLS

Farm Real Estate: What Buyers and Sellers Need to Know

27



CHECKING IN WITH ABP

Launching *Every Cut Makes the Cut*

INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY

24 The Evolution of Lidobands

TRAILBLAZERS

8 Every Road Led to Ranching
16 Connecting Buyers, Sellers, and Policy: The Alberta Auction Market Association

ISSUES & INSIGHTS

14 Safeguarding Pasture from Ground Squirrels

BUSINESS TOOLS

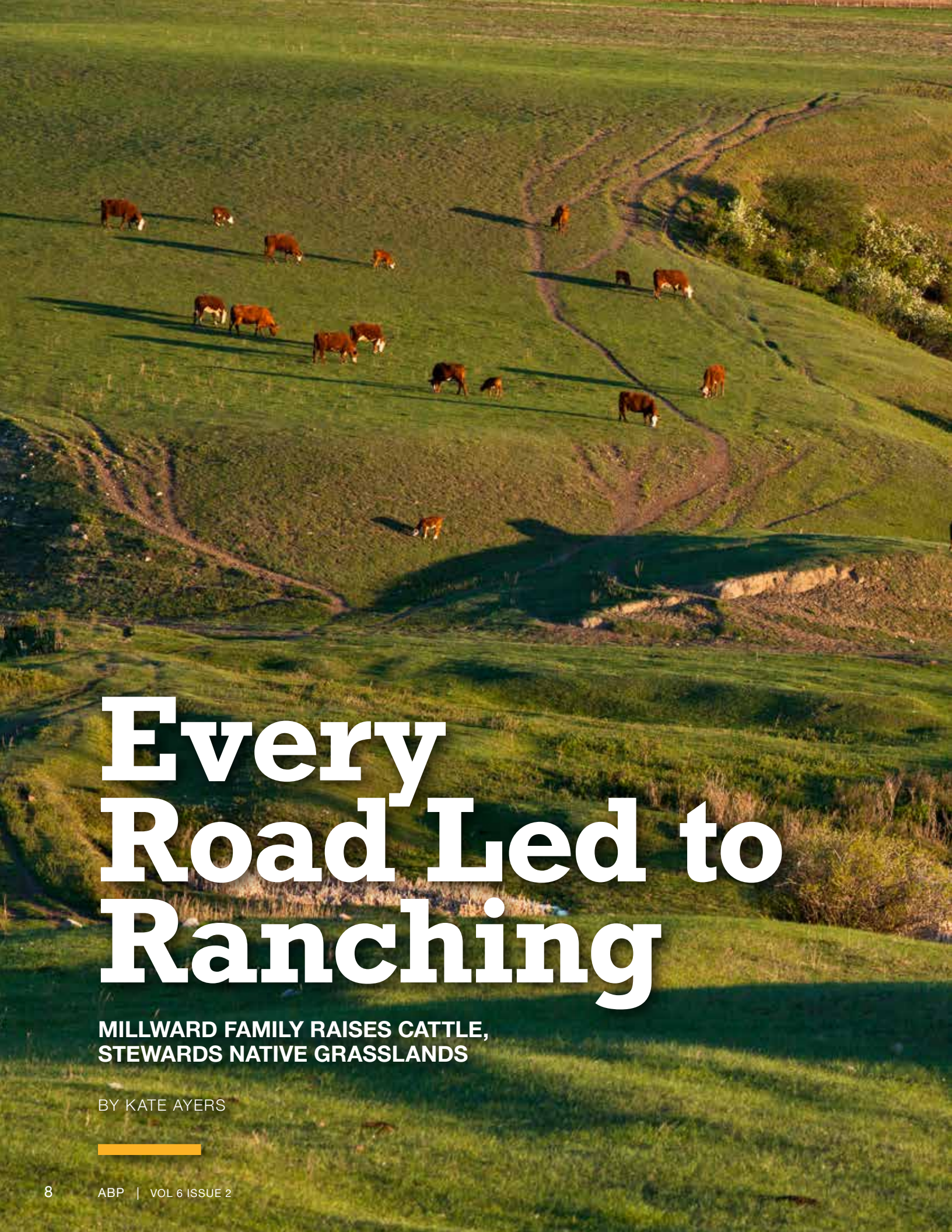
40 Livestock Manifests Go Digital
50 Farm Real Estate: What Buyers and Sellers Need to Know

CHECKING IN WITH ABP

4 Updates from the Chair
12 From the Government Desk
20 ABP Working Groups
23 Joining ABP as Wildlife Policy Advisor
27 Launching *Every Cut Makes the Cut*
30 Out and About with ABP
33 New CRSB Certified Producer Incentive
36 PSE: Amping up Advocates
42 CCA Update
44 Canada Beef Update
46 VBP+ in Action
49 Research Update
56 Upcoming 2026 4-H Achievement Days
58 Resolutions
68 ABP Elects 2026 Board at AGM
70 Improved Cattle Health and Feed Efficiency
72 Delegates

MARKETS AND FORECASTS

38 Canfax Market Report



Every Road Led to Ranching

**MILLWARD FAMILY RAISES CATTLE,
STEWARDS NATIVE GRASSLANDS**

BY KATE AYERS

TO CELEBRATE THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF RANGELANDS AND PASTORALISTS, ABP IS HIGHLIGHTING THE HARDWORKING RANCHERS WHO STEWARD SOME OF THE PROVINCE'S MOST SENSITIVE ECOSYSTEMS AND RAISE THE BEST BEEF IN THE WORLD.

Photo credit: Sam Wirzba, Last Light Photography

[[I just love seeing how treating the land the way it's supposed to be done, not overgrazing, the difference it can make out in this dry country.]]

The International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (YRP) 2026, declared by the United Nations, aims to raise awareness of the vital importance of rangelands and the pastoralists who are their frontline custodians.

For Kelly Millward of Del Bonita, ranching has always felt like home.

“I started with my grandparents, I worked there every summer while in school. I helped them and worked with my uncle,” Millward says of his introduction to ranching at a young age.

After graduating high school, Millward continued working on his family's ranch and then worked at the Onefour Research Station. It was a substation of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada that comprises forage and cattle research and is 70 per cent native grassland, according to the Alberta Wilderness Association. The 42,000-acre ranch was established in 1927 and is now used for grazing tenures with local producers and research through a partnership between the Government of Alberta and the University of Alberta.

Then, Millward worked at Alberta's Deseret Ranches for 10 years. During his employment, Millward says the operation covered 100,000 acres and cared for 6,000 cows. In 2002, Millward and his family were ready to start their own ranching journey and moved to Manitoba. The following year, the bovine spongiform

encephalopathy (BSE) crisis hit Canada. The family made it through this challenging time in the beef sector but ultimately decided that Alberta is where they called home.

So, they moved back to Del Bonita about 10 years ago and Millward worked as a manager at Nelson Family Ranches, which is a six-generation 25,000-acre operation with cattle, grain and hay production.

Following a brief stint working in the oil fields in Fort McMurray, Millward returned to the family farm to work with his uncle. Together they look after about 100 cows.

“I love being outside with the cows and I really like the regenerative ag part of it,” Millward says.

Regenerative agriculture has several definitions, but in general, it is the process of restoring degraded soils using management practices rooted in ecological principles. Ranchers work with nature to restore the soil, water and biodiversity of the land to increase farmland resilience to climate change.

In the short time that the Millwards have used such regenerative practices as rotational grazing, they have noticed significant improvements in the land's ability to recover and produce healthy grass stands for the cattle and wildlife.

“Out here in Del Bonita, it's extremely dry land and I just love seeing how treating the land the way it's supposed to be done, not overgrazing, the difference it can make out in this dry country,” Millward says.

Native grasses grow on about 80 per cent of the ranch. Millward is committed to protecting these important species. With the increasing cost of land and pressure for producers to make rising payments, the pressure to convert pastureland to cropland is immense.

“The native grass is extremely important everywhere,” Millward says. “You're never going to get native grasses back. So, if you can preserve the native grasses, don't



overgraze it, it's going to last forever. But when you start working it up, overgrazing it, not taking care of it, it's not going to be there.”

In an effort to care for the land, they divide a large acreage into 40-acre paddocks and move the cows every three to five days. This rotation of paddocks ensures that the cattle consume the feed they need without overgrazing and damaging the grasses. Once the cattle move to the next paddock, the land rests and the grass will grow back before the cattle return later in the grazing season.

However, for rotational grazing to work, cattle always need access to clean water. The Millwards have a water system that pumps fresh water to troughs that are in each paddock.

“It's made a big difference on that native grass,” Millward says of rotational grazing. “My uncle says he's never seen that much grass ever on his place. After about three years, there's that much of a difference.”

Millward has heard the argument that it would be better to leave the native grass alone entirely. But in his experience, having cattle on the land keeps the grass healthy when managed properly.

When cattle graze, they leave residue and residual on the soil surface. Residue is the broken off physical material, like grass, leaves, stems or cattle manure. Residual is the still-living pasture plants left behind. These pieces are important in protecting the soil surface, preserving soil moisture and feeding the soil biology. Healthy soil is what keeps grass growing and the ecosystem thriving.

Indeed, proper management of cattle on grasslands is key to keeping wild plant and animal species healthy.

“They largely replace the role that the bison played in that natural ecosystem,” Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada principal research scientist Tim McAllister says of grazing cattle.

With good management, cattle provide many benefits on the landscape including contributing to plant dispersal, helping control invasive species and reducing wildfire fuel loads.

“They have a very important role within that ecosystem,” McAllister says. “In fact, their complete removal is detrimental to the biodiversity and the management of plants within that ecosystem.” 🍷

From the Government Desk

BY MARK LYSENG

Spring is always one of the best times of year in this business. Calving is underway, seed is going into the ground, and there's a sense of momentum heading into the grazing season. This year, that momentum also includes a few policy wins worth noting.

Strychnine is back in 2026! After its approval was pulled in 2023, producers have been searching for a useful option to control infestations of Richardson's ground squirrel. If you're impacted, you'll know why this is a meaningful development.

The rollout is still underway, with initial access expected toward the end of May. For some, that timing will miss the most effective spring window, which is frustrating. There is expected to be another opportunity later in the summer, but it won't fully replace what many producers were hoping for this spring.

That said, getting this approval across the line was no small task. This was very much an Alberta-led effort, with strong collaboration between cropping groups and ABP to build the case. After an initial rejection by the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA), the province reapplied. Minister Sigurdson continued to push the file, and the premier elevated it federally. That second effort ultimately resulted in approval. Big kudos to Minister Sigurdson, Premier Smith and their teams.

There will be requirements tied to its use, including mandatory training, declaration forms saying you have an infestation, treatment planning, and monitoring and reporting obligations. While those steps add some complexity, they are part of ensuring the product can be used responsibly and help support the case for future access.

The current emergency use is in place until November 2027. ABP will continue to advocate for extensions where needed, while also pushing for longer-term solutions and alternatives for managing gopher populations.

Water continues to be another major file. Amendments to the Water Act came into force on March 11, 2026, and there were some positive changes for producers. One of the more practical wins was the exemption for dugouts under 7,500 square metres. In the context of ongoing drought conditions, reducing regulatory barriers to on-farm water storage is a step in the right direction.

However, not all elements of the updated framework are settled. Requirements around water use reporting and the reporting of water licence sale prices are still being developed, and there are real concerns about how these will work in practice.

For many cow-calf operations, and even some feeding operations, water use is not metered. Any reporting would be based on estimates, which raises questions about accuracy and usefulness. Just as importantly, if reporting requirements are too complex or time-consuming, participation and data quality will suffer. ABP is continuing to engage on this file to ensure that any system put in place is practical, low-burden, and actually delivers value.

Looking ahead, one of the biggest priorities is the development of the Next Policy Framework, which will succeed the current Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (S-CAP). These frameworks shape many of the programs producers rely on, from AgriStability and AgriInvest to crop insurance products, research funding, and environmental programming.

Over the past few months, ABP has been actively working with government and industry partners to identify where current programs are falling short and where improvements are needed. This includes ongoing advocacy around risk management programs like AgriStability and Livestock Price Insurance, as well as drought-related tools such as AgriRecovery and Moisture Deficiency Insurance.

Early priorities for the next framework are coming into focus. These include strengthening research capacity, improving risk management programs, addressing wildlife conflict, and building better drought preparedness tools. These are not new issues, but the last few years have reinforced just how critical they are to the long-term sustainability of the industry.

There will be more opportunities for producer input as this work continues through 2026 and 2027, ahead of a finalized framework in 2028. Ensuring that these programs reflect real on-farm needs will depend heavily on that engagement.

On the trade front, this summer will bring an international lens with the review of CUSMA/USMCA. ABP has been working closely with both Canadian and American partners to build support for maintaining a strong, stable agreement.

A lot of that effort has been focused at the state level in the United States, encouraging producers and state officials to speak to the value of integrated supply chains. For the beef industry, cross-border trade is not just important, it's foundational. Disruptions or uncertainty in that relationship have real impacts on prices, processing, and overall competitiveness.

Finally, following the AGM, ABP has a new set of producer-driven resolutions that will help shape advocacy priorities over the coming year. As always, those resolutions are critical in keeping our work grounded in what matters most at the farm and ranch level.

There's no shortage of challenges ahead, but there are also signs of progress. Spring tends to bring a sense of reset and opportunity, and that applies just as much on the policy side as it does in the field. ▼

PROVIDE FEEDBACK ON CANADA'S NEXT POLICY FRAMEWORK



The NPF is a five year (2028-33) federal, provincial and territorial (FPT) investment aimed at strengthening and growing Canada's agriculture and agri-food sector. The NPF will succeed the current Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP), which is in effect from April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2028. The feedback collected will help guide the vision and priorities for the framework and will inform the policy statement to be announced by FPT Ministers in July 2026.

Safeguarding Pasture from Ground Squirrels

EMERGENCY APPROVAL GIVES PRODUCERS ANOTHER OPTION AS PRESSURE BUILDS ACROSS THE PRAIRIES

BY BRAD BRINKWORTH

Across much of Alberta, the signs are familiar this time of year—fresh mounds, clipped forage, and the telltale movement of Richardson’s ground squirrels across pastures and field edges.

For many producers, those signs also represent a growing problem.

But thanks to advocacy from provinces and industry, including sustained efforts by ABP and the Government of Alberta, an important control tool has been secured to help producers avoid damage.

The Government of Canada has approved a time-limited emergency registration of strychnine for use in Alberta and Saskatchewan. The decision restores access to a control option that many producers say has been difficult to replace.

The approval, announced March 30, allows for the controlled use of strychnine through to November 2027, with additional safeguards and stewardship requirements in place.

A RESPONSE TO MOUNTING PRESSURE

Ground squirrel populations have increased in many areas in recent years, contributing to significant crop and pasture damage. Producers have also reported impacts ranging from reduced forage yields to livestock injuries and equipment damage.

Without access to strychnine following its discontinuation in 2024, many operations were left relying on alternative control methods that can be less effective, more labour-intensive, or limited in scale.

The renewed emergency authorization is intended to provide another option as part of an integrated approach to managing the issue.

“This decision means that many prairie farmers will have another tool back in their toolbox for gopher control,” says RJ Sigurdson, Alberta’s Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation.

“Alberta’s producers have faced significant challenges managing Richardson’s ground squirrels, and the loss of this effective control method has been difficult and costly for many in the agriculture sector.”



Scan for a list of areas approved within Alberta.

“Some of Alberta’s producers saw thousands of dollars in crop and pasture damage last year alone, and many faced livestock injuries and equipment damage.”

INDUSTRY ADVOCACY PLAYS A ROLE

Producer organizations across the Prairies have been actively engaged on the file, emphasizing both the economic impact of ground squirrel infestations and the need for practical, effective tools.

ABP was among those involved in discussions with government, providing input through meetings, formal submissions, and participation in a provincial working group.

“Alberta Beef Producers is pleased to see the authorization of emergency registration of strychnine for Richardson’s ground squirrels,” says Doug Roxburgh, chair of ABP, in a joint statement issued with national and provincial partners.

“We are sincerely grateful to Alberta Premier Danielle Smith, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation R.J. Sigurdson and their teams for the consistent advocacy on behalf of Alberta’s farmers and ranchers. ABP has been engaged on this file since June through letters and meetings to raise producer concerns, and we appreciate the Minister’s willingness to go to bat for issues that impact producers on the ground.”

BALANCING EFFECTIVENESS AND RESPONSIBILITY

The emergency approval includes updated safeguards aimed at reducing risks to non-target wildlife—one of the key concerns that led to the product’s earlier discontinuation.

Both federal and provincial governments have indicated that the authorization is designed to balance the need for effective pest control with environmental considerations.

ABP has been actively engaged on this issue through meetings with government, formal submissions, and participation in a provincial working group focused on identifying practical solutions for producers.

Last July, ABP sent a letter to federal officials outlining producer concerns and the need for continued access to effective ground squirrel control tools. In September, ABP provided additional input through formal submissions to the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA), reinforcing the importance of practical, science-based solutions for producers.

ABP will continue to monitor implementation details and work with government and industry partners to ensure producers have access to effective, responsible tools for ground squirrel management. ▼



Richardson's ground squirrels can cause significant damage to pasture and forage, particularly during peak spring activity.



Patrick Cassidy, President of the
Alberta Auction Markets Association

Connecting Buyers, Sellers, and Policy:

THE ALBERTA AUCTION MARKET ASSOCIATION

BY DIANNE FINSTAD



“We’ve got a fine set of calves here. What are you gonna bid for them?”

So begins the rhythmic chant of numbers, the crisp acknowledgements of bids, the sounds of animals on the move, and the tension in the air as the ranch income for an entire year hangs in the balance. Buyers compete for numbers, and sellers watch to see what the product of their efforts is worth. It’s a cattle commerce scene that plays out continually at auction markets across the province.

These markets play an integral role in the livestock business, and as such, have a big stake in its future. They form a collective voice in the Alberta Auction Markets Association (AAMA), which represents 19 member markets, covering both live and online livestock auction sales. The provincial group is also an active member of the Livestock Markets Association of Canada (LMAC), which speaks on national issues.

Auction markets have their own high-stakes accountability to both buyers and sellers, especially on complex matters like pre-weighing sale cattle and shrink.

“In the last few years there has been quite a bit of change coming in the beef industry,” says Patrick Cassidy, President of the Alberta Auction Markets Association, and LMAC Director. “So we get to voice our opinions and ideas.”

Markets sit squarely in the middle of the complex chain that runs from cow-calf producers to the end user. Figures from 2025 show more than one million head of cattle sold through Alberta market entities.

“As an auction market we have due diligence,” explains Sharon Bergevin, Secretary of the Association. “We need to get the cattle, we need to get the buyers, and put these people together, and then do our best at marketing those cattle, and that’s what we do.”

“We have always been the go-to for government organizations,” says Bergevin. “If they’re implementing some kind of a new policy, the first place they come to is the auction markets. The auction markets then have to pass it on to the producers, or the buyers. We’re a hub of policies that do affect our producers and buyers,” states Bergevin, who is also the office manager at Foothills Auctioneers.

As a hub, markets receive direct comments from both sides of the transaction on those policies and regulations.

“I feel like the auction markets are definitely our consignor’s voice out there,” adds Cassidy, co-owner of the Olds Auction Mart. “Past presidents have repaired some relationships within the industry between groups.”

Cassidy points out the invitation for their association to sit in on Alberta Beef Producers board meetings, as one of the key players in the industry, has been welcomed by the AAMA. It’s a place to share market owners’ concerns as well as customers’ feedback, and to listen.

“We’ve got every angle (of the industry) at those meetings,” Cassidy shares. “It’s quite unique to sit in on those and hear where everybody is coming from. In our industry we can all see what we each want, but we don’t really see the repercussions of our aspirations within that. So when you sit at the table (together), you can understand and recognize the downfalls and the big wins.”

Auction markets have their own high-stakes accountability to both buyers and sellers, especially on complex matters like pre-weighing sale cattle and shrink.

“We have to dot our i’s and cross our t’s quite well, to make sure we’re safe with the buyers,” says Bergevin.

“When we’re wrong, we don’t go back to the consignors—we pay for it,” says Cassidy. “It’s a slippery slope to find that middle ground where it’s fair for everybody.”

The transaction numbers can be mind-boggling on big sale days as markets ride the risk for the long hours between paying out and getting paid.

“It’s probably what drew us all to this business. It’s still ‘look someone in the eye, shake their hand, and your word is good’. There’s not too many businesses that still work like that. It’s what I love about the business—it’s so unique that way. You make these deals with producers out in the country. You don’t find that anymore,” says Cassidy.

[[...we have to keep commissions to a spot where we can all try and make a living, but we’re not gouging each other.]]

The current never-before-seen prices for cattle certainly magnify the pressure on percentages, but it’s also satisfying for market owners to see their customers rewarded for the hard work at home.

“It’s awesome,” shares Cassidy. “From my standpoint, you’ve got consignors out there you’ve worked with for 20 to 25 years, and all of a sudden you hand them a cheque that’s unfathomable. It’s life-changing for them.”

“I always make people guess at their cheque before I hand it to them, and they’re always low,” he chuckles.



Bergevin hopes the strong prices encourage more young people to participate in the industry. But both she and Cassidy still have vivid memories of the not-too-distant past of the BSE era, when handing cheques to consignors was not so fun.

“To see it come full circle like this has just been fabulous,” says Cassidy.

But auction marts also face the challenging side of the strong prices caused by the reduced size of the cattle herd.

“It’s a struggle for us,” acknowledges Cassidy.

“Our numbers are diminishing as well. It’s still a very competitive world out there, and we have to keep commissions to a spot where we can all try and make a living, but we’re not gouging each other. It’s a challenge to keep cattle coming into the auction markets.”

Markets were on the front line of the recent traceability debates, before the pause on regulatory changes. Questions were raised about the potential role of markets in tracking cattle movement, but Cassidy points out that’s really not feasible without foolproof scanning and reading technology which could be effectively integrated into their own market computer systems. It would also add time to the process for cattle at the market, which could cost consignors through shrink.

“There’s got to be an ease of commerce here to keep cattle rolling through. And that’s just not possible with current gaps in technology and compliance,” says Cassidy. “I think in time, with technology, there will be different things, and it will be a totally different conversation on traceability in another 10 years.”

In the meantime, members of the Alberta Auction Markets Association will continue to work hard marketing cattle.

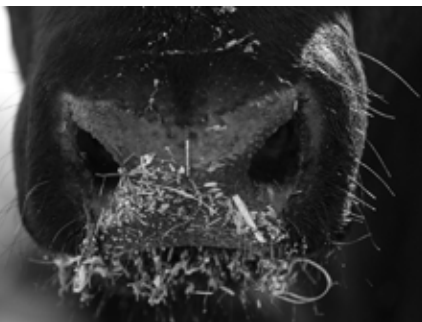
“We are trying to make both parties happy in the transaction,” emphasizes Cassidy, who recently provided some sage advice to a young auctioneer.

“I said whatever number comes to mind to ask for what a calf is worth...ask more, because they’re worth more than you think. That’s the beautiful part about true price discovery. When you don’t know, put it out to everybody—put it out to the world to find out what it’s worth. For a small fee, you get top dollar.” ▼

Thank You!

BEEFTalks

Alberta Beef Industry Conference



PRIME SPONSORS



AAA SPONSORS



AA SPONSORS



STAKEHOLDER SPONSORS



See you March 10-11, 2027!

ABP Working Groups

TRACEABILITY

Following the direction of resolutions carried by delegates at the 2026 Annual General Meeting, ABP's board is forming a dedicated Traceability Working Group. The working group will examine traceability closely, with the objective of providing producer-driven feedback and solutions that reflect on-the-ground realities across Alberta's beef sector.

Members of the working group are being finalized, and will include representatives from ABP's executive, directors and delegates; partner cattle organizations; and groups such as the Government of Alberta.

The working group will be supported by a dedicated facilitator to maintain clear timelines, while also ensuring issues are thoroughly examined. The goal is to develop realistic, workable recommendations to present to decision-makers.

Traceability systems need to be science-based and practical, ensuring they don't create unnecessary burdens in day-to-day operations. ABP is committed to finding a path forward that works for cattle producers across the value chain, from cow-calf through to feeding.

CANADIAN CATTLE ASSOCIATION

In August, ABP announced its withdrawal from the Canadian Cattle Association (CCA), effective July 1, 2026. In response, provincial members came together to discuss shared concerns, and a joint statement formalizing the creation of a Provincial Working Group (PWG) was published in the fall issue of ABP magazine.

With the help of an independent facilitator, the PWG—made up of representatives from all nine member provinces—examined the topics of national governance, structure, and funding.

In March, the PWG presented a set of recommendations to the CCA, and agreement was reached in principle on a new organizational structure and funding approach. The CCA considered those recommendations further at the CCA annual general meeting. There they passed several resolutions, including those summarized below (not in full):

- Adoption of a new provincial funding model of \$0.53 per head (retained marketings), reviewed every three years.
- Agreement in principle to a restructured CCA board and updated provincial representation effective 2027-28.
- Creation of a provincial member council and an interim Governance Committee.

- Development of enhanced financial oversight (finance chair/committee).
- Approval of up to \$50,000 from reserves to support implementation work.

Further conversations are expected to take place at the CCA semi-annual general meeting in August.

ABP believes in a strong national organization to represent producers federally and internationally. We are hopeful that the PWG will see continued momentum from the CCA following strong support in principle. A final report from the PWG will be developed and shared with the CCA this spring.

COAL

ABP formed a working group to develop a policy related to coal mining in the Eastern Slopes, in collaboration with a consulting firm. The group is made up of local producers, representatives from the Western Stock Growers' Association, the Alberta Grazing Leaseholders Association, and the Alberta Cattle Feeders' Association, and ABP delegates and staff.

Since January, the group has met four times (January, February, and twice in April) to review background materials and build a shared understanding of the issue. Meetings have included presentations from subject-matter experts on key topics, including toxicological considerations in cattle, selenium management of effluent, environmental impacts of coal mining, and current regulatory frameworks for coal mines. These sessions have helped inform discussion and identify key risks and considerations for the beef industry.

Work to date has focused on gathering information and perspectives to support a practical and informed outcome. The working group is now moving toward drafting the policy. A meeting was held in May, with the goal of developing a clear policy position and outlining the recommended direction for ABP.

WILDLIFE

The Wildlife Working Group is made up of six ABP delegates, along with Wildlife Policy Advisor Sam Vriend. They have been meeting monthly to discuss relevant wildlife-specific topics and establish direction for how to best meet wildlife-specific resolutions carried by the board and delegate body.

Over the past several years, there have been several key themes emerging amongst ABP's wildlife-specific resolutions. These themes include producer issues with current wildlife mitigation, compensation, and control strategies and programs, particularly as they relate to herbivores and predators. Concerns with elk and grizzly bear populations have specifically been at the forefront for many producers.

In recent meetings, the Wildlife Working Group has been discussing ways in which current predator and herbivore systems can be improved. The group has been focused on Alberta's Wildlife Management Responder Network program and will soon be reviewing predator and herbivore management strategies used by other jurisdictions. ▼

We're Here to Help



We are your Service Provider

The Canadian Cattle Identification Agency (CCIA) is a not-for-profit, industry-initiated and led organization committed to serving the species groups we represent. CCIA is led by a Board of Directors representing livestock organizations across Canada, including livestock producers, auction markets, livestock dealers, feedlots, veterinarians and processors.

Responsible Administrator
CCIA is a Responsible Administrator (R.A.) for beef cattle, bison and sheep; with goats and cervids as potential new species.



Manage the Canadian Livestock System Database (CLTS)

CCIA owns, manages and maintains the Canadian Livestock Tracking System (CLTS), a national database that allows our clients to record animal identification.



Sells and Distributes Approved Tags

CCIA manages and distributes approved and pre-approved livestock indicators (tags) and applicators, for the regulated species under our R.A. status.



Support and Education

CCIA provides access to the CLTS and educates on its use to support clients. For assistance call 1-877-909-2333, email info@canadaid.ca or access online user guides at support.canadaid.ca.



Canadaid.ca 1.877.909.2333

Joining ABP as Wildlife Policy Advisor

BY SAM VRIEND



I grew up with a deep appreciation for the outdoors and rural Alberta lifestyle. Both of my parents are multigenerational nursery growers, who raised me and my three brothers on our family's tree nursery on the outskirts of Edmonton. I learned the value of agriculture and hard work while also gaining an appreciation for the wildlife and habitats that contribute to Alberta's economy, aesthetics, and recreational opportunities.

I took a different path than my parents, working at the intersection of wildlife management and agriculture. After earning a bachelor of science degree in Environmental Studies – Biology, I began my career in Lethbridge, working on delivering wildlife, habitat, and conservation projects in partnership with producers and landowners across southern Alberta. I later obtained a master of science degree in environmental practice and became a registered professional biologist

with the Alberta Society of Professional Biologists.

Through seven years of first-hand, on-the-ground experience, I have learned much about the many challenges and opportunities that producers face due to the diversity and abundance of Alberta's wildlife. I recognize the ingenuity that producers bring to wildlife management challenges and have developed a deep appreciation for the contributions that beef producers make to Alberta's economy while supporting healthy wildlife populations and habitats.

One of my responsibilities at ABP involves coordinating ABP's Wildlife Working Group (see page 21). I represent ABP on several partner working groups including the Waterton Biosphere Reserve Association's Carnivore Working Group, the Alberta North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) Policy Committee, and as ABP's staff observer on the Cows and Fish Board.

I am currently working on a wildlife jurisdictional scan for elk management across several Canadian provinces and the western United States. Through this exercise, I am investigating and comparing

ways jurisdictions manage elk populations and issues through methods such as harvest, culling, damage mitigation, compensation for damage, habitat, and land access, and other landowner programs. The goal of the scan is to provide direction and suggestions for improving elk management in Alberta. The findings from this study will be presented to the Wildlife Working Group to help inform group priorities and decision-making.

Other key priorities include refining mitigation and compensation programming for predator and ungulate conflicts, seeking ways to improve producer input into Alberta's wildlife management and tag allocations, and creating useful resources for producers seeking information about existing ungulate, predator, and stewardship programming.

While I currently live in Lethbridge with my wife and two sons, I have been fortunate to spend time working in many areas of the province and am familiar with beef production and wildlife management across Alberta's natural regions. I encourage any beef producer in the province to reach out to me with their wildlife concerns. ▼

The Evolution of Lidobands

(LIDOCAINE IMPREGNATED BANDS)

BY ROY LEWIS, DVM

AN ARTICLE APPEARED IN ABP MAGAZINE IN DECEMBER 2023 EXPLAINING THE SCIENCE BEHIND LIDOBAND CASTRATION DEVICES. THEY ARE NOW AVAILABLE IN CANADA IN DIFFERENT SIZES FOR DIFFERENT WEIGHTS OF CATTLE TO BE USED WITH THE APPROPRIATE BANDERS.

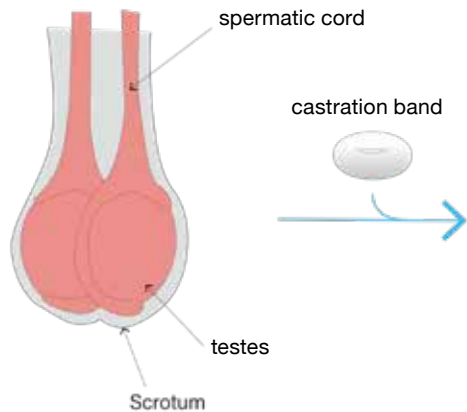
They qualify as a compounded product because of the lidocaine impregnation, so in Canada they must be marketed through the veterinarians under a prescription. If you have an established veterinary-client-patient relationship (VCPR), it will not be a problem attaining them. I want to state that until recently I was a veterinarian working in the production animal field, and in my view, Lidobands are a significant improvement in animal welfare for a necessary practice in cattle production. I feel compelled to get the word out and your herd veterinarian can take it the rest of the way with you.

Castration bands for young calves have been used for a long time. Over time, large banders became popular for larger bull calves. The advantage was the absence of deaths from blood loss, and feedlot workers and ranch hands could be trained in their usage and perform the task very well. There are many calves castrated at processing or branding time. The last Beef Code of Practice was released in 2013 and provided guidance on the maximum age that required analgesics or NSAIDs of some sort. This, to me, started the age of using NSAIDs

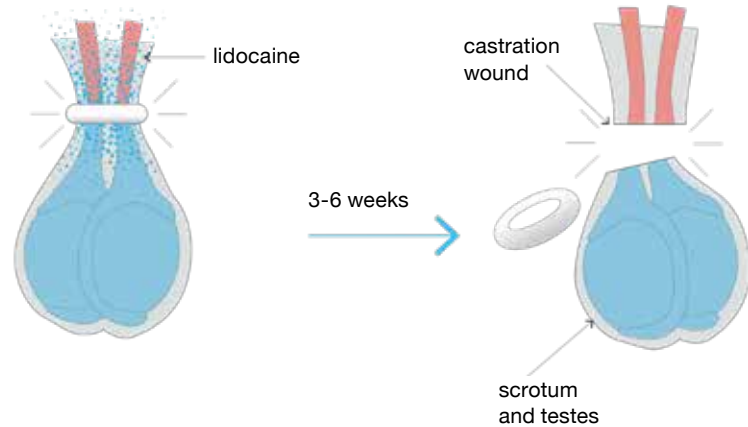
for painful conditions such as lameness, as well as painful procedures performed in cattle practice such as castration, branding and dehorning, all of which are very painful. It was cattle producers themselves that saw the huge benefits of NSAIDs on recovery performance and reduced secondary disease due to lower stress and pain. Veterinarians who still performed knife castrations would block the cord with lidocaine and/or use what we call a Rompun epidural, along with giving an NSAID.

The Lidobands, available in a range of sizes, remove a lot of these hardships. A lidocaine block wears off within hours, but the ingenious feature of Lidobands is the slow release of lidocaine throughout the entire period until the scrotum falls off with the band. In early trials with the large Callicrate bands, studies found a real jump in inflammation and stress just as the scrotum was falling off so pain control right up until this time is a great idea. In comparison, NSAIDs typically only last about three days. The Lidobands provide local anesthetic protection starting at two hours and lasting up to 42 days post-application. In larger bulls, the scrotums fall off at about

Typical blood flow



Constricted blood flow



30 days and in smaller bull calves much sooner than that, so basically the anesthetic effect of Lidobands lasts from beginning to end—a remarkable feat.

Proposed changes to the new Beef Code of Practice, currently in the public comment period, recommend castrating calves as young as possible and using pain control. This could be either NSAIDs or lidocaine. As an aside, the public comment period for the full beef code of practice runs from April 13, 2026, for two months. I would encourage producers to read it and reach out with comments. The very recent update was developed by an excellent committee and are intended to improve animal welfare practices over the next 10 years. I am satisfied that the proposed changes to castration move the bar forward, and in many ways, Lidobands will help us easily accomplish that.

With the slow-release technology of lidocaine, Solvet Laboratories in Calgary have developed four bands of increasing size designed for progressively heavier bull calves, with increasing amounts of lidocaine in larger bands. The bigger the band, the more lidocaine.

Burdizzo castration has mainly become a technique of the past. Those that use the knife or scalpel to castrate must still administer NSAIDs. In the U.S., where Lidobands have been available for longer, uptake is growing steadily. There are many instances where Lidobands have replaced NSAIDs especially if other painful procedures are not done at the same time. The slaughter withdrawal period is five days after the band and scrotum have fallen off. It is best not to castrate if other stressful events are occurring such as weaning and transportation—instead, wait for the right time.

Use the bands according to the instructions and make sure both testicles have descended and are below the band. The instructional animated video at Lidoband.com is worth a look and explains correct application technique, which includes how to apply the band without touching them and wearing gloves. Retained testicles, or belly nuts, are still a problem in Canadian feedlots so we must be careful that bands are placed correctly and capture both testicles. Banding larger bulls can lead to tetanus so producers should discuss tetanus protection with their veterinarian before banding. Tetanus is included in some multivalent clostridial vaccines such as Covexin Plus and Tasvax. I have seen deaths in large bulls following banding. It should be crystal clear that the use of Lidobands does not change potential susceptibility to tetanus. For newborn calves using the smallest Lidobands, tetanus protection is not



For more information, check out Lidoband.com. All the bands are compatible with banders already on the market.

necessary. Colostral protection should be adequate and the scrotum falls off quickly. I have never seen or heard of any tetanus problems when banding young calves in the first month of age.

The bands are impregnated with powdered lidocaine under pressure and then sealed so drying and degradation don't happen. If properly sealed, the bands can be used the following season. The Australian animal welfare directory mandates banding of young calves using Lidobands, and in Australia, the small bands are also approved for sheep for both castration and tail docking. They are becoming adopted worldwide, but the beauty is they are manufactured in Canada, which ensures we have a reliable supply.

Transitioning from the old bands to the new Lidobands has been seamless. For those transitioning from other forms of castration, good information and data are available. Studies show an increase in gain of a few



To read the original research studies, scan here:



pounds, and a three-to-one return on investment. It is simply an easier way to castrate, easily teachable, and absolutely deals with any perceived animal welfare concerns with castration. The studies do not fully capture the improved health parameters, but castration is necessary, and Lidobands will become the new norm, in my opinion. Every time I talk about castration and the calves are caught, it is also an ideal time to implant. You are simply replacing some of the hormones lost with the removal of the testicles. Different implants are available, including a few calf implants on the market. Again, talk to your veterinarian. It takes some practice to get good at implanting, but the return on investment—approaching 25-to-1, or even higher at today's prices—is excellent. Unless you are operating on a non-added-hormone program, there is no reason not to implant.

Other improvements in animal welfare come from better cattle handling and processing techniques, better loading facilities, and less needling through the use of oral products given to young calves. Appeasing products such as FerAppease, Cattle Zen, or DeStress are being used before stressful situations such as transport or weaning, resulting in less sickness and reduced antibiotic use.

I, for one, will adamantly defend producers who raise livestock using the Beef Code as their guide. All these methods contribute to better animal welfare outcomes, and this is a story the public needs to hear. I truly believe producers are united in their pursuit of better animal welfare outcomes, and Lidobands are helping move the industry forward on the castration front. They represent another big step in advancing animal welfare for beef cattle in Canada. 🍷

Launching ‘Every Cut Makes the Cut’

BY KATIE SONGER

IN 2025, ALBERTA BEEF PRODUCERS LAUNCHED *EVERY CUT MAKES THE CUT* WITH A CLEAR GOAL: TO INCREASE DOMESTIC BEEF CONSUMPTION BY STRENGTHENING CONSUMER TRUST AND AWARENESS, WHILE STAYING ROOTED IN PRODUCER VALUES. AT ITS CORE, THE CAMPAIGN REINFORCED THE PROMISE THAT ALBERTA BEEF DELIVERS THE QUALITY CANADIANS ARE LOOKING FOR.

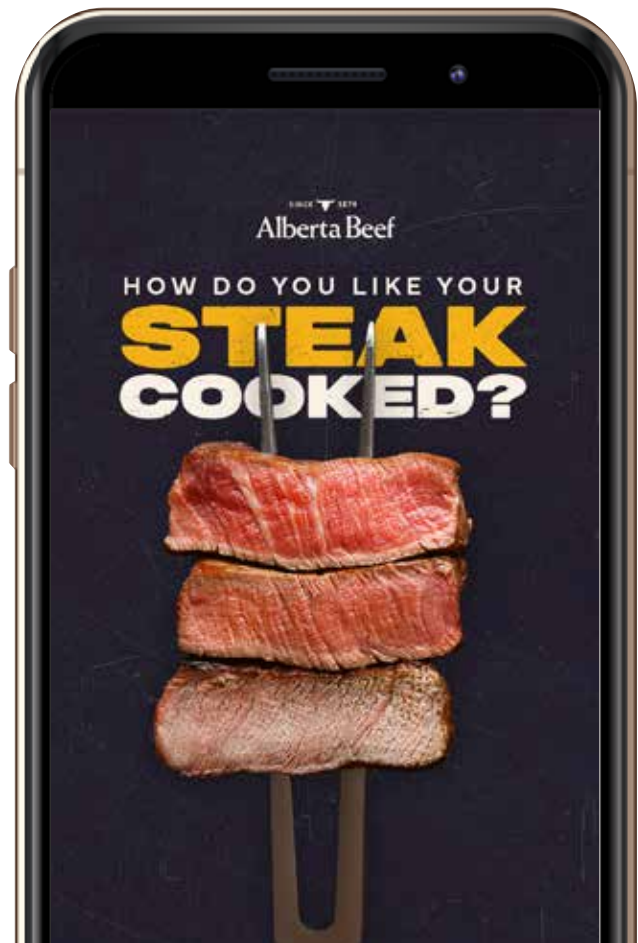
Choosing Alberta Beef isn't just about buying local—it's about choosing the best. This campaign recognized the hard work, stewardship, and high standards upheld by Alberta producers, reinforcing to consumers that when they choose Alberta Beef, they can expect consistent quality across every cut.

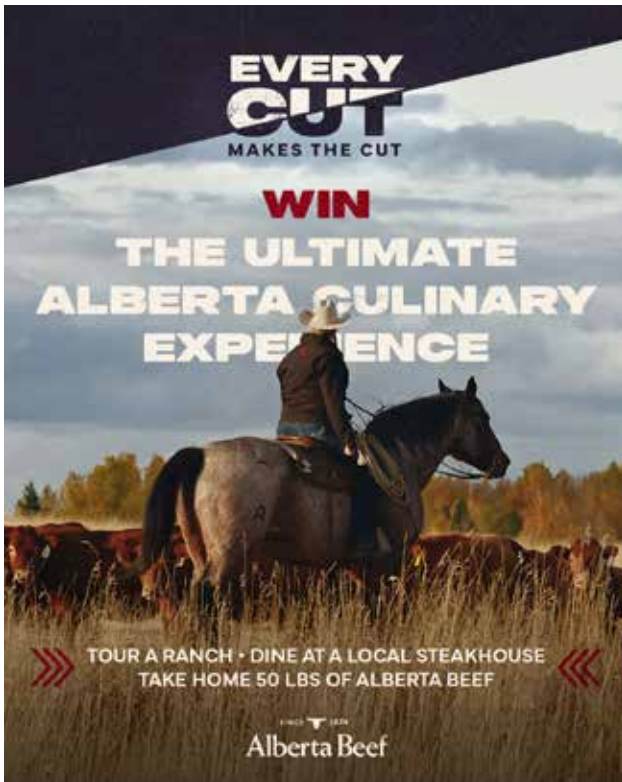
Even as grocery costs continued to rise throughout the year, Alberta Beef stood out by delivering strong value. Running from January through March 2026, the campaign used a mix of online, in-store, and traditional advertising to strengthen confidence in Alberta Beef and keep it top of mind for shoppers. The campaign strategically targeted Canadians aged 25-54 who regularly purchase groceries, consume meat, and are interested in food and cooking.

A PHASED APPROACH TO REACH CONSUMERS

The campaign followed a two-step approach designed to first reach a wide audience and then encourage deeper interest.

The first phase, *Attract*, focused on reaching as many Canadians as possible. Short videos, television commercials, and social media posts highlighted Alberta





STRONG RESULTS ACROSS CHANNELS

Across online platforms, *Every Cut Makes the Cut* appeared more than 29 million times, reaching 9.9 million Canadians. Each time an ad or message appeared on a screen—whether on a phone, computer, or television—it counted as an impression. These impressions show how often consumers were exposed to Alberta Beef messaging during the campaign.

Engagement also exceeded expectations. The number of people who saw Alberta Beef ads and chose to click on them was significantly higher than benchmarks. This indicates that consumers weren't just seeing the messages—they were interested enough to take the next step and learn more.

Ads featuring recipes or contest messaging performed particularly well, confirming that practical, food-focused content resonates with consumers. Many visitors who clicked through spent time exploring the website, reviewing recipes, and learning more about Alberta Beef.

Beef's quality, versatility, and value. These messages were designed to appear frequently as consumers watched television, scrolled on their phones, or browsed online.

The second phase, *Engage*, encouraged consumers to spend more time with Alberta Beef. Recipe ideas, contests, and follow-up content invited people to learn more, visit the website, and engage with the campaign materials in a more deliberate way.

CONSUMER ENGAGEMENT

As part of the campaign, Alberta Beef launched a consumer contest offering the chance to win a visit to a working ranch, along with 50 pounds of Alberta Beef. A series of emails, along with paid and organic social media posts, helped encourage participation.



Consumers could also enter in person at the Alberta Beef display during the Edmonton Craft Beer Festival.

Nearly 7,000 people entered, extending the campaign's reach well beyond Alberta Beef's existing audience.

Recipes and food creators also helped bring the campaign to life. Posts featuring special-occasion cuts such as prime rib reached the largest audiences, while everyday meals—like Ground Beef Tortellini Soup—generated stronger interaction, including comments and saves. This phase also included collaboration with Canadian food content creator [@may.eighty.five](#), who shared original Alberta Beef recipes, including a one-pot ground beef lasagna soup, with his audience of 26,000 followers.

TELEVISION CAMPAIGN

Traditional television remained an important part of the campaign. Commercials ran during evening news and select top-rated prime-time programs, ensuring Alberta Beef messaging extended beyond digital platforms and into living rooms across the country.



Scan to watch
the commercial

In total, 936 television spots aired across six stations, supporting broad reach in trusted viewing environments.

LOOKING AHEAD

The results of *Every Cut Makes the Cut* show the effectiveness of straightforward, food-focused advertising that highlights quality, value, and versatility. Campaign content centered on three featured cuts performed especially well, giving consumers clear, practical ideas for both special occasions and everyday meals.

Together, these results demonstrate that when Alberta Beef messaging focuses on how consumers cook, eat, and make purchasing decisions, it can build awareness and encourage confidence across a range of cuts, supporting continued demand in the domestic market. ▼

Featured recipes, from top: Garlic Crusted Prime Rib, Flank Steak Sandwich, Ground Beef Tortellini Soup.





Out and About with ABP



CALGARY AND EDMONTON BEER FESTIVALS

ABP once again sponsored the Alberta Beef Lounge at the Calgary and Edmonton Beer Festivals, which hosted well over 20,000 consumers each. ABP staff were on site to engage with consumers, give away popular Alberta Beef swag, and share Canada Beef cut charts and recipe books. Conversations focused on beef pricing, cooking, and where to source local beef. The *I Love Alberta Beef* marquee letters continue to be a popular spot for photos, and Alberta Beef handkerchiefs were also shared during the Cooking with Beer VIP demos. Sheila Marsh, Okotoks, was the winner of the Alberta Beef custom cooler and some delicious Alberta Beef.



Above and right: Edmonton Craft Beer Fest attendees enjoy the Alberta Beef Lounge



HIGH SCHOOL CULINARY CHALLENGE AND HOT CHEFS COOL bEATS

ABP was a proud sponsor of the High School Culinary Challenge and its supporting gala, Hot Chefs Cool bEATS, held April 23 at the Royal Glenora Club in Edmonton. This chef-driven food experience brought the best of Edmonton's culinary scene together to raise more than \$50,000. Beef dishes featured prominently, including beef tongue pastrami from Pitt County BBQ, dry aged brisket with baked beans from Braven, beef tartare with bone marrow emulsion from The Marc, and beef brisket suadero tacos from Super Amigos Mexican Street Food.



ABP RECOGNIZED AT NAMA

ABP was recognized at the North American Marketing Awards for three campaigns: Integrated Campaign – Local for the AllWays Alberta Beef campaign; Unique Sponsorship Campaign – Advertising for the Stampede Giveaway; and Premiums and Specialties directed at farmers and ranchers for Stampede bandanas and stickers. Rick Sellar of ThinkShift accepted the awards on behalf of the ABP and ThinkShift teams.



Top: Alberta Beef features prominently on the menu of Hot Chefs Cool bEATS gala. Photo credit: Jeanette Sesay
 Right: Dry Aged Brisket with Baked Beans by Braven. Photo credit: Jeanette Sesay
 Bottom: ThinkShift's Rick Sellar accepts one of three NAMA awards received for ABP campaigns. Photo credit: NAMA

Upcoming Events

Terroir Culinary Symposium

Calgary, May 29 to June 1

Federation of Canadian Municipalities Annual Conference and Trade Show

Edmonton, June 4 to 7

Rolly View Pitmasters Dinner

Rolly View, June 6

Taste of Place Culinary Tourism Summit

Edmonton, June 15 and 16

Home for Dinner, Ronald McDonald House

Edmonton, June 16

Save On Foods Meet the Ranchers

June 20

locations across Alberta

Calgary Stampede Cattle Trail

Ag Zone, Stampede Park

July 4 to 12

Taste of Stampede

BMO Centre, Stampede Park

July 4, 9 and 12



ABP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

ABP held its Annual General Meeting on March 3, 2026. Strong attendance and engagement reflected the many significant issues brought forward for discussion at the AGM. See the resolutions on page 58.

SUPPORTING 4-H ALBERTA

ABP continued its long-standing support of 4-H Alberta through the sponsorship of the 2026 Grassroots Grant program. All 4-H districts in good standing across Alberta will receive funding—no application required. Eligible districts will receive a letter from the 4-H Alberta Development Team, as well as \$200—supporting local programming and helping build skills and leadership among Alberta youth.

AGGIE DAYS OUTREACH

ABP participated in Aggie Days across the province to help students and families better understand the importance of beef production. In Lethbridge, Ag for Life generously delivered Alberta Beef programming, showcasing the ABP booth and beef byproducts display to more than 1,000 students in grades four to six.

Calgary Aggie Days ran April 15-19. Together with PSE, ABP presented a display focused on beef cattle as the ultimate upcycling technology, demonstrating how cattle convert low-quality feed and food waste into high-value protein and everyday products. Interactive elements included a quiz, meat case, and ABP's beef facts floor maze. A condensed version of this display was brought to Aggie Days Mountainview on May 22. ▼



CONGRATULATIONS TO CHATSWORTH FARM

ABP congratulates N.E. Zone delegate Charlotte Wasylik and her family's Chatsworth Farm on receiving a World Agritourism Day Award for Community-Led Initiative, to be presented this June at the Global Agritourism Conference in Scotland. Chatsworth Farm welcomed 650 visitors to their 2025 Open Farm Days—bringing urban and rural communities together to learn about food production. Chatsworth Farm was also a finalist at the 2025 Canadian Event Awards in the Best Market, Fair or Festival category (one of only two agricultural events across all the categories). ▼

Introducing the New CRSB Certified Producer Incentive:

What You Need to Know

BY ANDREA WHITE, DIRECTOR, MARKETING AND STAKEHOLDER RELATIONS, CRSB

CREATED TO RECOGNIZE AND REWARD BEEF PRODUCERS WHO HAVE TAKEN THE TIME AND MADE THE INVESTMENT TO BECOME CERTIFIED THROUGH ITS CRSB CERTIFIED PROGRAM, THE CANADIAN ROUNDTABLE FOR SUSTAINABLE BEEF (CRSB) WAS EXCITED TO RECENTLY ANNOUNCE A NEW PRODUCER INCENTIVE.

This incentive aims to provide additional value to CRSB Certified farmers and ranchers, and will help enable sourcing of CRSB Certified beef through certified supply chains.

“The CRSB Certified Producer Incentive is an important step for the program and serves as a thank you from the CRSB and its supply chain partners that investments beef producers have made to become certified do not go unnoticed. Rewarding producers for their commitment to sustainable practices will continue to move our industry forward and enable us to communicate that to Canadians,” says Ryan Beierbach, Chair of the CRSB.

In its first year (2026), all eligible CRSB Certified beef producers will receive an incentive payment of \$400.

The incentive program will continue annually, with future annual payments based on CRSB Certified beef sold, calculated based on available funds and distributed evenly among all eligible beef producers, meaning more certified producers can lead to larger incentive payments for everyone.

There is no additional application required to receive the incentive. All eligible producers will automatically receive an incentive payment, regardless of where their calves are sold. Payments are expected to be distributed by October 2026.

The incentive is funded by supply chain partners who are purchasing CRSB Certified beef, showing their support of the program, such as Cactus Club Café restaurants.

“CRSB Certified producers demonstrate global-leading industry sustainability practices right here in Canada. Many of the producers who pioneered the CRSB Certified program will benefit from these incentive payments, and have established a strong base from which the CRSB Certified program can grow. As a Canadian restaurant group proudly serving CRSB Certified beef to guests across the country, we are thrilled to see the CRSB provide this direct incentive for producers.”

*Carl Dean,
Executive Vice President
Business Development,
Cactus Restaurants Ltd.*

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO TO ENSURE I RECEIVE THE INCENTIVE?

Being certified is the first step. Become certified between January 1, 2025, and June 30, 2026, and/or keep existing certification up to date as of June 30, 2026, proven through a valid certificate from a CRSB-approved Certification Body (VBP+ or Where Food Comes From).

Producers must also complete all the CRSB Certified qualifying cattle requirements.

WHAT ARE THE QUALIFYING CATTLE REQUIREMENTS?

The CRSB Certified program enables linking beef from CRSB Certified operations from the farm gate to the consumer's plate. Accomplishing this takes a village, and credible claims require verifications by participants at every step of the chain.



Scan for more detailed information.

To make the most of your CRSB certification, make sure your cattle have a chance to qualify for CRSB Certified supply chains through the following steps:

FOR ALL CERTIFIED PRODUCTION OPERATIONS

1. Share your operation's contact and certification status information for chain-of-custody purposes.

Consent is provided via the Certification Body to CCIA which enables certified operations to be identified in the Canadian Livestock Tracking System (CLTS).

To check your consent status, look for the "CRSB Client Information" section on the My Account page in your CLTS account. If you don't see this section, request that your Certification Body add your consent.



Scan to check your consent status.

Information shared is limited to:

- Operation information: operation name, contact name, email, mailing address
- Canadian Livestock Tracking System (CLTS) ID
- Certification date, Audit type, certification status change/ de-certification date

FOR ALL CERTIFIED COW/CALF OPERATIONS

2. Submit birth dates for cattle born and tagged on your operation to the CLTS.

CRSB Certified claims rely on cattle moving through CRSB Certified operations from birth up to and including the primary processor. Birth dates provide the starting point for the certified supply chain.

FOR ALL CERTIFIED OPERATIONS AFTER THE BIRTH FARM OR RANCH (BACKGROUNDERS, COMBO OR FEEDLOT)

3. Submit move-in events each time new cattle move onto your operation.

Cattle movements keep the certified supply chain flowing. Move-ins show cattle that move through only applicable CRSB Certified Operations, to qualify for a CRSB Claim.

You can submit both birth dates and move-in events either by individual tag numbers or as a group. Check out the CLTS Resource Centre for templates and step-by-step tutorials to assist you.



Scan for a demo video.

NEED HELP?

Contact CLTS client support: **1.877.909.2333** or email info@canadaid.ca

You may have previously received Cargill's Recognition Credit, and are wondering if that will continue. The Cargill Recognition Credit was established to recognize the upfront investment that many Canadian producers had made to become CRSB Certified, even when they weren't guaranteed a clear, financial payback for their effort at that time. This was provided in collaboration with the CRSB with the intention that this CRSB Certified Producer Incentive would replace it. "We're proud of the role Cargill has played in supporting producers who chose to become CRSB Certified, and we're encouraged to see this incentive continue to

grow through the leadership of the CRSB and its partners. Recognizing producers for their commitment to more sustainable practices helps strengthen our supply chains and the industry at large. We'll continue to invest in ways to support ranchers and advance sustainable beef production in Canada," says Kristine Tapley, Cargill Sustainability Director.

Cargill will continue to pay producers for qualifying cattle via their \$20-per-head Qualifying Cattle Credit.

For answers to more questions about the incentive and how it works, visit crsbcertified.ca/certification/incentive-program. 🍖

The Farm Credit Canada Incentive will be reopening in June 2026 for applications and will once again provide up to \$4,000 for certified producers that have eligible lending with FCC.

Learn more about the CRSB Certified program and other incentives available for certified producers at crsbcertified.ca. If you have questions, contact us at info@crsbcertified.ca.



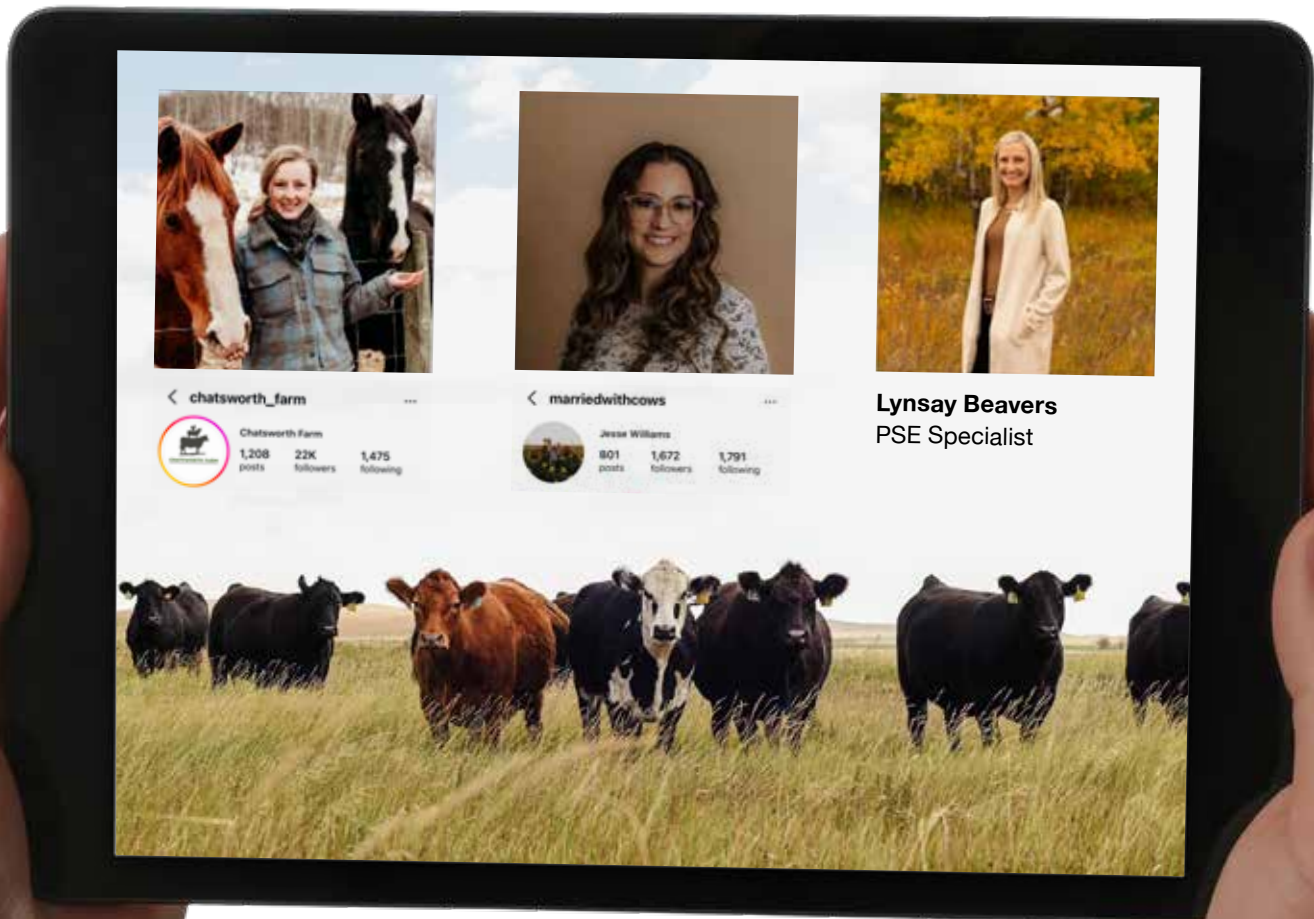
DID YOU KNOW?

If you have an active VBP+ Certificate, you are also CRSB Certified through a single on-farm assessment process, which means you can be eligible for the new CRSB Certified Producer Incentive.

Amping up Advocates

PRODUCER RESOURCES FROM PUBLIC AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

SUBMITTED BY PUBLIC AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT



Part of the Public and Stakeholder Engagement (PSE) program's strategy is equipping beef producers and other industry experts with tools and skills to act as advocates. By empowering a broad network of boots-on-the-ground spokespeople, the program reaches wider audiences across the country.

One of the PSE team's most recent education initiatives was a series of webinars titled "Instagram for Beef Advocacy." These sessions were designed to give beef producers the knowledge and confidence to share their own experiences and stories from the farm with consumer audiences on Instagram.

The first session covered the theme "Capturing Content," demonstrating examples of how to come up with ideas and take quality footage to create engaging content for consumers. This session featured Charlotte Wasyluk of Chatsworth Farm (@chatsworth_farm) and Jesse Williams of Whiskey Creek Ranch (@marriedwithcows), who shared their expertise as producers with active public-facing Instagram accounts. PSE Specialist Lynsay Beavers rounded out the panel to provide guidance on what consumer audiences want to see based on insights from perception research studies.

The second session, "Using Instagram to its Full Potential," focused on the ins and outs of the Instagram platform and how to take advantage of key features to reach target audiences. Panelists Julie Sharp of the Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef (@crsb_beef), Bruna Frias of Beretta Farms (@berettafarms), and Kim Maloney of Brylee Farms (@bryleefarms) shared their expert insights on navigating Instagram from their roles in social media marketing.

Finally, the third session, "Building a Brand," guided producers toward developing a trusted and authentic online brand for their operations, and in turn, the broader Canadian beef industry. Panelist Rachel Herbert of

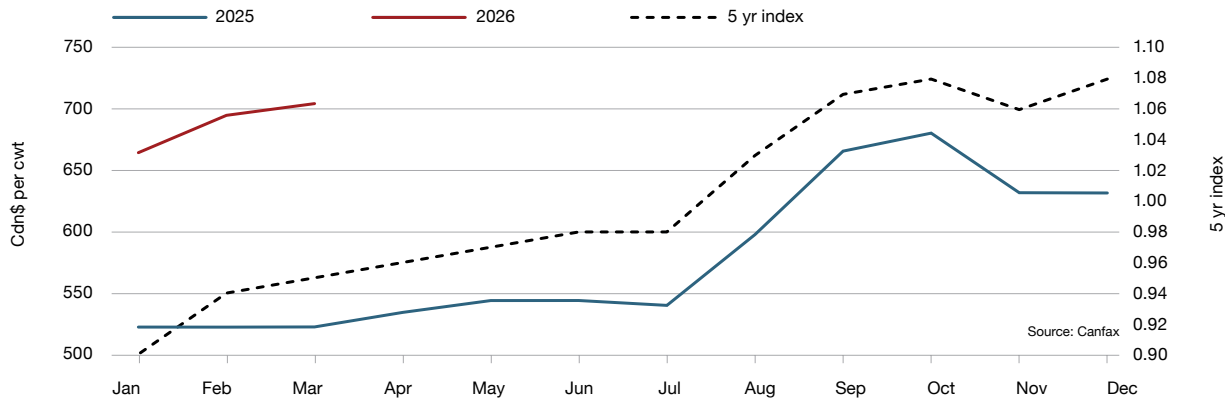
Trail's End Beef (@trailsendbeef) shared her advice on tailoring content to a brand image, while Jill Renton of Gone West Media offered practical tips on making land, livestock, and people look good in images. Sarah Wray of Story Brokers Media House rounded out the panel with her advice on telling impactful and cohesive stories from complex, busy operations.

For producers looking for a deeper understanding of public audience advocacy for the beef industry, PSE offers the Beef Advocacy Canada program. This free online course takes roughly three hours to complete and can be paused and completed on producers' own schedules. Students learn more about the beef industry, consumer perceptions, messages that resonate, and receive practical tips for communicating effectively with public audiences. PSE also enrolls several producers in introductory media training each year, helping equip these important spokespeople for media interview opportunities before they arise.

Another handy resource available to producers is the Public Advocacy Guide—a fit-in-your-pocket flipbook packed full of all the statistics, messages, and themes a beef advocate may need in the field. For more specific inquiries, the PSE team can also pass along fact sheets that dive deeper into specific topics of interest, ranging from food waste to animal care.

Recordings of all three Instagram for Beef Advocacy sessions are available for producers to watch at their leisure. Reach out to raisingcdnbeef@cattle.ca to request the links or access any of these resources. ▼

Alberta 5-600 lb Feeder Steer Prices



First Quarter 2026 Prices Remain Strong

BY JAMIE KERR, MARKET ANALYST, CANFAX

The first quarter of 2026 saw an impressive cattle market. Alberta fed steer prices rallied 10 per cent from January to mid-April, surpassing the five- and ten-year indices of eight per cent and three per cent, respectively. Historically, prices peak in June with another three to eight per cent rally ahead of us. Spring grilling along with May long weekend, Father’s Day and Canada Day all support demand in the second quarter.

Feeder prices continued to reach for the moon in the first quarter, leading the way for the Artemis II crew. Alberta 550 lb steers averaged \$705 per cwt in March, climbing \$40 per cwt since January and has been mostly stable near \$695 per cwt during the first three weeks of April. The Alberta calf market has been the premium North American market since September 2025.


May forward delivery prices for 950 lb steers, at \$471 per cwt, had an \$8 per cwt premium to March’s cash market. A full reporting of forward delivery sales can be found in the Monthly MarketSense for Cow-Calf Producers report.

Alberta D2 cows have climbed steadily higher, supported by reduced domestic lean trim volumes. It should be noted that some large U.S.-based fast food chains use only North American beef in their patties. Therefore, despite record-high beef import volumes in 2025 with 2026 projected to be even larger, demand for North American lean trim remains strong to fulfill those supply chains. Alberta D2 cows averaged \$238 per cwt in March, up \$38 per cwt from a year ago. Year to date, Alberta D2 cows have averaged a \$28 per cwt premium to Ontario D2 cows and were at par with U.S. utility cows. The price tone was even stronger during the first half of April, breaking \$240 per cwt.

Cull cow prices generally move higher during the first half of the year, plateauing in June as the calendar sets its sights on the dog days of summer. Over the past 20 years (2006-2025), Alberta D2 cows have put in first half of the year highs six times in April (30 per cent), six times in May (30 per cent), and seven times in June (35 per cent). Based on historical trends, there is a

40-50 per cent chance of higher prices between publication time and the end of June.

Bred cows and heifer prices softened slightly between January and March. However, prices remained near historical highs. In March, bred cows and heifers were 35 to 39 per cent stronger than last year, averaging on either side of \$5,800 per head. From the second half of March when the bred cattle market topped and mid-April, bred cows softened \$1,200 per head with bred heifers easing almost \$500 per head. Between January 2019 and October 2025, Alberta bred heifer cow/heifer prices averaged 137 per cent of an Alberta 550 lb steer calf. Since November 2025, it has been higher at 153 per cent. But by mid-April, it dropped back to 142 per cent, aligning closer with the historic average, though remaining slightly elevated. Overall, demand for breeding females has been strong this winter.

Canfax is funded by memberships. For ongoing market analysis and to become a Canfax member, visit canfax.ca. 



Your Land. Your Legacy. Our Expertise.
www.landquest.com

LandQuest® Realty Corporation
 Toll Free 1-866-558-LAND (5263)

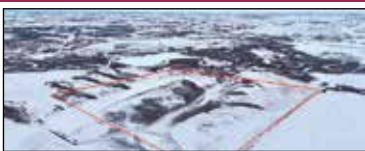
Visit Our Website



@LandQuestRealty



@LandQuestRealtyCorporation



**175 ACRES OF ROLLING PRAIRIE
 HARDISTY, AB**

175 acres in Flagstaff County near Hardisty features rolling prairie, an aspen-lined creek valley, multiple dugouts, and abundant wildlife. 60± acres are arable, with the balance suited for grazing, recreation, or a private building site; the land is fully fenced with power at the property. **\$419,900**



**ROPE, RIDE, AND ROOM TO ROAM
 VALLEYVIEW, AB**

Just 1 mile off pavement east of Valleyview, this horse training facility features an 80 x 180 ft indoor roping arena with return alley, mezzanine and roping chute, plus a 300 x 170 ft outdoor arena. A 944 sq. ft. bungalow and a 40 x 32 ft garage / shop, complete this turnkey equestrian package. **\$650,000**



**WHERE RURAL LIVING MEETS
 CHARACTER - BARRHEAD COUNTY**

This one-of-a-kind barndominium-style rural estate blends modern comfort, vintage character and country functionality, set within a private, tree-sheltered yard site. Heated shops, garages, machine and storage sheds, livestock shelters, fenced pasture and a mature yard with fire pit. **\$999,000**



**WHERE THE RIVER MEETS THE
 PRAIRIE - SMOKY LAKE COUNTY, AB**

128-acre farmland with sweeping North Saskatchewan River views. Fenced pasture, hay ground and proven grain production on strong soils. Excellent access on three sides, four approaches, power on site and a dugout make this a turnkey addition to a mixed farming or cattle operation. **\$629,000**



**153 ACRES WITH QUANT FARMYARD
 NEAR ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE, AB**

Located just 15 minutes from Rocky Mountain House, this 153-acre farm offers hay fields, fenced pasture, and \$3,900 / year in surface lease revenue. Heated shop, new calving barn, steel corrals, solar power, and a 2006 3-bedroom, 2-bath manufactured home. Ideal for farming, recreation, or off-grid living.



**WHERE THE PAVEMENT ENDS:
 319 ACRES NEAR WATER VALLEY**

Two full quarter sections northwest of Water Valley offer 319 acres of private foothills wilderness, available as a turnkey package or individually. Mature spruce and poplar forests, a meandering creek, established trails, and an insulated cabin create an ideal setting for recreation, hunting, or a future homesite.



**HEART LAKE RANCH
 A TESTAMENT TO THE WILD WEST**

Heart Lake Ranch is an 80-acre legacy property nestled in Alberta's foothills. Renovated 4-bedroom home overlooks a spring-fed, heart-shaped lake. Fenced pasture and abundant wildlife, 1908 homesteader cabin. This ranch blends history, natural beauty, and Western tradition.



**FORESTED QUARTER SECTION WITH
 POWER AND POTENTIAL**

This 159-acre agricultural parcel near Manning and Deadwood, AB is mostly forested with poplar and spruce. Power brought onto the property. Roughly 30 acres were previously cleared for a homestead, with a grown-over foundation still in place. Located on a well-maintained gravel road.

CHASE & COLE WESTERSUND
 WESTERN LAND GROUP

403-808-0618
chase@landquest.com



Livestock Manifests Go Digital

Electronic manifests are now available in Alberta to make tracking animals more efficient.

BY ROBIN GALEY

In the event of an emergent disease situation, the ability to trace animal movement is paramount. It supports disease preparedness, protects market access, and maintains consumer confidence.

When considering the potential for an emergent disease situation, Shawn McLean, General Manager of Livestock Identification Services Ltd. (LIS), says: “It’s not a matter of if, it’s a matter of when.”

While printed carbon copy manifests aren’t going anywhere anytime soon, eManifest is now available to make tracking animal movement safer and more efficient, from farm to feedlot and anywhere in between.

Developed by LIS, the eManifest is a new website and smartphone app (for Android and iOS) that allows users to complete an official Alberta Livestock Manifest electronically. It documents the movement of livestock between locations, details who is moving them for what purpose, initiates a sale transaction, and supports inspection.

“The eManifest fulfills all requirements for the federal and provincial movement of animals, documenting transfer of care and providing animal transfer records,” says McLean. “Everything is on there, in one place.”

To use eManifest, the owner or dealer starts the manifest online, prints copies (as required by current regulations), and hands those off to the transporter, who fills in their sections, then hands those off to the receiver or market, who then enters the information into their system. “The data input to the eManifest is safely stored on our LIS server, where it is accessible, by the authorized parties, anytime by logging in,” McLean says.

While this way of producing a manifest is new, the look is not. “It looks exactly like the one in the book. But having the ability to copy it electronically means users don’t have to re-enter the data every time,” says McLean.

Using the eManifests offers a variety of advantages. “It’s instant and data is stored permanently only if LIS

“Producers don’t have to worry about the paper copy floating around in the truck and getting lost—there is always an electronic backup.”

inspects the livestock. Producers don’t have to worry about the paper copy floating around in the truck and getting lost—there is always an electronic backup,” says McLean. Nevertheless, eManifest “Terms of Use” do not require LIS to be a producer’s record keeper.

There is significant cost savings, since paper manifests (though free for producers) are expensive to print and require carbon, which isn’t good for the environment. Digitally produced manifests are easier on the eyes, using clear and consistently legible type. eManifest can also store RFID tag numbers to simplify animal tracking through the Canadian Livestock Tracking System (CLTS), with the ability to populate CCIA Move In template.

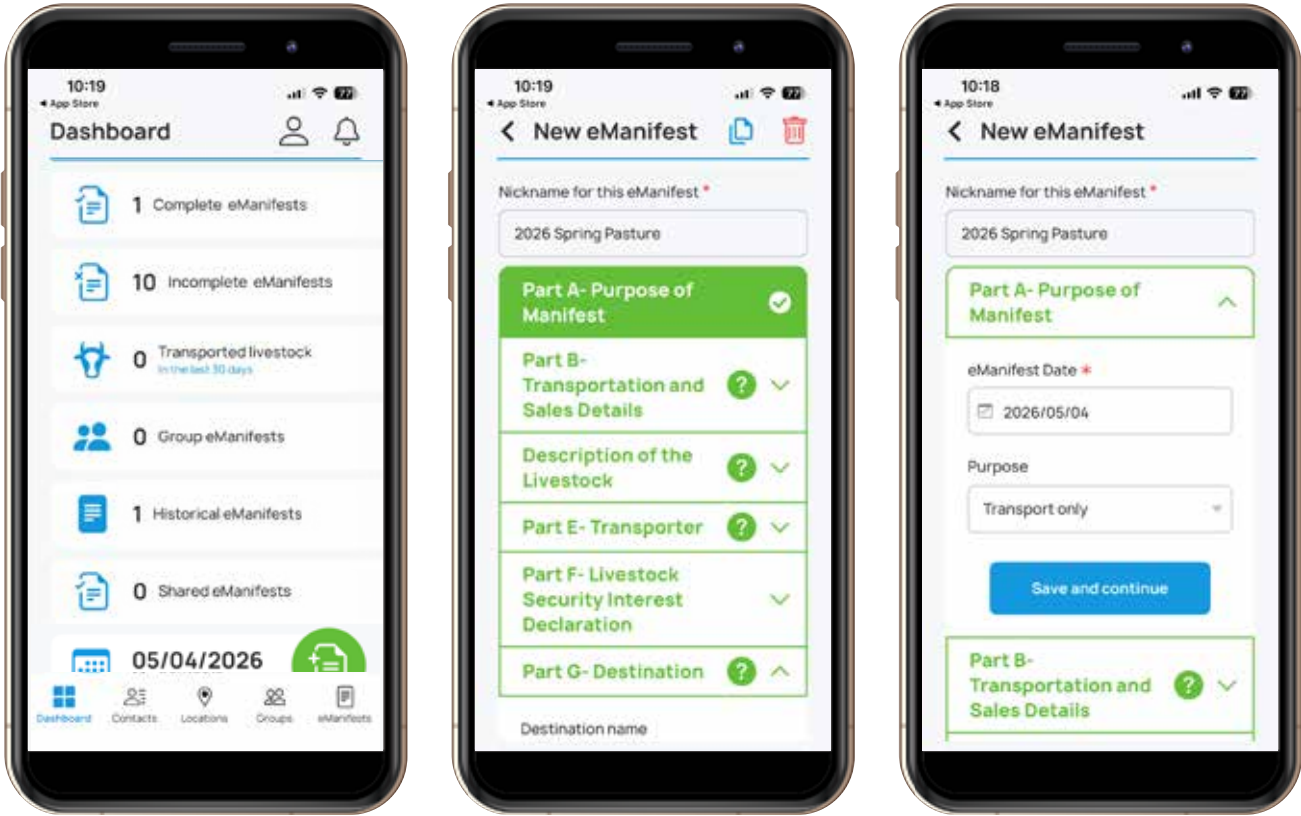
“It’s faster and more efficient in the long term. Once it has been entered into the eManifest system, all an inspector needs for data entry is to enter the eManifest number, and the data loads directly from our secure

server. It will save time for our staff, for the auction marts, and for receivers—once they get comfortable using it,” says McLean.

LIS expects the process will be further streamlined if the government updates regulations to accept digital manifests in place of the four printed copies currently required. “The request has been made to update that regulation,” says McLean.

The eManifest system has been in development since 2010, and came about because the industry was asking for it. There have been some challenges in its development, and adjustments continue, such as simplifying the inspector interface.

“In some ways, eManifest is an app built more for the future than for the present. Our hope is that more producers start using it soon. Those who are using it like it,” concludes McLean. ▾



Share Your Feedback on the Beef Cattle Code of Practice

BY TYLER FULTON, PRESIDENT, CCA



Photo credit:
Manitoba Beef Producers

THE PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR THE BEEF CATTLE CODE OF PRACTICE (BEEF CODE OR THE CODE) IS OPEN APRIL 13 THROUGH JUNE 12. THE BEEF CODE OUTLINES EXPECTED AND RECOMMENDED ANIMAL CARE PRACTICES FOR BEEF CATTLE AND UNDERGOES A REGULAR REVIEW PROCESS.

The public comment period is an opportunity for anyone who has an interest in how beef cattle are raised in Canada, including consumers, veterinarians, food service professionals, and producers, to review the draft content and share feedback.

Feedback gathered through the public comment period is critical and helps determine the content of the final document. Strong producer feedback from all regions of Canada is an important step in this process.

The Beef Code is meant to drive continuous improvement in animal welfare and is built to be scientifically informed, practical, and reflect societal expectations for responsible farm animal care. The Code uses an outcome-based approach that focuses on achieving successful standards while allowing for flexibility in how these outcomes are met rather than dictating exact processes or methods.

The National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC) (nfacc.ca) oversees Code of Practice development and review through a structured, multi-stakeholder process that includes producers, veterinarians, scientists, transporters, processors, retailers, government, and animal welfare representatives. The CCA is a member

of NFACC and serves as the national commodity organization responsible for initiating the Code review process for its sector. Decisions are science-informed and consensus-based.

The review process involves two committees: the Code Development Committee and the Scientific Committee. The Code Development Committee updates the Code as required and the Scientific Committee reviews literature to determine priority welfare issues and summarizes the available research for the Code Development Committee. Science-informed, industry leadership on code development, reviews, and revisions ensures the Code reflects an animal care standard that is grounded in practicality while considering the diversity of Canadian beef cattle producers.

Maintaining an up-to-date Code informs potential policy conversations with industry expertise backed by science and prevents rules written by people far from primary production. A current Code can help inform policy by showing what's workable and already in place, providing helpful context and a frame of reference on acceptable practices and standards of care in Canada.

The content and layout of the draft Code available for public comment remain largely consistent with the current Code (nfacc.ca/codes-of-practice/beef-cattle). The proposed draft incorporates new scientific evidence and updated practices in beef cattle care.

The code committee uses a consensus-based process to propose changes. The draft code changes have been suggested with consideration for scientific evidence, societal expectations and feasibility of adoption in a wide variety of regions and production systems.

There are six chapters in the Code. Key topics of interest to producers are highlighted here. Producers are encouraged to review the document in full to provide feedback.

ANIMAL ENVIRONMENT

- New section on mud and moisture to describe welfare impacts of mud and moisture, including reduced coat insulation and foot health problems
- An emphasis on the importance of safe, low-stress cattle movement that protects both cattle and handlers
- Considerations for housing severely sick or injured cattle

FEED AND WATER

- Stronger guidance on feed and water testing, toxic feeds, feed bunk management, and the use of nutritionists
- Proactive action to address cattle in poor and declining body condition scores
- Additional detail added on proactive strategies to manage the use of snow as a water source

ANIMAL HEALTH

- Detailed guidance around veterinary care and herd health management, disease reporting, and emergency preparedness
- Emphasis on the importance of an active veterinary-client-patient relationship, working with a veterinarian, and developing and regularly updating a herd health program
- New subsections on reproductive disease, neurologic disease, and pinkeye

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

- Increased information on low-stress handling and behavioural signs of stress
- Clarified prod-use language
- New requirements for prompt care, safe handling, and access to feed and water for non-ambulatory cattle
- Increased requirements to provide pain control for painful procedures provided in consultation with a veterinarian
- Attention drawn to the importance of increased monitoring around weaning, and new content on pre-weaning, weaning, and post-weaning periods

TRANSPORTATION

- Revisions to align requirements with updated transport regulations and remove duplication
- Focus on assessing fitness for transport and enhanced guidance around preparations for transport

ON-FARM EUTHANASIA

- More practical, clear guidance for euthanasia methods and decision-making, including increasing specificity around appropriate firearms and ammunition for different classes of cattle
- Updates to include references to farmer-specific mental health resources ▼

The finalized Code is expected to be released in the second quarter of 2027.



Producers, visit nfacc.ca/codes-of-practice/beef-cattle before June 12 to ensure your feedback is considered!

Canada Beef Update

A Return to China, Burger it Forward Update + Award Recognition

BY GINA TEEL, DIRECTOR, STAKEHOLDER COMMUNICATIONS, CANADA BEEF

APRIL SAW CANADA BEEF EMBARK ON ITS FIRST TRIP TO CHINA SINCE THE RESTORATION OF MARKET ACCESS IN EARLY 2026, DUE TO THE INROADS ACHIEVED IN THIS HIGH OPPORTUNITY MARKET SINCE JANUARY AND AN EXPORT DIVERSIFICATION STRATEGY FOCUSED ON THE MARKETS WITH THE MOST PROMISE FOR CANADIAN BEEF.

Canada Beef vice-president, export market development, Albert Eringfeld participated in activities in Haikou, Beijing, and Shanghai during the trip, which ran April 10 to 18. Canadian beef was featured prominently at special events throughout the trip, including a Taste of Canada cooking demonstration, a Canadian beef promotional dinner and a Canadian government reception.

Activities in Haikou included participation in the China Consumer Products Expo in conjunction with Alberta Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, RJ Sigurdson, and Canadian Minister of International Trade, Maninder Sidhu. In Beijing, the delegation met with Canadian Embassy and Canadian Trade Commissioner Service China representatives. In Shanghai, the team met with Canadian beef supplier representatives in China and their key Canadian beef importers and retail clients.

Additional recent Canadian beef promotions involving the market development team include merchandising and culinary workshops, trade shows and seminars in

the Philippines and Vietnam. Over 300 guests attended the sessions in each country, with many more visiting the Canada Beef booth at the Food and Hospitality Show in Vietnam in late March.



CAMPAIGN HIGHLIGHTS

FEBRUARY 1 - 28, 2026

HEY, BURGER IT FORWARD COLLABORATORS:

Together we raised an estimated

\$71,191

for food bank efforts across the country!

You are all food bank heroes!

The Burger it Forward campaign enjoyed another stellar year, raising an estimated \$71,191 for food banks across Canada while helping ground beef and restaurant sales during a typically slow time (February). The campaign attracted 360 participating restaurants, a nearly 35 per cent increase compared with the 2025 campaign. An estimated 111,525 burgers were sold, or an average of 291 burgers sold per location compared with an average of 211 achieved the year prior.

Alberta saw a 52 per cent increase in participating restaurants (105), and increases in both burgers sold (29,727) and restaurant donations. A big shout out to Alberta Beef Producers (ABP) and others who contributed funds to and participated in the 2026 BIF campaign—and thank you to everyone who purchased a special campaign burger in support of a good cause.

Canada Beef’s Mathieu Paré continues to be acknowledged for his contributions to the advancement of the culinary arts through sharing skills and knowledge with students and peers. Congratulations to Chef Paré who, along with Canada Beef, was named Educator of the Year recently by the Calgary Academy of Chefs and Cooks (CACC), the local chapter of the Canadian Culinary Federation.

Chef Mathieu Paré (right) accepting the CACC Educator of the Year award from Chef Romina Romo. Photo credit: Helmut Schoderbock.



Paré accepted the award from Chef Romina Romo at CACC’s 2026 President’s Gala and awards event held at the Calgary Golf and Country Club.

The Educator of the Year award acknowledges individuals for actively sharing their culinary knowledge with students, apprentices, colleagues, and actively promoting interest in the culinary arts. Post-secondary and high school programs are highlighted, and other venues, such as Chefs with apprentices, also qualify.

Canada Beef was nominated by local members in part for its contribution to industry training initiatives and the quality of its training videos and Certified Canadian Beef Training Program (CCBTP) educational resources. Several additional activities considered included the Canadian Beef Centre of Excellence’s (CBCE) recent outreach and training work for a Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT) event management class supported with a Canadian beef themed dinner delivered on March 12 at the SAIT Taste Market Canadian Kitchen.

Please join us in congratulating Paré, the CBCE and all staff who worked behind the scenes to make this latest award possible. Paré, named CACC Chef of the Year in 2025, was pleased to present the award to 2026 recipient, Chef James Haacke of the Sirocco Golf Course in Calgary. Chef Haacke participated in a rustic chuckwagon chili cook off at the Bar U Ranch National Historic Site last September organized by Paré for CACC members and SAIT students and sponsored by Canada Beef and ABP. Chef Haacke, assisted by SAIT culinary arts student Gwyn McKay, was voted the first-place finishing team.



Scan to watch the video.

Finally, the new Canada Beef semi-annual 2025-2026 video provides an activity update of key projects launched during the first half of the prior fiscal year. This video is the latest effort by Canada Beef to provide stakeholders with timely reporting about the activities

deployed to increase demand for Canadian beef while ensuring the maximum value for producer dollars. Watch for the full annual report later this summer. ▼



Competitors at the
Chinook Junior Stock Show.
Photo credit: CattleVids

VBP+ in Action

BY CALE PLACE, VBP+ COORDINATOR

WINTER AND SPRING ARE OFTEN SOME OF THE BUSIEST SEASONS IN ALBERTA'S BEEF INDUSTRY, AND THIS YEAR HAS BEEN NO EXCEPTION FOR THE TEAMS AT ABP AND VERIFIED BEEF PRODUCTION PLUS (VBP+).

Over the past several months, ABP and VBP+ representatives have been on the road attending conventions, hosting workshops, participating in youth events, and connecting directly with producers across the province. These face-to-face interactions continue to play an important role in building relationships, sharing knowledge, and supporting the ongoing success of Alberta's cattle industry.

The season began in early February at the Feeder Associations of Alberta convention and AGM in Red Deer. This annual event is always an important gathering for producers, offering the chance to discuss current industry issues, hear from knowledgeable speakers, and connect with fellow cattle producers from across the province. Once again, the team at the Feeder Associations of Alberta did an outstanding job organizing the convention. The speakers were informative and engaging, covering topics that were timely and relevant for those working in the beef sector.

For the ABP and VBP+ teams, the convention also provided an excellent opportunity to connect with producers at the trade show booth. Throughout the event, many valuable conversations took place about on-farm practices, industry priorities, and the programs available through VBP+. Events like these highlight the importance of personal interaction—producers often have questions, ideas, or concerns that are best discussed face-to-face. The strong attendance at the convention reflected the continued commitment of Alberta’s beef producers to learning and staying involved in the industry. Adding to the positive experience were the comfortable accommodations and hospitality at the Red Deer Resort & Casino, which helped make the event both productive and enjoyable.

After the activity of the February convention, attention soon shifted to one of the major annual events on the beef industry calendar: the ABP annual general meeting in Calgary. Held in conjunction with the Alberta

Beef Industry Conference in early March, the week brought together producers, industry representatives, and stakeholders from across the province to discuss important issues facing the beef sector.

One of the highlights leading into the conference was the traceability town hall meeting hosted by ABP. The meeting was very well attended and generated meaningful discussion around traceability systems and their role in the beef industry. These conversations are essential as the industry continues to adapt to changing expectations, regulations, and market demands. The willingness of producers to participate in these discussions demonstrates the shared commitment to ensuring Alberta’s beef sector remains strong, transparent, and sustainable.

By mid-March, the focus moved north as the VBP+ team travelled to host workshops in Westlock and Athabasca. Workshops held at the Westlock Agricultural Society and the Athabasca Agricultural Society drew excellent participation from producers in those regions. These workshops are designed to provide practical, hands-on information that producers can take back to their operations, whether related to record keeping, animal care, biosecurity, or best management practices.

The turnout and level of engagement at both workshops were extremely encouraging. Producers brought thoughtful questions and actively participated in the discussions, creating an atmosphere that was both educational and collaborative. This type of engagement reinforces the value of bringing workshops directly into rural communities, where producers can learn from experts while also sharing experiences with their peers. Based on the positive response, the VBP+ team looks forward to expanding these workshop opportunities further in the future.

April has brought even more opportunities to connect with producers—particularly young producers—through a series of 4-H workshops and youth livestock events. Among the highlights was the Chinook Junior Stock Show, which continues to grow in both size and impact each year. This event has become an important showcase for young cattle producers, drawing exhibitors from across Alberta, British Columbia, and Saskatchewan.



Cale Place and Brenda Hagen
at ABP's 2026 AGM.
Photo credit: Seven D Media



Competitors at the Chinook Junior Stock Show. Photo credit: CattleVids

This year's event featured more than 250 head of cattle, with well over 300 young producers participating in showmanship and conformation classes. The energy, enthusiasm, and professionalism displayed by these young exhibitors were truly impressive. Events like the Chinook Junior Stock Show are more than just competitions—they are opportunities for youth to build skills, gain confidence, and strengthen their connection to the cattle industry. Supporting these young people is vital, as they represent the future of beef production in Alberta and beyond.

Looking ahead, the spring schedule remains full for ABP and VBP+. Upcoming events include the Josephburg Ag Society Classic Junior Show in Fort Saskatchewan and the Cypress Farm and Ranch Show in Medicine Hat. These events provide valuable opportunities to meet with producers, answer questions, and continue building awareness around the resources and support available through VBP+.

In addition to attending events, one of the key priorities for the VBP+ team remains promoting the VBP+ Incentive Program. When the program was first introduced, producer uptake was strong, reflecting the industry's interest in improving on-farm practices related to biosecurity and animal care. More recently, participation has slowed somewhat, likely due to the cyclical demands of farm work and the many competing priorities producers face throughout the year.



However, funding is still available for a variety of eligible projects, particularly those focused on improving biosecurity and animal care systems on-farm. The incentive is straightforward to apply for and covers a wide range of practical improvements. Producers are encouraged to review the list of eligible projects through ABP, and those with ideas that fall outside the listed categories are invited to reach out directly to the VBP+ team. Many worthwhile projects may still qualify, and staff are available to help producers navigate the process.

The continued success of ABP and VBP+ initiatives depends on maintaining strong connections with producers throughout the province. Whether through major industry conventions, community workshops, youth events, or on-farm incentives, these opportunities create valuable conversations that help move the industry forward. By staying engaged and accessible, ABP and VBP+ can continue supporting producers in meaningful ways while promoting practices that strengthen the long-term sustainability of Alberta's beef industry.

As the season continues, the ABP and VBP+ teams remain committed to being out in the community, listening to producers, and providing resources that support success at every level. From the show ring to the workshop table, every interaction contributes to building a stronger, more resilient future for Alberta's beef producers. ▼

Research Update

BY KARIN SCHMID

The ABP Beef Research Showcase was held in Lethbridge in March. Again, there was a fantastic turnout with over 70 people in attendance and 40 to 50 more consistently watching online throughout the day. Thanks to DLMS for broadcasting! This year was a feedlot focused version, covering topics such as liver abscesses, Histophilus, forage in feedlot diets, and more. You can find the recordings of the presentations on our YouTube channel:



Scan to watch the recordings on YouTube.

The ABP Research Committee is in the midst of reviewing letters of intent received through the Agriculture Funding Consortium. Successful applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal later this summer which will undergo a scientific and technical review before the Committee makes funding decisions later this fall and winter.

We continue to evaluate the impacts of the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) research centre closures announced in January. While we are primarily concerned with the Lacombe closure here in Alberta, the cuts elsewhere, particularly the forage breeding program in Quebec, will affect beef producers for years to come. We are liaising with the Beef Cattle Research Council, federal and provincial governments, academia, and groups like Results Driven Agriculture Research (RDAR) to determine how we might be able to mitigate some of the capacity gaps created by the AAFC cuts.

This is also the last year of the Alberta Agrisystems Living Lab (AALL). Fortunately, we have been able to extend some of the key personnel associated with the AALL who were affected by the AAFC cuts until later in the year, which will allow us to complete the bulk of our planned activities with only minor adjustments. We have a lot of exciting events planned over the summer, both standalone events and in partnership with activities taking place as part of the International Year of Rangeland and Pastoralists.

Register for an upcoming AALL Field Day



Scan to register or visit agrisystemsll.ca/events for details.

Throughout the fall and winter, stay tuned as we begin to tell the complete story of what the AALL has learned and accomplished over the past five years. Our website (agrisystemsll.ca) or Facebook page (@Alberta AgriSystems Living Lab) are the best place to keep up with everything AALL!

A huge thank you to the research teams at AAFC, the University of Alberta and Canfax, all of our stakeholder partners, as well as the AALL contract staff (Brian Karisa, Adrienne Herron, and Kristine Flaim) for navigating through some tumultuous times. 🍷

Farm Real Estate Values:

WHAT SELLERS, BUYERS AND FAMILIES NEED TO KNOW

BY EMMA CROSS

It is no secret that farmland is worth more than ever before. With so much on the line for producers making decisions about land, it is more important than ever to understand what influences farm real estate values.



STATUS OF THE FARM REAL ESTATE MARKET

“The farmland market has been hot for a good 10 years now,” says Rees Smith, a realtor with the Smith & Griffith real estate team of CIR Realty. “Farm Credit Canada comes out with farmland value trends annually. The latest 2025 stats show that Canada-wide, the national trend is a 9.3 per cent appreciation on farmland. Alberta is leading the way with 11.4 per cent appreciation in 2025, which is above the five-year average.”

Most of the rise in farm real estate is coming from cropland. “We’ve seen an average in that \$8,000 to 10,000 per acre range to as high as \$13,000 an acre,” says Smith. “Pastureland appreciated at a slower rate of 3.8 per cent last year, with your traditional rougher bush pasture type lands that aren’t cultivatable per se averaging around \$5,000 an acre.”

Generally, farm real estate is reflective of the markets for the commodities grown on that land. The strong cattle market is driving higher pasture values, but recent downturns in crop prices have not decreased cultivated land prices. “We’ve seen a major increase in corporate-type farming,” says Chase Westersund, vice-president of LandQuest Realty Corporation. “So, it’s kind of kept cropland in line with the inflationary pressures we’ve seen on ranch-style lands.”

Factors like geopolitical conflict, fuel and fertilizer costs, and government policies do temper rising values. “It is a strong market, but a price-sensitive market,” says Westersund. “Ranch operations need the asking price to be justifiable in terms of productivity.” As Smith explains, strong cattle prices will not drive pasture and hayland to the same value as cultivated land, but producers can expect to see the rate of appreciation for cattle-suited properties creep closer to that of cropland.

Despite inflation driving higher input costs that tighten margins, producers are motivated by the scarcity of land and the need to capitalize upon purchase opportunities in their area, leading land values to grow with inflation too. “The old adage is that they don’t make any more of it,” says Smith.

DETERMINING PROPERTY VALUES

Researching comparable sales in the area is the most common method for appraising farm real estate. Westersund explains that a ranch property is “broken down into its various land components, with a price per acre applied using comparable sales and extrapolating those to the subject ranch.”

Comparable sale values can be found through MLS realtors, online auctions, or private sale data from land titles. Both Smith and Westersund note that local producers can be a source of land sale information, but that local gossip is frequently inaccurate and needs to be verified.

Like any real estate, where the property is situated plays a large role in how farmland is priced. Smith identifies accessibility and quality of access roads, landlocked geography, and proximity to urban centres as key considerations.

Topography, soil quality, and productivity also come into play. “You look at the highest and best use of that land,” says Smith. He uses the Canadian Land Inventory to get a general idea of soil quality and seeks out crop production specialists and producers in the area who may have knowledge of local soil testing.

“As a rule of thumb, pasture is usually 50 to 60 per cent of the value of cultivated acres,” says Ty Wilson, a purebred Angus breeder and realtor at Alberta Realty Inc. “For marginal land, like trees and water, it’s sometimes only 25 per cent of the value of cultivated acres.”

If the current owner of the property or the region can supply good quality data about the productivity of the ranch property, land prices can also be evaluated by animal unit months. “You figure out the number of animal units that a ranch can sustain, and then you apply a value figure to that specific AUM capacity of that ranch,” says Westersund.

Another factor that influences property values is the presence of revenue opportunities on the land, such as oil and gas surface leases, mineral rights, or gravel pits. “Sometimes I’ve seen multipliers of three to five times

the value of the annual surface lease, even as high as 10 times the surface lease value,” says Smith.

Conversely, surface leases that disrupt the utility of the property for agriculture can decrease the value of the property, such as a pipeline that blocks a prime potential yard site. “Other types of caveats, whether they be conservation easements, right-of-ways, entry points for subservient quarters to allow access, those things do affect value,” says Smith. “It’s a downward price influence, depending on how restrictive the details of that instrument are.”

If a parcel has already been subdivided with the residential acreage or farmstead taken out, that also reduces value. “It is like a coupon that is clipped out of the quarter, rendering the remainder of the quarter at a lesser value than if that opportunity remained,” Smith says.

Infrastructure can also add to the value of farm real estate. Cattle handling facilities, shops, residences, and other buildings can all add to the value of a property. “The house value is going to be variable depending on the prospective buyer,” says Westersund. “Just because you’ve built an expensive house on your property doesn’t necessarily increase the value of the operation in the eyes of certain types of buyers. The statement we hear is that a nice house has never put a pound on a calf.”

CONSIDERATIONS FOR BUYERS AND SELLERS

Given that the price of farm real estate is so closely tied to production, it’s no surprise that sales tend to follow the pattern of a growing season. “The most activity we experience is from Christmas through till June,” says Westersund. “Buyers are out looking before things green up because they need to prepare themselves in terms of purchasing inputs or expanding their herd.”

Marketing farm real estate from a seller’s perspective has changed over the years with digital channels. Realtors can now help sellers advertise their property outside of the local area, capturing urban investors and individuals looking to expand or relocate their operations in different regions.



Choosing a realtor that understands farms and how to portray them is key, says Westersund. Smith explains that the ideal time to take footage of a property is in the summer when land looks lush and productive. “Make sure your land and fences are in good shape,” he says. He also recommends pulling together as much information about your property as possible, including tax notices, water well reports, surface lease revenue stubs, any production data, and average rainfall.

When it comes to marketing, sellers now have the option to choose an auction sale instead of a traditional MLS listing. Auctions capitalize upon opportunistic buyers with a deadline, explains Smith. As a result, auctions can often fetch higher prices.

“Auctions work well for things like quarter sections of grain land, where several operators in that area can seamlessly integrate that parcel,” says Westersund. “It doesn’t work as well for cattle ranches, because they are so variable. They require facilitation and pairing the right buyer.” Wilson also notes that selling through auction comes with higher commissions.

On the buyer side, Westersund notes that the biggest limitation is money. “Find a lender that understands land and farming and ranching as a business,” he says. “For a lot of the major banking institutions, it’s beyond their scope of expertise, and either they won’t touch it, they’ll charge you an absurd interest rate, or they will only loan you a fragment of what’s required.”

While a good deal on a piece of land can seem enticing, Wilson cautions that cheap land is often cheap for a reason. “There was a time when you could sell a quarter and move to another province and get three quarters,” he says. “But in many cases, those three quarters only produced what that one quarter did that you sold. I would be leery of when a deal’s too good to be true.”

Westersund echoes this sentiment, encouraging buyers and sellers alike to focus on their business. “Don’t rush the due diligence,” he says. “Eliminating emotion as much as possible from the purchase or selling decision is going to result in a better outcome.”



LOOKING AHEAD

Many farm families are currently in the process of transitioning the farm to the next generation, and farm real estate is a key part of that process. All three agents agree that understanding the value of the assets you possess is key so that you can allocate them in a way your family feels is fair.

Keeping a pulse on the real estate market is wise, says Wilson. While a formal appraisal is useful, Westersund explains that it is not necessary to pay for one each year. Instead, watching for annual values from sources like Farm Credit Canada and the Alberta government can help maintain an estimate of real estate value in between formal appraisals around major life events.

Wilson's advice for families going through succession is to "treat the family farm like what it is, the greatest asset you have." Young farmers like himself that purchase their own land often feel free to be more aggressive in leveraging their land assets to expand the operation.

"If I'm dealing with the farm that's been in my family for generations, I might not have the gumption to lay it on the line of security in case things went bad," he says.

Looking into the future, Westersund sees economies of scale continuing to dominate the land market. Rising input costs are threatening smaller farms, enabling the consolidation of farmland by larger corporations and farms.

Smith also sees farm real estate prices continuing to rise into the future. With that in mind, he thinks of his dad's advice: "You always buy land that comes available on your fence line." While a land purchase still needs to make good business sense, rented land bears risks of unpredictability and does not build equity.

Across the board, these realtors identify Alberta as part of Canada's breadbasket and encourage producers in the province to keep investing in the future of the industry, through real estate and otherwise. ▼



Upcoming 2026 4-H Alberta Achievement Days

CALGARY REGION

Bergen Multi Club & Cowboy Trail Multi

Sundre Rodeo Grounds
May 25, 2026, 6 p.m.

Hussar 4-H Beef Club

Hussar Arena
May 28, 2026, 5:30 p.m.

Gladys 4-H Beef Club

High River Ag Grounds
May 29, 2026, 6 p.m.

Irricana 4-H Beef and Multi Club, Airdrie Beef &

Bow Valley Beef & Multi
Calgary Stampede Ag Building
May 31, 2026, 10 a.m.

Eagle Beef & Multi 4-H Club

Olds Regional Exhibition Megadome
June 4, 2026, 6:30 p.m.

EAST CENTRAL REGION

Byemoor Beef Club, Erskine Beef Club, Bigknife Beef Club, Big Valley Beef Club

Stettler Agri Plex
May 19, 2026 7 p.m.

Amisk 4-H Club, Stainsleigh 4-H Club & Czar Metiskow 4-H Beef Club

Czar 4-H Pavillion
May 28, 2026, 10 a.m.

Hastings Coulee 4-H Beef Club, Battle River 4-H Beef, Iron Creek 4-H Beef, Wavy Lake 4-H Beef

Forestburg Multi Use Facility
June 1, 2026, 7 p.m.

Altario 4-H Beef, Consort 4-H Beef, Brownfield Beef

Compeer, AB
June 3, 2026, 5:30 p.m.

East Sounding Creek 4-H Beef Club & Dryland Multi

Hanna Arena
June 13, 2026, 7 p.m.

NORTHEAST REGION

Beaver River Beef 4-H Club, Bonnyville 4-H Beef, Ardmore 4-H Beef

Cold Lake Ag Grounds
May 25, 2026, 10 a.m.

Vegreville 4-H Beef Club

Vegreville Curling Rink
May 25, 2026, 8 a.m.

Innisfree-Minburn 4-H Beef Club

Minburn Ag Grounds
May 27, 2026, 6:30 p.m.

Holden 4-H Beef Club

Bruce Stampede Grounds
May 28, 2026, 5:30 p.m.

HWY 897 Interclub, 3 Cities 4-H Beef & Kitscoty 4-H Beef Club

3-Cities Arena, Paradise Valley
May 28, 2026, 10 a.m.

St. Lina 4-H Beef Club, St. Paul 4-H Club, Elk Point 4-H Beef Club, Boscombe 4-H Club & Goodridge 4-H Beef Club

St. Paul Ag Corral
May 29, 2026, 6:30 a.m.

Vermilion 4-H Beef Club & Clandonald 4-H Multi

Vermilion Agricultural Grounds
June 1, 2026, 2 p.m.

Edgerton Multi Club, Chauvin Multi Club & Greenshields 4-H Club

Edgerton Arena
June 3, 2026, 5 p.m.

Bellis 4-H Beef Club

Waskatenau Arena
June 8, 2026, 4 p.m.

Hairy Hill 4-H Club

Hairy Hill Rodeo Grounds
June 8, 2026, 7 a.m.

Irma 4-H Beef Club

Irma Fairgrounds
June 8, 2026, 7 p.m.

NORTHWEST REGION

Duffield 4-H Club & Lakemere 4-H Beef Club

Heritage Pavilion, Stony Plain
May 20, 2026, 7 p.m.

Anselmo Willing Workers 4-H Club & Mayerthorpe 4-H Beef, Cherhill, Three Trails Home

Drayton Valley Omniplex
May 25, 2026, 7 p.m.

Freedom Naples Multi 4-H Club, Meadowview Multi 4-H, T&M Multi Club

Barrhead Agriculture Society
May 25, 2026, 7 p.m.

Lin-Berry-Buck 4-H Beef Club, Two Rivers 4-H Beef Club, Lobstick 4-H Beef, Big West Cruizers 4-H Club

Team Auctions Centre, Drayton Valley
May 25, 2026, 7 p.m.

Bon Accord 4-H Club

Sturgeon Agriplex, Cardiff
May 27, 2026, 6 p.m.

Lac Ste. Anne & District 4-H Achievement Day Show and Sale

Mayerthorpe Ag Barns
June 1, 2026, 7 p.m.

Athabasca 4-H Beef Club & Boyle 4-H Beef Club

Iceberg Arena
June 1, 2026, 3 p.m.

Leduc 4-H Beef Club

Leduc Recreation Centre
June 1, 2026, 7 p.m.

Westlock District 4-H Council, Double Diamond 4-H Multi Club, Golden Sunset 4-H Club, Pembina West 4-H Beef Club & Sunniebend 4-H Club

North Central Livestock, Clyde
June 1, 2026, 2 p.m.

Carrot Creek 4-H Club, Peers 4-H Club, Knight Riders, Edson

Yellowhead Ag Grounds, Edson
June 5, 2026, 6 p.m.

Newbrook 4-H Club

Victoria Trail Arena, Waskatenau
June 5, 2026, 5:30 p.m.

PEACE REGION

Beaverlodge 4-H Beef Club

Beaverlodge Ag Barns
May 25, 2026, 7 p.m.

Coyote Acres 4-H Club

High Prairie Agriplex
May 31, 2026, 6 p.m.

Three Rivers 4-H Club

Battle River Agricultural Grounds
June 1, 2026, 7 p.m.

Wildrose 4-H Multi Club

Hollingworth Arena
June 1, 2026, 7 p.m.

Grande Prairie 4-H Multi Club

Foster's Pavilion, Evergreen Park, Grande Prairie
June 5, 2026, 7 a.m.

Berwyn Multi Coveralls 4-H Club & Dixon Ville

Lac Cardinal Pioneer Museum, Grimshaw
June 8, 2026, 7 p.m.

Kinsuo Lakeside & Mirror Landing

Spruce Point Park, Kinuso
June 8, 2026, 5 p.m.

Fairview 4-H Multi Club

Waterhole Rodeo Grounds
July 17, 2026, 6 p.m.

SOUTH REGION

South Slope, John Ware, Mallow, Dusty Plains, Tilley, Bassano & Jenner

Silver Sage, Brooks
May 25, 2026, 6 p.m.

Retlaw, Grassy Lake New, Ewe, Bon Ayr, Milk River, Taber Corn Dawgs & Hays Multi

Taber Agri Plex
May 29, 2026, 4 p.m.

Lethbridge Coaldale 4-H Beef Club & Warner Beef Club

Perlich Brothers Auction, Lethbridge
June 6, 2026, 4 p.m.

WEST CENTRAL REGION

Kneehill Valley Beef Club

Innisfail Auction Market
May 25, 2026, 7 p.m.

Hay Lakes, Rosalind, Camrose, Bashaw

Bashaw Ag Society
June 2, 2026, 6 p.m.

Rangeland 4-H Beef Club & Gilby 4-H Beef

Eckville Arena
June 3, 2026, 6 p.m.

2026 Resolutions Results

EVERY YEAR, ELIGIBLE CATTLE PRODUCERS IN ALBERTA BRING RESOLUTIONS TO ABP THROUGH PRODUCER MEETINGS.

Resolutions that are carried at Producer Meetings are sent to the Resolution Committee for further consideration.

The Resolution Committee is responsible for finalizing the grouping, sorting, wording and assignment of resolutions. Resolutions may be assigned to the Board of Directors, an ABP committee, or the delegate body for consideration at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

In addition to the resolutions directed to the AGM, delegates also consider financial resolutions, special resolutions, and miscellaneous resolutions from the floor.

FINANCIAL RESOLUTION

The firm of Baker Tilly Catalyst LLP will be appointed as auditors for the 2025-2026 year-end audit.

SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS

Delegates approved amendments to the ABP Bylaws, subject to the approval of Marketing Council. The amendments include:

- the addition of At-Large Delegates,
- adjustments to the role of Zone Committees, and
- greater clarity around the role of the Zone Coordinator.

Details of these bylaw amendments are outlined in ABP Magazine, Volume 5, Issue 4. An updated version of the bylaws will also be posted to albertabeef.org once approved.

PRODUCER MEETING RESOLUTIONS

The majority of resolutions passed at the 2026 Producer Meetings related to traceability. After considering 11 of the 22 traceability-related resolutions directed to the AGM, delegates passed a motion from the Southwest Zone to defer traceability resolutions to a new working group via the Board of Directors.

Additional information on the Traceability Working Group is included on page 20.

Below you'll find the results of the resolutions that were carried at Producer Meetings, including those related to traceability. For ease of reference, we have organized the resolutions by zone.

NORTHWEST ZONE

Be it Resolved: That Alberta Beef Producers ask for complete dismissal to proposed traceability changes and to accept no further instruction from the one world health organization for animals.

Directed to: Delegates

Result: Defeated

Be it Resolved: That the Part XV (Traceability) of the Health of Animals Regulations be paused for a minimum of three years until all producers and the full livestock industry that will be affected become aware of the changes and have a choice to voice concerns and have those concerns taken into consideration and changes made based on producer and industry concerns.

Directed to: Delegates

Result: Forwarded to Traceability Working Group

Be it Resolved: That the Government be required to provide financial support to implement and acquire technology/equipment and tools to simplify and reduce financial and labour burden. Or provide a cap on technology pricing.

Directed to: Delegates

Result: Forwarded to Traceability Working Group

Be it Resolved: That producers must provide the CCIA tag numbers to purchaser at the time of sale/transfer. Purchasers must complete recordings of these tag numbers upon receipt of cattle.

Directed to: Board of Directors

Result: Defeated

Be it Resolved: That licensed auction marts and other licensed sale facilities/organizations be required to provide CCIA tag numbers to buyers of animals through their facilities.

Directed to: Board of Directors

Result: Defeated

Be it Resolved: That ABP supports a proper due legal process when CFIA accuses a producer of an offence. This allows for discovery and interveners.

Directed to: Board of Directors

Result: Forwarded to Traceability Working Group

Be it Resolved: That CFIA move towards live animal testing for a reasonable timeframe on livestock on farm instead of post mortem and provide full compensation for any costs incurred to the farmer/producer for said testing, vet bills etc. as well as offer alternative solutions to mass culling such as quarantine periods and continued negative test results.

Directed to: Board of Directors

Result: Forwarded to Traceability Working Group

NORTHEAST ZONE

Be it Resolved: That ABP should investigate the feasibility of maintaining the beef research at the Lacombe station, and if determined to be feasible, lobby the provincial government and industry to provide funding or use check-off dollars or a combination of both to continue this valuable research.

Directed to: Delegates

Result: Defeated

Be it Resolved: That Alberta Beef Producers continue to lobby government and work with other property rights groups to protect crown grazing leases to ensure the security of equity and access to grass.

Directed to: Delegates

Result: Carried

Be it Resolved: That Alberta Beef Producers work with Government and Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) to develop and push for the need of an insurance program that will insure grazing and silage corn for frost damage.

Directed to: Delegates

Result: Carried

Be it Resolved: That Alberta Beef Producers lobby Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) to ensure that only the people who own the cattle and take the risk are able to enroll in the Moisture Deficiency Program (MDI).

Directed to: Delegates

Result: Carried

Be it Resolved: That Alberta Beef Producers work to make data available to cow-calf producers to get feedback of production practices and become more competitive by using data to make adjustments.

Directed to: Delegates

Result: Defeated

Be it Resolved: That Alberta Beef Producers are not in favour of new cattle traceability regulations that CFIA is proposing.

Directed to: Delegates

Result: Defeated

Be it Resolved: That ABP requests the CFIA (animal and plant health division) be moved from the Health Ministry to the Agriculture Ministry

Directed to: Delegates

Result: Carried

Be it Resolved: That Alberta Beef Producers works with elected officials and Canadian Cattle Identification Agency (CCIA) to go back to the drawing board prior to implementation.

Directed to: Delegates

Result: Forwarded to Traceability Working Group

Be it Resolved: That traceability for producers will not ever be involved in being fined by CFIA or any other government organization for errors or omissions or non-compliance.

Directed to: Delegates

Result: Forwarded to Traceability Working Group

Be it Resolved: That the ABP check-off be made non-refundable.

Directed to: Board of Directors

Result: Defeated

Be it Resolved: That Alberta Beef Producers lobby government to support agriculture research here in Alberta to keep our industry competitive

Directed to: Board of Directors

Result: Carried

Be it Resolved: That Alberta Beef Producers lobby the provincial government to align the costs of immediate family transfer of grazing leases/permits with the costs of transfer of deeded lands.

Directed to: Board of Directors

Result: Carried

Be it Resolved: That Alberta Beef Producers advocate for regulatory clarity and professional practice standards ensuring veterinarians and clinics do not refuse to sell approved livestock prescription medicines to qualified producers solely because they are not full-service clients and

That Alberta Beef Producers support the creation of a provincial livestock producer medicine license, allowing trained producers to purchase veterinary medicines from any licensed veterinary practice in Alberta and

That this system maintain safeguards for veterinary oversight, antimicrobial stewardship, food safety and responsible use.

Directed to: Board of Directors

Result: Defeated

Be it Resolved: That Alberta Beef Producers advocate to the government of Alberta and relevant regulatory bodies for the creation of a provincial livestock producer medicine licence, which would allow licensed producers to purchase veterinary medicines from any licensed veterinary practice within Alberta, not solely their personal veterinarian, and;

That this license be obtained through a standardized province process, such as completion of an online course and competency quiz, and or authorization or sign-off by a licensed veterinarian and;

That this licensing system maintain appropriate safeguards for animal welfare, antimicrobial stewardship, food safety, and traceability, which improving access, flexibility and efficiency for Alberta livestock producers.

Note: This resolution was merged with a similar resolution which was directed to the Board of Directors. The combined motion was defeated.

Be it Resolved: That Alberta Beef Producers recognize the significance of this cost to our industry and advocate that this regulatory burden be removed as Canada has reached BSE-free status.

Directed to: Board of Directors

Result: Defeated

Be it Resolved: That Alberta Beef Producers continue to bring forward the potential animal welfare impact on disease treatment to regulatory bodies such as Canadian Food Identification Agency (CFIA) and Canadian Animal Health Institute (CAHI) and to impress the importance of securing sufficient medications.

Directed to: Board of Directors

Result: Carried

Be it Resolved: That require government to fund the losses created during quarantine and testing.

Note: This resolution was merged with a similar resolution which was directed to the Board of Directors. The combined motion was carried.

Be it Resolved: That all new regulations are paused until tags are made to withstand a standard breeding cow life cycle - a minimum of eight years.

Directed to: Board of Directors

Result: Forwarded to Traceability Working Group

CENTRAL ZONE

Be it Resolved: That regular meetings are held by delegates in their zones.

Directed to: Delegates

Result: Defeated

Be it Resolved: That ABP oppose the proposed expansion of federal cattle traceability requirements; and that CFIA be required to clearly break out its economic benefits by species and by market; and that consultation occur after those numbers are provided; and that ABP continue to support risk-based traceability aligned with North American trade realities.

Directed to: Delegates

Result: Defeated

Be it Resolved: That Alberta Beef Producers call for a hard stop to the proposed CFIA traceability changes; and That pending a full stop by CFIA, Alberta Beef Producers undertake broad, meaningful consultation with Alberta producers to develop a “Made-in-Alberta” solution that reflects the needs, challenges, and realities of Alberta’s beef industry.

Directed to: Delegates

Result: Forwarded to Traceability Working Group

Be it Resolved: That CCA and its associated provincial organizations implement a cost-benefit analysis of the current/proposed system to determine the benefits (or drawbacks) to the cow/calf producers.

Directed to: Delegates

Result: Forwarded to Traceability Working Group

Be it Resolved: That CCA initiate an effort to delete BSE as a reportable disease in Canada and globally.

Directed to: Board of Directors

Result: Defeated

Be it Resolved: That electronic manifests from LIS be uploaded and linked to CCIA movement database.

Directed to: Board of Directors

Result: Forwarded to Traceability Working Group

Be it Resolved: That Alberta Beef Producers advocate for the livestock division of CFIA to be removed from the Ministry of Health and placed under the Ministry of Agriculture; and

That Alberta Beef Producers ensure all producer consultations include in-person meetings, direct outreach, and formal written communication that is not limited to government-aligned platforms, lobby websites, or internal publications; and

That Alberta Beef Producers use widely trusted, non-partisan agricultural publications -- including but not limited to Western Producer and Canadian Cattlemen -- to reach ranchers and producers across Alberta when conducting consultations or communicating major policy issues.

Directed to: Board of Directors

Result: Forwarded to Traceability Working Group

Be it Resolved: That the Ag industry is better served when governed by agriculture advocates.

Note: This resolution was merged with a similar resolution which was directed to the delegates. The combined motion was defeated.

Be it Resolved: That once a full stop is in place, ABP go back to the Alberta producers and create a made in Alberta solution, acknowledging what would work in Ontario will not work in Alberta.

Directed to: Delegates

Result: Forwarded to Traceability Working Group

SOUTHEAST ZONE

Be it Resolved: That ABP approach the Canadian Beef Grading Agency to investigate applying quality grades on D-Grade cattle.

Directed to: Delegates

Result: Carried

Be it Resolved: That the Alberta Beef Producers and the province of Alberta are urged to consider the economic, social and ecological importance of rangelands and the pastoralists that steward these lands and consider adopting policies that will further sustain range health and the livelihoods of Alberta pastoralists; certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to representatives of the Province of Alberta and to all the Reeves of rural municipalities.

Directed to: Delegates

Result: Carried

Be it Resolved: That price insurance contracts should be able to be purchased on any day the CXME is trading.

Directed to: Delegates

Result: Carried

Be it Resolved: That the Alberta Beef Producers lobby the Minister of Forestry and Parks and the Government of Alberta to re-establish a trophy grizzly bear draw and hunt in Alberta.

Directed to: Delegates

Result: Deferred to Wildlife Working Group

Be it Resolved: That ABP lobby through CCA to the CFIA that the death and missing cattle be removed as a reportable action as pertaining to the regulations.

Directed to: Delegates

Result: Carried

Be it Resolved: That ABP lobby federal and provincial government to move CFIA to agriculture department and ABP lobby to include industry trade & commerce in its mandate.

Note: This resolution was merged with similar resolutions and directed to the delegates. The combined motion was defeated.

Be it Resolved: That CFIA should answer to Minister of Agriculture and liaison connection to Minister of Health when appropriate.

Note: This resolution was merged with similar resolutions and directed to the delegates. The combined motion was defeated.

Be it Resolved: That Alberta Beef Producers through its CCA delegates, lobby CCA to align with other animal-based proteins to have animal production be moved under Agriculture and Agri-Food.

Note: This resolution was merged with a similar resolution and directed to the delegates. The combined motion was carried.

Be it Resolved: That Alberta Beef Producers advocate to the Government of Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency for an indefinite pause on implementation of additional mandatory livestock traceability regulations under Part XV of the Health of Animals Regulations until a comprehensive risk and economic impact assessment is completed that fully evaluates the effects on cow-calf, mixed, and small-scale operations, as well as broader downstream impacts on the beef sector and rural communities.

Directed to: Delegates

Result: Carried

Be it Resolved: ABP lobby to see reports and proposed trade agreements with export markers showing a financial benefit for producers before supporting any increased regulation proposals.

Note: This resolution was merged with a similar resolution and directed to the delegates. The combined motion was carried.

Be it Resolved: Until more producer groups and producers are consulted and have input into what changes if any are needed.

Note: This resolution was merged with a similar resolution and directed to the delegates. The combined motion was carried.

Be it Resolved: That the Alberta Beef Producers board of directors recognizes no deficiencies in the current national livestock traceability framework based on its past and current performance and

That ABP advocate to CFIA, CCA and relevant federal partners for the maintenance of the current pause on the proposed amendments, with any future changes requiring clear, evident-based demonstration of need beyond the proven effectiveness of the existing systems, while avoiding unnecessary regulatory burdens on producers and

That ABP communicate this resolution to CFIA, CCIA, provincial partners and stakeholders and provide updates to members on related advocacy.

Directed to: Delegates

Result: Defeated

Be it Resolved: That ABP follow their policy and be accountable, therefore not supporting the proposed traceability changes brought from CFIA.

Directed to: Delegates

Result: Forwarded to Traceability Working Group

Be it Resolved: That pending a full stop by CFIA, we ask ABP to go back and consult with producers in Alberta and find a solution that works for our producers. Acknowledging the rules that may work in Eastern Canada, will not work in Alberta due to logistics and all species involved.

Note: This resolution was merged with similar resolutions and directed to the delegates. The combined resolution was forwarded to the Traceability Working Group.

Be it Resolved: That Alberta Beef Producers advocate to the Government of Canada, the Canadian Cattle Association and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) for an indefinite pause on the implementation of additional mandatory livestock traceability requirements under the Health of Animals Regulations until a comprehensive risk and economic impact assessment is completed and

That such assessment must fully evaluate the impacts of cow-calf, feedlot and small scale operations as well as the broader downstream effects on the beef sector and rural communities and

That Alberta Beef Producers support the establishment of a producer-led advisory council on livestock identification and traceability to provide direct, ongoing input from producers, veterinarians, auction markets and industry stakeholders to government and regulatory bodies.

Directed to: Delegates

Result: Forwarded to Traceability Working Group

Be it Resolved: *That Alberta Beef Producers advocate for meaningful, regionally representative producer consultation prior to any implementation of revised traceability regulations, ensuring practical, cost-effective and workable solutions for Alberta cattle producers are incorporated into any final regulatory framework.*

That Alberta Beef Producers support the establishment of a producer-led advisory structure on livestock identification and traceability to provide direct, ongoing feedback from producers, veterinarians, auction markets and industry stakeholders to government and regulatory bodies.

Directed to: Delegates

Result: Forwarded to Traceability Working Group

Be it Resolved: *That ABP reject shorter reporting time periods in and of themselves, including claims they overcome retroactive limitations as an isolated or standalone justification for imposing additional mandatory regulatory burdens on producers and*

That any future traceability changes must be supported by robust publicly available evidence of improvements in response times and disease control relative to costs imposed and must align with Policy 23 (1) by prioritizing cost-sharing, voluntary options, practical timelines, and minimal burden - preventing escalation under the flawed logic that "shorter is always better."

Directed to: Delegates

Result: Forwarded to Traceability Working Group

Be it Resolved: *That the Alberta Beef Producers, do hereby dedicate their support for Rangelands and Pastoralists (2026) throughout Alberta in solidarity with the United Nations International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists 2026.*

Directed to: Board of Directors

Result: Carried

Be it Resolved: *That Alberta Beef Producers recognize and document the significant, ongoing devaluation faced by producers from OTM/SRM designation - evidenced by \$500-\$700+/head rail discounts on comparable high-grade animals and \$800-\$2,400+ / head feeder discounts on heiferettes near the Over 30 Months (OTM) cusp - as a structural cost born primarily by the cow-calf sector since 2003.*

Directed to: Board of Directors

Result: Carried

Be it Resolved: *That ABP lobby inter-agency cooperation, supporting the simplification of the traceability process allowing CFIA access to brand inspection data which shows the movement and tracking methods are already in place.*

Directed to: Board of Directors

Result: Forwarded to Traceability Working Group

Be it Resolved: *That Alberta Beef Producers affirm Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) and protectionist realities frequently override science in market reopenings; reject unquantified "market protection" or catastrophe-avoidance claims as sufficient justification for additional mandatory regulatory burdens on producers (including paused analysis of specific improvements in trade access and disease response from any proposed changes before proceeding, consistent with ABP policy 23 (1) on minimizing unnecessary regulatory burden).*

Directed to: Board of Directors

Result: Forwarded to Traceability Working Group

Be it Resolved: *That the ABP board reiterates our commitment to the democratic producer driven spirit that defines ABP and that within 60 days of adoption, the Board will share with members:*

- 1. any producer resolutions, zone motions or feedback specifically supporting these amendments key elements;*
- 2. a plain summary of how producer input shaped ABPs position, including a historical refresher on traceability's producer driven origins;*
- 3. a clear answer on whether board advocacy stemmed from a producer passed resolution or other sources and*

That if no strong grassroots mandate is found, the Board will acknowledge it openly, thank members for their attention to detail and to the core values of ABP and commit to formally withdrawing support for the paused proposed Part XV amendments to allow adequate time for more zone-level producer input and dialogue before determining whether or not proceeding with the proposed part XV amendments and any future regulatory positions are in the best interest of Alberta producers so we preserve the direct-democracy heart of ABP

Directed to: Board of Directors

Result: Forwarded to Traceability Working Group

Be it Resolved: *That ABP urgently advocate to Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA), and federal partners for:*

Enhanced inter-agency collaboration to strengthen upstream prevention of human-mediated FMD risks, including better traveller education, targeted screening for arrivals from endemic countries with agricultural ties, improved kiosk verification of exposure declarations and coordinated risk assessment for immigration-related exposures and:

- 1. continuation of the current pause on traceability amendments with any future changes developed via meaningful producer consultation to minimize burdens and demonstrate clear, evidence-based benefits for preventing FMD introduction (beyond containment)*
- 2. balanced national risk management prioritizing dominant introduction pathways, which supporting farm gate biosecurity as a key producer layer*
- 3. that ABP communicate this resolution to CFIA, IRCC, CBSA, CCA provincial partners and stakeholders and provide regular advocacy updates to members.*

Directed to: Board of Directors

Result: Forwarded to Traceability Working Group

SOUTHWEST ZONE

Be it Resolved: *That ABP pursue with all effort, to seek resolutions to the concerns with CCA to the end that ABP can remain a strong part of a strong CCA in order to support beef producers within Alberta and Canada.*

Directed to: Delegates

Result: Carried

Be it Resolved: *That ABP increase the provincial check off to reflect the increase in cost of operations and to better fund our industry.*

Directed to: Delegates

Result: Defeated

Be it Resolved: *That ABP explore a directional check off to allow producers to direct their check off to recognized beef organizations both provincially and nationally.*

Directed to: Delegates

Result: Carried

Be it Resolved: *That ABP uses check-off reserves and funds to develop a provincial accountable traceability system. Alberta uses its own tags and data bank.*

Directed to: Delegates

Result: Defeated

Be it Resolved: *That that the entire CFIA be moved immediately from the Ministry of Health Canada, to the Ministry of Agriculture Canada under the Department of Health of Animals, and include a producer advocacy board.*

Directed to: Delegates

Result: Defeated

Be it Resolved: *That ABP advocates its CCA delegates to lobby the federal government to move the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) to report directly to the Federal Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister.*

Note: *This was merged with similar resolutions and was directed to the delegates. The combined resolution was defeated.*

Be it Resolved: That ABP lobby Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) to implement an ongoing Advisory Board of knowledgeable producers and representatives that are accountable and transparent to the industry to guide CFIA to a traceability system that would be useable and functional for all sectors.

Directed to: Delegates

Result: Carried

Be it Resolved: That ABP work with other beef industry groups in Western Canada to identify gaps, and shortfalls in the current system and find workable solutions to create a traceability system.

Directed to: Delegates

Result: This resolution was amended to remove the word “Western.” The amended motion was carried.

Be it Resolved: That Alberta Beef Producers help organize research and case studies that will identify obstacles, errors, safety issues and costs of the traceability being currently proposed.

Note: This was merged with a similar resolution and directed to the delegate body. The combined resolution was carried.

Be it Resolved: That Alberta Beef Producers defer all passed resolutions regarding traceability to the Board so that a working committee can be created to better understand producers concerns around the new regulations, investigate the value of animal movement traceability and clarify the CFIA’s role and past actions to ensure that ABP policy aligns with the majority of Alberta producers’ desired outcomes.

That Alberta Beef Producers requests that CFIA pause implementing or publishing any new regulations until the outcomes of the working group have been presented to the ABP board and communicated through its national partners.

Directed to: Delegates

Result: Carried

Be it Resolved: That compensation evaluation systems be amended to include accurate animal value by industry professionals (e.g. cattle buyers) representative of true and timely market assessment relative to producer business opportunities.

Directed to: Delegates

Result: This resolution was amended to end with “... during times of disease investigations.” The amended resolution was carried.

Be it Resolved: That ABP continue to fund CCA and enthusiastically support CCA.

Directed to: Board of Directors

Result: Defeated

Be it Resolved: That animals ordered destroyed as well as producer time and resources are eligible for compensation

Directed to: Board of Directors

Result: Carried

Be it Resolved: That ABP lobby the government to allow ranchers to protect their animals from any and all predators no matter the season and report to Fish and Wildlife on land under care and control of producer.

Directed to: Wildlife Working Group

Result: Carried

Be it Resolved: Alberta Beef Producers lobby the departments of Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture to create a deeded land owner tag program where landowners can manage and issue tags to known hunters based on a percentage of wildlife animal counts. These tags would allow for extended hunting hours.

Directed to: Wildlife Working Group

Result: Carried

MISCELLANEOUS RESOLUTION

In accordance with the Rules of Procedure, delegates may submit miscellaneous resolutions for debate by the delegate body. The following resolution was submitted by delegates from the Southeast Zone and approved for inclusion by the AGM Chairs.

Be it Resolved: That ABP lobby AFSC to increase the Young Farmer Loan to \$4 million to assist with initial purchase or expansion of capital purchases.

Directed to: Delegates

Result: Carried ▼

ALBERTA REALTY



- MLS, Auction, or Exclusive Offering
- 4% Sale Commission
- Free Gun with every purchase
- If it's not listed, we'll find it!
- Serving Alberta - border to border

TY WILSON - 780 781 7144



Where the grass is greener, cattle thrive.

Greener pastures don't just happen—they're made. Corteva Agriscience™ Range & Pasture herbicides clear out weeds and brush, so you can grow more grass, support healthier herds and improve land sustainability.

Proven solutions for productive pastures.

HERBICIDE **Restore™ NXT** **Restore™ II** **Reclaim™ II** **Grazon™ XC**
Rinskor™ active

Maximize your pasture's grass production potential.
Visit RangeAndPasture.corteva.ca or contact your Corteva Range & Pasture Specialist today.



™ * Trademarks of Corteva Agriscience and its affiliated companies. © 2025 Corteva.

ABP Elects 2026 Board at AGM

ABP HELD ITS 2026 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING IN EARLY MARCH, BRINGING TOGETHER DELEGATES FROM ACROSS THE PROVINCE. IN ADDITION TO REVIEWING THE ORGANIZATION'S WORK AND DEBATING RESOLUTIONS, DELEGATES ELECTED SIX ELIGIBLE PRODUCERS TO THE ABP BOARD OF DIRECTORS.



ABP's 2026 Board of Directors. Left to right: General Manager Brad Dubeau, Phil Hamar, Miles Wowk, Ayden Almberg, Dorothy Thengs, Lee Irvine, Bernie Doerksen, Chair Doug Roxburgh, Karen Shaw, Brad Mappin, Jay Hager, Vice Chair Kent Holowath, Finance Chair Brenda Rosadiuk. Photo credit: Seven D Media.

Elected for 2026

- Aydon Almberg
- Bernie Doerksen
- Phil Hamar
- Brad Mappin
- Brenda Rosadiuk
- Dorothy Thengs

Continuing Directors

- Jay Hager
- Kent Holowath
- Lee Irvine
- Doug Roxburgh
- Karen Shaw
- Miles Wowk

The first meeting of the 2026 Board of Directors was convened at the close of the AGM. During that meeting, Directors appointed the following executive:

- Doug Roxburgh, Chair
- Kent Holowath, Vice Chair
- Brenda Rosadiuk, Finance Chair

ABP also held elections for national representation, including Canadian Cattle Association (CCA) Board Members and a Beef Cattle Research Council (BCRC) representative.

Canadian Cattle Association (CCA) Board Members

- Jim Bowhay (two year term)
- Brodie Haugan (three year term)
- Craig Lehr (three year term)
- Chad Meunier (two year term)
- Graham Overguard (one year term)
- Brayden Schmidt (one year term)
- Miles Wowk (one year term)

Beef Cattle Research Council (BCRC)

- Fred Lozeman

ABP extends its thanks to everyone who contributed to a successful AGM, including delegates who attended in person, producers who stood for election, and the more than 500 participants who observed online for all or part of the meeting. 🍷

NEW TIMELINES FOR 2026

Beginning this year, Producer Meetings will move back to a fall schedule, and ABP's Annual General Meeting will return to Red Deer in December.

DELEGATE NOMINATIONS OPEN IN JUNE

As part of this new timeline, delegate nominations will open in June. Producers interested in learning more about becoming a delegate are encouraged to visit albertabeef.org/delegates.

STAY INFORMED

More details about Producer Meetings, AGM planning, and key dates will be shared in upcoming issues of ABP Magazine, through ABP's regular Cattle Country radio spot, and online at both abpdaily.com and albertabeef.org.



Newly elected CCA board members. Left to right: Miles Wowk, Craig Lehr, Jim Bowhay, Brodie Haugan, Graham Overguard, Chad Meunier, Missing: Brayden Schmidt. Photo credit: Seven D Media.

RESULTS ARE IN:

Updates on Improved Cattle Health and Feed Efficiency

SUBMITTED BY BEEF CATTLE RESEARCH COUNCIL

NEW EXAMPLES OF HOW YOUR CHECK-OFF DOLLARS ARE WORKING FOR YOU

Canadian Beef Cattle Check-Off dollars that beef cattle producers allocate to research fund a variety of studies—from keeping cattle healthy and improving pasture productivity to boosting feed efficiency and ensuring high quality beef. This article is part of an ongoing series that highlights recent research results (beefresearch.ca/blog/tag/research-results/). You can find all BCRC research summaries under “For Producers” (beefresearch.ca/research/research-summaries-fact-sheets/).

Can a chute-side test help diagnose BRD more accurately?

If sample preparation and test times can be reduced below the current three minutes, blood biomarkers such as haptoglobin (an indicator of inflammation) could help veterinarians and feedlot staff develop more refined antibiotic treatment protocols for bovine respiratory disease (BRD), in combination with traditional pen checks and rectal temperature.



Scan to learn more about project code POC.10.24.

What is the relationship between feed intake, efficiency and methane emissions?

Practices that improve feed efficiency on pasture can also reduce greenhouse gas emissions, meaning what is good for the bottom line can also be good for the environment. This study also showed methane production may be a heritable trait, suggesting it could be used to select for more forage-efficient animals in the future.



Scan to learn more about project code FDE.03.19.

Can we speed up STEC screening at packing plants?

An experimental media shows promise for detecting Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* (STEC), but more work is needed before food processors can use it with confidence.



Scan to learn more about project code POC.01.23.

What causes itchiness in cattle?

Itchy cattle do not necessarily indicate a heavy lice infestation or that lice are ivermectin-resistant. Itchiness is complex, and there is no specific cause or effective solution yet.



Scan to learn more about project code ANH.03.20.

Can a probiotic given at spring processing help reduce weaning stress?

Lactobacillus probiotics given during spring processing may help reduce physiological processes associated with weaning stress. Future larger animal trials are needed to detect impacts on behaviour, performance and health.



Scan to learn more about project code POC.14.22.

Can legume varieties with high lipid content support feed efficiency and reduce methane emissions?

This research team advanced sainfoin breeding, and the techniques used brought us closer to high-lipid content sainfoin and alfalfa varieties. The use of these varieties has the potential to reduce feed intake, maintain feed efficiency and reduce methane emissions.



Scan to learn more about project code FRG.09.18.

Can we develop an effective alternative to antibiotics for the treatment of BRD?

Under lab conditions, phage endolysins (substances produced by viruses that can kill bacteria) and antimicrobial peptides showed promising results against BRD pathogens. However, more work is needed before there will be cost-effective alternatives to antibiotics in cattle production. ▼



Scan to learn more about project code AMR.02.18.



ABP Zones and Delegates

NORTHEAST ZONE

Aydon Almberg

BOARD MEMBER

PHONE 780-209-0211

EMAIL almbergaydon@gmail.com

Jay Hager

BOARD MEMBER

PHONE 780-753-4375

EMAIL 07jaybar@gmail.com

George L'Heureux

PHONE 780-689-8036

EMAIL georgelheureux1@gmail.com

Josie Pashulka

PHONE 780-787-0077

EMAIL kenpashulka@hotmail.com

Charlotte Wasylik

PHONE 639-840-1252

EMAIL Charlottewasylik1@gmail.com

Kailey Wirsta

PHONE 780-614-5255

EMAIL kwirsta2@gmail.com

Miles Wowk

BOARD MEMBER

PHONE 780-210-2501

EMAIL wowkmiles@gmail.com

SOUTHEAST ZONE

Clayton Andrew

PHONE 403-435-2555

EMAIL clayton.andrew93@gmail.com

Kent Holowath

VICE CHAIR

PHONE 403-820-6352

EMAIL holowath@telusplanet.net

Craig Lehr

PHONE 403-581-7242

EMAIL craiglehrsgr@gmail.com

Brad Mappin

BOARD MEMBER

PHONE 403-740-6547

EMAIL bradmappin@gmail.com

Wacey Manning

PHONE 780-753-4578

EMAIL wacey.manning@hotmail.com

Ryan Slenders

PHONE 403-363-7906

EMAIL ryan.slenders@gmail.com

SOUTHWEST ZONE

Cole Barten

PHONE 403-393-6968

EMAIL colebarten@gmail.com

Jim Bowhay

PHONE 403-994-0517

EMAIL jnbowhay@gmail.com

Layne Burton

PHONE 403-682-7545

EMAIL layne.e.burton@gmail.com

Lee Irvine

BOARD MEMBER

PHONE 403-671-4878

EMAIL lee@irvinefamily.ca

Graham Overguard

PHONE 403-638-9459

EMAIL overguardgraham@hotmail.com

Dorothy Thengs

BOARD MEMBER

PHONE 587-444-0118

EMAIL dthengs@hotmail.com

NORTHWEST ZONE

Bernie Doerksen

BOARD MEMBER

PHONE 780-841-1769

EMAIL raffi.resort@gmail.com

Robert Driedger

PHONE 780-841-7825

EMAIL twilightfarms@gmail.com

Becky Kimble

PHONE 780-832-5496

EMAIL rafter2b@yahoo.com

Dyanna Marquardt

PHONE 780-536-6046

EMAIL marquardtranches@gmail.com

Jolene McDermott

PHONE 780-219-5375

EMAIL Jcoates357@gmail.com

Jess Verstappen

PHONE 780-523-0187

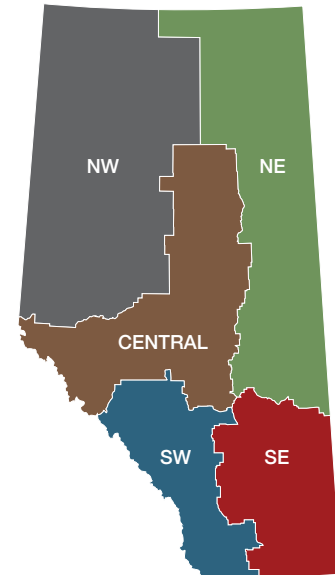
EMAIL jessverstappen@hotmail.com

Jamie White

PHONE 780-814-0972

EMAIL mudmiget@hotmail.com

ABP ZONE MAP



CENTRAL ZONE

Jake Boychuk

PHONE 587-784-9317

EMAIL jboychuk97@gmail.com

Phil Hamar

BOARD MEMBER

PHONE 780-515-1482

EMAIL philhamar@gmail.com

Colin Rice

PHONE 403-318-2464

EMAIL colinrice@gmail.com

Brenda Rosadiuk

FINANCE CHAIR

PHONE 780-542-1186

EMAIL rosran4@gmail.com

Doug Roxburgh

BOARD CHAIR

PHONE 403-588-5534

EMAIL doug.roxburgh@bullseyefeeds.ca

Karen Shaw

BOARD MEMBER

PHONE 780-233-8697

EMAIL shaw.karen.ab@gmail.com

Kirk Wildman

PHONE 780-305-1661

EMAIL towawcattle@gmail.com

About the Cover Artists



Megan Weir is an oil painter and multi-generational rancher—sixth-generation on her mother’s side and fifth on her father’s. Her work reflects the life she’s known, the land she grew up on and the stories that unfold with each season. Since she began painting in 2017, Megan has been passionate about expressing her experiences through oil, drawn to the textures and bold colours that bring her experiences to life on canvas. Her layered technique creates depth and movement, mirroring the ever-changing landscapes and moments of ranch life.

More than just a depiction of the environment around her, her paintings celebrate the lifestyle, hard work, and beauty found in the simplicity of rural life. Each piece is signed with her ranch’s brand—the quarter circle T—in use since 1897. Through her art, Megan shares her connection to the land and the generations that came before her, preserving their stories and heritage with each brushstroke.



Terri Mappin is the co-owner and operator of Lazy M Bar Ranch, a cow-calf and mixed-grain operation outside of Byemore, Alberta. She is also an accomplished freelance photographer. We are grateful to Terri for the use of her photograph as the inspiration for the cover painting. ▼

Managing Your ABP Magazine Subscription



To subscribe, unsubscribe, or update your mailing address for ABP Magazine, please complete the subscription form on our website. Visit albertabeef.org/abp-magazine/magazine-subscription/ or scan the QR code to manage your subscription details.

Producer Meetings are on the move...

Photo credit: Rafter 17 Ranching Ltd.



FALL 2026

Save the date for the producer meeting in your zone.

Help influence ABP's priorities. This fall, consider presenting a resolution in your zone.

Northwest Zone	
La Crete	Sept 28, 2026
High Prairie	Sept 29, 2026
Grande Prairie	Oct 1, 2026
Central Zone	
Drayton Valley	Oct 5, 2026
Leduc	Oct 6, 2026
Barrhead	Oct 7, 2026
Southwest Zone	
Olds	Oct 13, 2026
Cochrane	Oct 14, 2026
Fort MacLeod	Oct 15, 2026
Southeast Zone	
Rumsey	Oct 20, 2026
Brooks	Oct 21, 2026
Oyen	Oct 22, 2026
Northeast Zone	
Vegreville	Oct 27, 2026
Wainwright	Oct 28, 2026
St. Paul	Oct 29, 2026

Watch for locations and registration details on www.abpdaily.com this fall.

Visit abpdaily.com/producer-meetings

Call 403-275-4400