



FAA Newsletter

July 31, 2026



What a summer it has been! Most of us encountered “Monsoon June” as I have heard it called. Our hope is that you have come through whatever extreme weather events that hit your operation and enjoy the rest of the summer. The markets remain strong despite a variety of trade and political news which is great to see. We continue to focus on what we can control and providing the best service we can.

Upcoming Dates and Issues to be aware of:

FAA Conference and AGM: Save the date - January 28 to 30th 2027.

ABFI:

- 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 15th prepayment date to avoid branding the calves.

WeCAP:

- Livestock cash advances (cattle and sheep) are still available for the 2026 Program Year; there is no deadline to apply. Seeded crops can also be advanced on using either AgriStability, Crop Insurance or Global Ag Risk Solutions (GARS).
- Producers in good standing can apply for Program Year 2026, even if they have an outstanding advance from Program Year 2025.
- The due date of seeded acre reports was July 31st and a big thank you to all our crop producers who met this deadline.



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- If Livestock Price Insurance (LPI) was used to secure your calf advance this year, please be mindful of your insurance expiry date. Producers must maintain continuous LPI coverage until the cattle are sold and the advance fully repaid. If you are coming up to your expiry date, please call the office and let us know what your plans are for selling or purchasing a new LPI policy.
- A reminder that crop and sheep advances from the 2025 Program Year are due for repayment no later than September 30, 2026, or within 30-days of sale, whichever is earlier, and with valid proof of sale.

Interest Rebate:

- 2026 Program Year opened April 1, 2026.
- LFA's please remember to remain current with your monthly submissions as we are committed to keeping the program current.

Provincial Board News

- Your Staff and Directors have been on the road representing FAA once again. We were at all of the Zone meetings held in the month of June. This year saw a big increase in overall attendance which is so important to holding a productive meeting. Special thanks go to the LFA's that hosted these events. There was really good dialogue at each meeting and feedback from the membership that is critical to maintaining the organizational health. Our team also attended a number of industry meetings. Among those we had a contingent at the Alberta Beef Industry Stampede Summit in Calgary. This is an excellent event that FAA assists in hosting. We were very pleased to see Speakers that included the Premier Danielle Smith, the federal Ag Minister Heath McDonald, the new Provincial Ag Minister Tara Sawyer, past Provincial Ag Minister and current Minister of Affordability and Utilities, RJ Sigurdson as well as a host of other dignitaries and trade groups from as far away as the States. We attended the Agriculture and Agrifood reception as well. This event has a thousand plus in attendance and includes all the industry groups, provincial and federal politicians and trade delegations. In addition, there were other events hosted that included multiple Premier's and some great speakers from industry. These are a great opportunity to shed light on our industry and organization. Our role with LIS saw us represented at the international ILIA conference in Utah, gaining real perspective on industry led issues and ensuring Canadian content in this organization. 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

- We were very pleased with the \$75M Guarantee increase received August 27th 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 have been advised that 100% of the total \$255M in Guarantee authorization has been allocated to LFA's now. We encourage LFA's to take a good look at their upcoming needs with particular focus on the increase in the price of cattle. Given the recent increase we received and the fact that we have a new Ag Minister it is not likely that there will be another increase soon but your board focused on that issue.

Picture Butte Feeders Co-op

- As has been stated in the past 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.
- We are very pleased to see that PBFC is operating independently with their new elected board having full control of operations. They continue to receive enhanced inspections and our Provincial Inspector has stated that there have been no irregularities and they are operating within the program mandate. Earlier this summer the Minister Sigurdson confirmed the conclusion of the Audit with any necessary changes having been addressed and implemented. He further clarified that the audit did confirm that all Cattle and Funds have been fully



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accounted for. The minister made clear the continued support the Provincial Government has for the Feeder Associations Loan Guarantee Program and invited FAA to sit down and discuss updates to the Act and Regulations where appropriate. We will continue that conversation with our new Ag Minister Sawyer.

Alberta Auction Markets Association

- At a recent meeting with the Alberta Auction Markets Association, we had a good discussion on transaction timelines. It is incumbent on all of us to ensure the timely movement of funds. The Markets are committed to sending out payment as quickly as they are able and we need to do the same on our end. It doesn't matter what the transaction is there is a cost to someone if it becomes delayed. We ask that the use of electronic payments be considered wherever practical. The days of writing a cheque and mailing it are in most cases behind us. Administrative delays are sometimes unavoidable in all of our processes but we need to strive to reduce those wherever possible to respect the integrity of our industry while being mindful of carrying costs that the Auction Markets, LFA's and FAA deal with. These are real dollars and cannot be overlooked.

Program Updates

- **ABFI**

The cattle market has made a huge impact on the opportunity of ABFI to increase its exposure in the marketplace. The numbers below are amazing.

- 66% percent increase in dollars lent from 2025 to 2026.
- 67% increase in contracts year over year from 2025 to 2026, with a 28% increase in the number of head financed.
- Replacement Heifer contracts for the same time period increase of 86%

For those wishing to finance with Alberta Breeder Finance Inc. we have some reminders:

- A producer wishing to finance breeding cattle must apply through their Local Feeder Association
- Once a producer has gone through the application and recommendation process, ABFI conducts the credit review process to determine whether an approval will be granted.
- If an approval is granted the credit conditions must be met prior to any purchases.
- Once the credit conditions are met, a Security Deposit **MUST** be in place with ABFI prior to any purchases. At that time a Purchase order **MUST** be issued by your Local Feeder or Breeder Association to your auction market/vendor where you plan on purchasing.



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We would like to remind anyone with Replacement Heifer contracts that you plan on rolling into a bred contract to get your preg checks completed as early as possible. This is in order to facilitate a smoother flow within our office. We really appreciate your assistance.

Thank you to our Local Feeder and Breeder Associations for your support of Alberta Breeder Finance Inc. in our continued growth.

We have made some big steps in the last couple of years!

- **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. We are working on a few enhancements to the current product as we strive for accuracy and useability. 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.
 - 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**
- Program Year 2026 is well underway! For the first quarter of 2026 (April – June), WeCAP increased its Alberta market share of cattle advances from 38% to 43%, as compared to the same period last year. This is very exciting as we continue to grow our service!



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- WeCAP initiated a time-limited marketing campaign to spread the word of the Advance Payment Program (APP), but the best results for growth still come by word of mouth. Please continue to refer our service to friends and neighbors!
- The APP is a complimentary offering to producers with breeder contracts whether with Alberta Breeder Finance Inc. (ABFI) or any other breeder co-op, we can provide your farm operation with interest free short-term cash flow, so you are not forced to sell calves when the market is not in your favor.
- Inquire today as to how to stack our programs including breeder financing, cash advance, feeder financing, and interest rebate!
- **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 493 Applicants and \$1.9M in rebates
 - The 2025 Program year has 505 Applicants as of June 2026. \$696K rebated thus far.
 - The 2026 Program year has been operating smoothly.
 - 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**
 - 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.
 - Since September 1st there have been 338K head of cattle and 10K head of sheep financed totaling \$1,253,703,181.
- **LIT**
 - We currently have 13 associations participating in LIT.
 - The program had a substantial claim paid out in Plan D in 2025. 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.



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- 286 head in claims processed this past fiscal year in total for \$363K. Approximately .766% of the total purchased on the year.
- 315 head in Claims have come in since September 1, 2025, totaling \$262K.

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.
- 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.



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new Helicopters in recognition of this milestone. Well done folks, what an impact!

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! The picture show our logo on one of the



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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

*If you would like to have your email address removed from this mail out please let our office know and we will be happy to assist.

*If you receive a request via email to make any change to your accounts or transfer any funds please do not respond to that email and contact us immediately.



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