



Partner Profile: Alberta Cattle Feeders' Association

Submitted by ACFA

The Alberta Cattle Feeders' Association (ACFA) has been the voice of cattle feeders in the province of Alberta since 1973. We address feedlot, market, trade, and competitive issues and provide a forum for policy development. Through an open and transparent process, the ACFA welcomes the bridging of partnerships to move the industry forward.

Cattle Feeding in Alberta

The feedlot is the most intensive component of the beef production chain, where a significant portion of value is added. Alberta's feedlots operate with leading-edge management systems designed to capture the benefits of the beef production chain and the genetic base.

Alberta is Canada's largest beef producing province.

- 180 feedlots (of 1,000 head or more)
- 1.74 million head annual output
- 70.5% of Canada's fed cattle production

Alberta's feedlots are located in close proximity to the country's largest meat packers and processors. Two-thirds of Canada's cattle slaughter capacity is located in south-central Alberta. This direct link captures value through the market chain. Cattle feeders' knowledge and expertise make them leaders on a broad range of issues critical to industry competitiveness.

Alberta cattle feeders excel in their profession through the following industry management practices:

- Feeding cattle with a focus on animal health, nutrition, and well being
- Being flexible and feeding for specific markets
- Procuring a variety of weights and classes of cattle and thereby supporting the entire cow calf and yearling industries
- Buying feed grain and co-product from a variety of sources, enabling these industries to enjoy alternate markets for product

Our Mission

To aggressively pursue innovative and collaborative solutions for a thriving Alberta beef industry on behalf of Alberta Cattle Feeders' Association members.

Our Strategic Priorities

- Working with partners to access and develop markets that maximize value for our members
- Enhancing competitiveness by reducing regulatory burdens
- Identifying and advocating for research priorities that support our vision and mission
- Working to improve industry relations, governance, and funding
- Building our membership by delivering value

Our 4 Pillars

- Animal Care
- Animal Health and Production
- People and Communities
- Environment

Cattle feeders enhance environmental stewardship:

- ACFA led the drive for a Feedlot Emergency Preparedness Plan to protect animals, the environment, and human health in case of a disease outbreak or natural disaster
- Participating in environmental impact studies such as Alberta Agriculture and Resource Development's Livestock Impact on Groundwater Quality in Alberta
- Regular interaction with the Natural Resource Conservation Board on environmental initiatives
- Active members of the Intensive Livestock Working Group and Agri-Environmental Partnership of Alberta

For more information, go to <http://www.cattlefeeders.ca> or call (403) 250-2509.