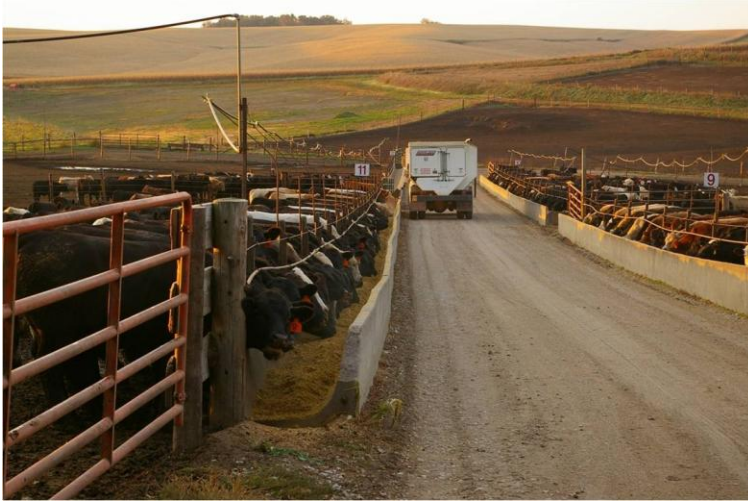




FAA Newsletter

September 30, 2026



We seem to be screaming through fall with winter fast on its heels. Our producers are putting in the work required and our team is providing the best support we can during this busy time. Harvest and fall works have much of our attention. It's an exciting time of year and I hope you find it rewarding on your operation. Even with political and trade disruptions the markets remain strong which is great to see. Our focus here is on improving

process and efficiency with a focus on controlling what we can and reacting efficiently to what we can't.

Upcoming Dates and Issues to be aware of:

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

- **Registration Packages and Resolution Forms will be distributed by November 1, 2026, as well as being made available on the website under Events.**

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.
- If you wish to receive your calf sale funds sooner please give Myrna or Lotte a call to get a release on any funds from calves over and above those funds needed to make your Annual Payment. This means you can get a cheque directly from the market for the difference rather than waiting for cheques and paperwork to clear.



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- For those with replacement heifer contracts that are due by December 15th; please make sure to have your paperwork completed on or before, this includes a preg check by a veterinarian for those heifers being retained. Be sure to schedule these early as with everyone else, veterinarians get extremely busy in the fall as well. The interest of your Replacement Heifer calf loan is due by December 15th and if not received by then will be rolled into the principle of the new loan.
- If you require a Pregnancy check or a Semen test for your loan, remember these need to come from a Veterinarian. This models the requirements from the AVMA and practices at our Auction Markets.

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.
- 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 is 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 your calves or purchasing a new LPI policy.
- A reminder that all cattle, sheep, and stored crops are to be repaid within 30-days of selling the commodity with a supporting proof of sale.
- Next in-production deadline is December 31st, 2026, for producers to apply to transfer their crop advances to a stored advance.

Interest Rebate:

- 2026 Program Year remains open until March 31, 2027.
- LFA's please remember to remain current with your monthly submissions of applications, additions, and payouts. We are committed to keeping this program current.



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Provincial Board News

- After a hectic spring and summer Directors have been tending to their own operations and supporting the monthly business of FAA. We are looking at upcoming AGM's as well as the National Feeder Associations Conference which Alberta hosts this year. This brings a national group of Board members and administrators and is an excellent opportunity for us all to share successes and better understand the industry across the country.



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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.
- We know that 100% of the total \$255M in Guarantee authorization has been allocated to LFA's now. As we indicated in the last newsletter, 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 is focused on that issue.

Picture Butte Feeders Co-op

- PBFC continues to operate independently with their elected board having full control of operations. They 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 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 initiated dialogue with our new Ag Minister Sawyer in pursuit of that same connection.

Alberta Auction Markets Association

- At a Provincial meeting we agreed that timeliness of transactions is a key element. It is incumbent on all of us to ensure the expedient 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.



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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.

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.**



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- 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

- The Western Cash Advance Program continues marketing efforts via social media and Google. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) has also continued to advocate for the Advance Payment Program via direct email marketing and social media platforms which indicates the Federal Government's commitment to supporting Canadian farmers.



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- 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 had 506 Applicants. \$885K rebated thus far.
- The 2026 Program year has 317 Applicants to date. The program remains open until March 31, 2027.
- 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.
- At the close of 25/26 fiscal year, 349K head of cattle were purchased through feeder loans totaling \$1,304,141,916.
- The previous 24/25 fiscal year there were 337K head of cattle purchased.
- For Sheep we had 13K head financed 25/26 year vs. 8.7K head the previous 24/25 year.
- **LIT**
- We currently have 12 associations participating in LIT.
- At the close of 25/26 fiscal year, 328 head in claims were processed totaling \$282K. Approximately 0.95% of the total purchased in LIT on the year.
- The previous 24/25 fiscal year there were 286 head of cattle claimed, totaling \$363K. Approximately 0.77% of the total purchased in LIT on the year.



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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.
- ABP is currently hosting producer meetings around the province. Visit their website to see one closest to you to gain additional insight.
- 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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General Comments

We are mindful that the members and LFA's are our clients and we work diligently to support you and add value to the services we all provide. Our Mission Statement: "To deliver financial Services which enhance success". We use this to guide our decision making and build strong programs that are sustainable and successful.

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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