



## FAA Newsletter

March 31, 2026



We hope this Newsletter finds you well with spring just around the corner! There is no shortage of “noise” out there again this spring. From domestic influences to world politics, it all seems to be landing on our doorstep so to speak. Our hope is that you are able to focus on what matters most in this very busy time of year and keep the wheels turning on your operation.

### Upcoming Dates and Issues to be aware of:

#### **FAA Conference and AGM: Save the date - January 28 to 30<sup>th</sup> 2027.**

- Last year’s event was held February 5,6,7 2026 at the Red Deer Resort and Casino. Dianne Finstad did a great job leading us through the event once again and we took in a great lineup with the likes of Ashley Nicholls owner of Reach Ag with a couple of sessions, Mark Parsons VP and Chief Economist at ATB Financial along with a slew of great speakers. We were very excited about Friday nights entertainment this year, Morgan Klaiber and her fabulous band were awesome! More to come later in this newsletter on STARS but suffice to say it was a real milestone event.

#### **ABFI:**

- Producer Annual Payment Notices will be coming out in April.
- Prepayment of December annual payment or June annual payments are due by June 15, 2026.
- June 15/December 15 payments: Please be aware of your options for your annual payments in relation to branding calves. For example, you have the option to make the December payment by the June 15<sup>th</sup> prepayment date to avoid branding the calves.



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### **WeCAP:**

- Producer forms for the 2026 cash advance are located on the FAA website for the April 1<sup>st</sup> kick off.
- 2026 Program Year Interest-free limit – The Government set the limit at \$250,000. Cash Advances > \$250,000 to \$1,000,000 at **Prime – 0.50%**. There is a special Interest free limit of \$500,000 that applies only to Canola again this year. Application fee of \$300 + GST.
- June 20, 2026, is the last day for pre-production advances with Intended Seeding Report.

### **Interest Rebate:**

- 2026 Program Year opens April 1, 2025

### Provincial Board News

- Our Directors have been on the road attending various industry meetings. Among those we had a contingent at the Alberta Beef Industry Conference in Calgary. This is an excellent event that brings a number of Industry groups and producers together to hear from good speakers and share issues and ideas and we were pleased that AG Minister Sigurdson spoke positively about the Feeder Program. Your board was represented at Ag Expo which featured a strong trade show and so good breakout sessions. Our Directors are meeting with College/University students and similar visits are planned to further engage youth in our industry.



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### **Provincial Guarantee Increase!**

- We were very pleased with the \$75M Guarantee increase received August 27<sup>th</sup> from the Provincial Government. This brings our total Guarantee to \$225M for the province and we are appreciative of the work that Minister Sigurdson and his team did to see that this request came to fruition.
- We estimate that 95% of the total \$255M in Guarantee authorization has been allocated to LFA's already. We encourage LFA's to take a good look at their upcoming needs with particular focus on the increase in the price of cattle. It's important to get increase requests in early and ensure you give yourselves room to operate in the future.



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### Picture Butte Feeders Co-op

- There have been a number of articles and commentaries in the media, some well-intended and others missing the mark. Our group has focused on achieving results. Our goal has been to see PBFC return to full operations and protect the program for both PBFC and FAA's general membership as a whole.
- FAA has been able to act as a conduit between the Minister and PBFC from the early stages and we continue to support the Restructuring Officer (RO) in the court ordered mandate.
- This is an interesting role for FAA as we do not hold oversight or a governance role for the LFA's but rather act as advocates for the program and the membership while liaising with Government and Industry.
- Any interested party should follow this link to the RO's website [Picture Butte Feeder Cooperative | Alvarez & Marsal | Management Consulting | Professional Services.](#)
- If you follow this link, you can review the legal documents as well as the Member Updates that have been provided to the members of PBFC.
- Under the Member Updates tab, located on the left of the landing page, you can see the communication to date that gives a pretty good picture of where we are.
- There have been several Town Hall meetings for PBFC members that FAA has participated in that provided feedback on operations, progress and next steps. The events have been attended by producers, the RO team as well as representatives of the Province and FAA.
- The December 1<sup>st</sup> Town Hall saw an election of a producer led board of directors for PBFC which is a major step in the process. The RO stated that they had full confidence in the administration of the office and will now focus their efforts on procedural and governance training for the board. February 24<sup>th</sup> we supported a day of board training and February 25<sup>th</sup> they held a successful AGM. Ongoing there will be a period of oversight from the RO but we are nearing the point of closing out the RO's involvement.
- Bylaws, Board Governance, policy and procedures have all been reviewed so the incoming board is walking into a situation that is well defined and set up for success.
- In no way does FAA want to downplay the significance this situation has had on the Feeders Association Loan Guarantee Program. We do however have a high degree of confidence that PBFC is returning to full operation at scale and that the provincial program as a whole is not at risk. We encourage the boards of all LFA's to review your responsibilities and ensure you are making solid decisions for your members as we all do our part to ensure success.
- There have been a number of calls for any responsible parties to be held to account. FAA does not have any teeth in this process. This falls to the Government of Alberta and the RCMP so we remain focused on the future of the program and how we might better it moving forward.



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### Resolutions from the 2026 AGM

- There were three resolutions passed at this year's AGM.
  - Use of Electronic Signatures.
  - Extending the current 12 month maximum contract length with a possible 3 month extension to be a maximum 15 month contract length with a possible 3 month extension.
  - To see the corporate borrowing limit increase from \$3,000,000 to \$9,000,000 with a combined maximum individual shareholder liability of \$3,000,000.
- We are presently preparing supporting information and will be submitting these to the Ag Minister, Deputy Minister and the Assistant Deputy Minister along with the Provincial Supervisor. Those individuals then consider how best to apply to the Act and Regulation in future updates.

### Review of Resolutions from 2025 AGM

At the 2025 AGM, we had several resolutions that we continue to lobby for. The following updates on this are as follows:

- The requirement to rebrand cattle that are sold from one LFA to another should be removed for a number of reasons. While this did come forward as a resolution at the AGM the FAA Board had been working on this prior to AGM. We believe the original LFA Brand should be sufficient to establish ownership and maintain a security interest for the second LFA with the proper process followed. FAA has had meetings with LIS and Regulatory Services on the matter and has sought a legal opinion on how this change could be implemented. This information has now been presented to the Provincial Supervisor as LIS has indicated a comfort level with this and we look forward to further discussions on how we might move this initiative forward.
- The quarterly FAA Newsletter is to be distributed to the general membership via email. Currently we do have a bit of a client list and distribute the Newsletter there as well as to the Administrator, Supervisor and Chair of each LFA. We investigated Service providers to assist but while pretty slick the costs are prohibitive. At this point we will keep this in house look to expand our mail out list. If you receive unwanted email from us please just reply requesting we unsubscribe you and we will remove the address from future notifications. We want to ensure that we are providing information to those that want it and not to those that prefer not to receive it.
- The 90 day hold on deposits was discussed as being too long in today's business environment. The direction was to see it reduced to as low as 15 days but certainly not more than 45 days. This request has been sent to the Ag Minister and we look forward to further discussions there.



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- FAA has a youth program within ABFI and it was requested that a similar program be instituted at the Feeder level. FAA has also submitted this request to the Ag Minister for consideration.

#### Identifier Brands for LFA's

- We know that many LFA's have long been using identifier characters added to their brand to assist in differentiating ownership of cattle that are house together or in close proximity to each other. While the practice has been accepted and appreciated by the Brand Inspectors it has never been formalized with LIS.
- We prepared a submission for LIS and shared that document with our industry partners ABP, ACFA and WSG. We received Letters of Support from each and submitted the package to LIS for consideration.

#### Program Updates

**ABFI** - We have some very exciting advancements to our product line this past year!

- **Online access for ABFI via website Portal.**
  - We recently sent LFA and Producer access information for the Portal! LFA's now have access to individual and portfolio reporting.
  - As with any new technology we are at the stage where you have to launch it to see what improvements or corrections need to be made. Currently we have identified a number of required improvements and are working with our provider Syndi to see those installed. We appreciate your feedback during this process and your patience as we build on what we believe will be a hallmark of our program going forward.
- **Enhancements - Bull Program, Youth Program, Culls and Replacement Policy and increase limits to \$1,000,000.**
  - We are seeing participation in all the program enhancements which speaks to the industry need. We are particularly noticing a real growth in new borrowers which will help grow the program into the future.
- **ABFI Reminders**
  - For those LFA's that are not currently using ABFI or those that would like to use it to a greater degree please feel free to reach out to us anytime to learn more.
  - FYI, remember that you may utilize a WeCAP advance to make that early payment allowing you to avoid branding and hold on to the calves to sell when the market is in your favour.



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- A combination of the policy and program improvements, seasonal buying and a strong market have seen the ABFI desk processing the largest volume of business in years. It creates a hectic pace, but staff are stepping up to the challenge as best we can. We look for further internal process improvement to continue to refine our offering here.
- **WeCAP Cash Advance**
  - WeCAP delivers cash advances on livestock using either LPI or Agri-Stability as security, but we ALSO can advance on a variety of crops including hay and alfalfa using either Production Insurance or Agri-Stability. By bundling all your commodity cash advances with WeCAP you can deal with one dedicated administrator and use sale proceeds from one agricultural product to pay off a different agricultural product without penalty.
  - We continue to see strong interest in the program primarily up to the Interest free limit set for this program year.
  - Producers are also taking advantage of the exceptional rate of **P-.5%** which is a market leader on the Interest Bearing portion available. It is unlikely that your operation has access to lower priced cash flow financing, so we encourage you to take advantage.
  - Producer forms for the 2026 cash advance are located on the FAA website or contact [wecap@feederassoc.com](mailto:wecap@feederassoc.com) for assistance.
  - LFA's can earn \$75 for each application they assist their members with!
  - Quarterly account statements will go out in a few weeks.
  - Prime Minister's office announced last year that IF advances for canola only will increase to \$500,000 for 2025 and 2026 in response to trade pressures.
  - The IF limit for all other commodities is set at \$250,000 for 2026.
  - It is worth noting that both CCGA and Farm Cash (AB Grains) have a higher rate/fee combination than WeCAP so let's be sure to support WeCAP!
- **Interest Rebate**
  - The Rebates are very valuable to our Feeder members. We are seeing a notable increase in producer applications every program year taking advantage of this beneficial program .
  - The 2024 Program Year had 494 Applicants and \$1.4M in rebates to date!
  - We have been diligently working on refinement of our internal processes to see improvement on the timelines for submissions. 2023 Rebates have all been submitted to Ottawa for processing now and 2024 and 2025 Rebates are now both being processed simultaneously. We are keeping 2024 and 2025 current.
  - LFA's please have your eligible members sign an Interest Rebate application at the start of their Feeder Loans to ensure eligibility for maximum benefit and send into the Leduc office by the following month.



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- **FAA**

- There is an updated Manual of Directives and Procedures that is now complete and is available on our website.
- 24/25 Fiscal year there were 337K Head of Cattle purchased. 23/24 Fiscal Year there were 412K head of Cattle financed and 396K the previous year.
- For Sheep we had 9K head financed 24/25 year vs. 6K head the previous year.

- **LIT**

- We currently have 13 associations participating in LIT.
- The program had a substantial claim paid out in Plan D. A strong reminder of the value this program can hold and the cooperative nature that supports our members and LFAs.
- Surplus rebates were calculated and paid to LFAs at the end of June with holdbacks on Plan D to rebuild the trust account.
- 286 head in claims processed this past fiscal year in total for \$363K. Approximately .766% of the total purchased this year.
- 232 head in Claims since September 1, 2025.

#### Industry Partners

- Over the year FAA has renewed efforts with fellow industry organizations to support a cohesive industry where all the sectors can work more closely together.
- Our directors have attended meetings with Alberta Beef Producers, Alberta Cattle Feeders, and Western Stock Growers.
- We have also had directors from industry groups consistently attend our board meetings as guests. We want to continue to mutually share knowledge for the benefit of the industry as a whole and see support of our industry partners as a meaningful way to achieve this.
- We are represented at LIS and have been able to effectively support them on the great work they provide our industry. Brand Inspection is critical. As a reminder, the changes LIS made to how they deliver private treaty and non-arm's length inspections include the requirement for the producer to pay with cash or cheque on site to avoid any delay in receiving the manifest.
- At a recent Board Meeting, Kent Holowath with ABP joined us and shared information on the rationale for ABP's withdrawal from CCA effective July 1, 2026. There are now provincial meetings underway looking at how best to see CCA represent all of the country. Discussion is ongoing with CCA on potential future involvement.
- There was also discussion between the Board and ABP about the upcoming new rules around the movement of Cattle coming out of CFIA. Our board issued a release calling for a pause in the roll out. We are pleased to note that after much industry pressure the pause is in effect while further study and consultation is completed.



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- ABP also heard that the NRCB had previously grandfathered CFO licensing but is currently reviewing this decision. They may require previously grandfathered operations to register by 2030. Please be on the watch for more from NRCB surrounding this topic.
- ABP also has been hearing of Water well registration concerns. Wells that are currently unregistered or not properly registered could see access issues for owners in the case of any future water shortages in that area. This also applies to water access on Crown lease land. Producers can reach out to Alberta Environment and Protected Areas, Regulatory Services Division to enquire on existing or proposed well licensing.



At this year's convention we hit a major milestone in our STARS fundraising. FAA is very excited to see our membership come together each year to support this critical service. \$96K raised this year for a lifetime total of \$1,015K!

This is the release that STARS put together to acknowledge our efforts:

### **STARS and Feeder Associations of Alberta Celebrate Major Milestone with Upcoming Helicopter Logo Unveiling**

STARS is proud to celebrate a remarkable milestone with a longtime ally in rural Alberta. Feeder Associations of Alberta (FAA), a dedicated supporter since 1990, has now raised more than **\$1 million** to help STARS deliver critical care to patients across Alberta.

For more than three decades, FAA has embodied the strength and generosity of Alberta's agricultural community. Each year, nearly 300 producers, partners, and supporters gather at FAA's annual fundraising auction, where every donated item directly supports STARS' lifesaving missions. These efforts helped STARS carry out 3,694 missions last year – an average of 10 missions per day across Western Canada.

Later this year, STARS and FAA will commemorate this achievement in a special way: by unveiling a STARS helicopter, proudly bearing the FAA logo. The ceremony will honour FAA's extraordinary commitment to ensuring that patients in rural and remote communities receive the critical care they need when every minute counts.

"Community partners like the Feeder Associations of Alberta make our mission possible," said **Dr. John Froh, President & CEO, STARS**. "Farmers and ranchers often work far from immediate medical help. Day in, and day out, they are here for all of us, supporting our food system. We are



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honoured that we at STARS can be there for them, when needed. FAA's leadership shows what rural Alberta can accomplish when people come together to protect their neighbours."

Thanks to longstanding allies like FAA, STARS can continue doing what it was built to do: bring world-class critical care directly to patients, whether they're facing a farm accident, medical emergency, or crisis in an isolated area. FAA's support strengthens STARS' ability to respond quickly, confidently, and compassionately - no matter where an emergency happens.



STARS extends its deepest gratitude to the FAA, its members, and the agricultural communities they represent. Together, we look forward to celebrating this milestone helicopter, and celebrating the many lives saved along the way.

### General Comments

As always, we serve you the membership and feel honoured to do so. It was great connecting with many of you at the Zone meetings AGM's and industry events. They say the only constant is change and our industry and our country are both feeling it. Our Mission Statement: "To deliver financial Services which enhance success". We remain committed to this. Wishing you all the best.

Have a good one!

Craig Guthrie  
Executive Director

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