



## **FAA Newsletter**

September 30, 2025



We are heading into fall now and all that the season comes with. Some great harvest progress and Livestock sales that are all but unheard of. Very exciting times. Our team has been going hard since the last newsletter with everything from Convention/AGM to program enhancements and Industry work.

As always we are embracing the challenge!



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

##### Mail Strike:

- News of the mail strike will see us making changes to delivery of documents if we need move to electronic means to get information out in a timely manner. Keep in mind that cheques mailed into us will likely be delayed so please take advantage of electronic payment options were ever possible.

##### FAA Conference and AGM:

- Save the dates! **February 5,6,7 2026** has been set for this year's meetings. We are working hard on contracts and content to ensure we provide a strong event for the membership and continue to add value to the industry. We have some very exciting speakers already contracted and some new entertainment and plans for an expanded trade show so more to come on that soon!

##### Holiday Office Hours:

- Our office will again be closed for the statutory holidays as well as between Christmas and New Years. Given the calendar this year we will be working December 24<sup>th</sup> then closing to return to work January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026.

##### ABFI:

- December 15 is fast approaching so keep that annual payment date in mind if it applies to your contracts.
- Be on the lookout for Producer Statements coming out shortly with an updated look and enhanced content.
- For those producers that have not had an inspection already this year look for that happen later this fall.
- 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.
- Heifer Contracts that are going to be rolled over need to be completed by December 15<sup>th</sup>.

##### WeCAP:

- Applications to transfer 2025 in-production crop advances to a stored advance must be submitted prior to December 31, 2025.
- There is no deadline for livestock (cattle and sheep) advances during program year.
- All livestock advance repayments must be made within 30 days of selling the commodity with supporting proof of sale.



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### Provincial Board News

- Our Directors have been on the road attending various industry meetings with more to come this fall. Among those are meetings with the GOA and our Industry partners. Board members are also reaching out to a number of Colleges and Universities to get in front of AG students.
- LFA AGM dates are coming in now so those will have our Team on the road as well.
- The Board and Staff had the opportunity to tour the Stars facility at the Edmonton International Airport. It was great to see our dollars at work and to gain a bit of an understanding of how they operate.



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### **Provincial Guarantee Increase!**

- We were very pleased with the recent announcement regarding the \$75M Guarantee increase approval received August 27<sup>th</sup> from the Provincial Government. This brings our total Guarantee to \$225M for the province. We are very thankful for the work that Minister Sigurdson and his team did to see that this request came to fruition. It was a long process but underlines the Ministers support of what we do and the impact it has on the province. GOA staff have moved quickly to see increases provided to those LFA's with all paperwork in place. We estimate that 1/3 of the new \$75M 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 two 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
- Next steps in the process will see the RO call for interested parties to let their name stand as Directors. Following that a Membership meeting will be called to have an election of officers.
- Bylaws, Board Governance, policy and procedures have all been reviewed so the incoming board will walk into a situation that is well defined and set up for success. Oversight from the RO will remain in place for a time but this is a key piece to the governance of PBFC normalizing.
- 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 AGM

At this year's AGM we had 11 Resolutions brought forward for consideration. Of those, a few require additional lobby of the Government and Industry to see implementation. 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 well as LIS 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.
- 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.



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- 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

#### **Website**

- We are very pleased with the new website that was launched this year. It has an updated look and streamlines where we find information and relevant forms. There is also a great interactive map for FAA and ABFI that assists you in finding the closest LFA to your operation.

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

- **Online access for ABFI via website Portal.**
  - We are currently beta testing a Portal on the website! Launch is anticipated very shortly and will see LFA's have access to individual and portfolio reporting and Producers having individual access to a wealth of information about their contracts and accounts.
  - More information to come with the official launch!
- **Bull Program**
  - We will require the producer to have at least 20 cows on contract for each bull financed.
  - Maximum 2-year amortization.
  - 20% deposit required.
  - Per head limit set and adjusted with market in mind. Current limit at \$9,500 per head.
  - Bulls are required to be branded and semen tested.
  - Full repayment not to exceed the 2-year maximum amortization and no later than the final payment on the last remaining cow contract.
- **Youth Program**
  - Available to youths 14-18 years old.
  - 20 cow cap on financing.
  - If they take advantage of the full 20 cow purchase option, they are eligible for the Bull Program
  - Requires co-signature from an adult. Cosigners do not have to be a previous member, nor do they have to be related to the youth.
  - Normal program individual and yard maximums will apply to the cosigner which is to include the Youth Program financed amount.



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- **Cull Sales**

- Proceeds from cull sales will be made available to the producer provided that the balance outstanding is under 40% of the originally contracted loan amount on active contracts.
- Release of funds is subject to the approval of the Supervisor and inventory numbers are to be verified by inspection that is no older than 6 months.

- **Replacements**

- ABFI financed cows can be culled and replaced with purchased or existing owned cows.
- The cost of the replacement is the producer's expense.
- The replacement is to be ABFI branded.
- Cull sale proceeds are to be paid to producer if the original cow is replaced.
- We will hold cull sales proceeds for a maximum of 3 weeks prior to applying to the outstanding principal. This allows time for replacements to be put in place.
- In the case of a Self-Purchase to replace a cull cow, updated waivers and searches are required.

- **Program Limits increased from the current \$250K/\$500K up to \$500K/\$1,000K.**

- This is double the available cap from historical levels.

- **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.
- Over the course of the year, we were very pleased to add Alberta Choice Feeder Cooperative, Barrhead Feeder Association and Raven Feeder Association to the list of LFA's offering ABFI. Congratulations and Welcome to All!
- 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.
- Fall inspection forms have been sent to the LFA's and we will be getting Producer Statements are going out in the next week or so.



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- **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 \$250,000 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 2025 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 recently announced that IF advances for canola only will increase from \$250,000 to \$500,000 for 2025 and 2026 in response to trade pressures. We have made the adjustments for our existing producers that are impacted by this change. Interest owed up to date of the change is still payable but a number of folks will see reduced interest costs and perhaps additional funds available under other inventory classes.
- 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 \$73M+ in eligible loan funds to rebate.
- For an indicator of value, in the Program Year 2022 we were able to rebate over \$1.5 million in interest back to 384 producers.
- We have been diligently working on refinement of our internal processes to see improvement on the timelines for submissions. 2023 Rebates and 2024 Rebates will both be processing simultaneously, so producers may see their 2024 rebate prior to



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their 2023 as we work on getting 2023 caught up and we are keeping 2024 and 2025 current.

- The 2025 Program year applications opened April 1<sup>st</sup> and we have 175 Applicants so far. 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.

- **FAA**

- 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 14 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 year in total for \$363K. Approximately .766% of the total purchased this year.

### 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 our latest 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 were concerns with



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Fiscal responsibility, results, timeliness of communication, governance and representation. Discussion is ongoing with CCA on potential future involvement.

- 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.

#### 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 and industry events. They say the only constant is change and our industry and our country are both feeling that. We do our best to work with what we can control and provide support and services where it makes sense. Wishing you all the best.

Have a good one!

Craig Guthrie  
Executive Director



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