

Farm Freedom and Safety Act
Fairview Ab
Hosted by Todd Lowen, MLA and
Minister of Agricultural and Forestry, Honourable Devin Dreeshen
By: Julie Watchorn

The Alberta government plans to bring about the **Farm Freedom and Safety Act**
Everyone knows not every farm business is the same as the neighbours, not one runs their farm the same. The hour's change from season to season, depending on the operation. Grain farmers can run 24 hours straight when seeding and combining.
Cattle farmers can run on long shifts during calving and baling and silage season!
Therefore farmers and ranchers need more flexibility to meet workplace standards

In 2017, primary agriculture contributed almost 5.2 billion to Alberta's economy
There are over 40,000 agricultural operations; about 46% are classified as livestock operations. We as an industry employs over 33,000 people half of whom are full time workers year around other half are seasonal or temporary.

In 2015 when the *Enhanced Protection for Farm and Ranch Workers Act* was passed extending work place legislation to farms and ranches in Employment standards, Workers Compensation, Occupational Health and Safety and Labour Relations; but only applied to wage earned, non-family workers
So now they are looking for input on what they need to see in this new *Farm Freedom and Safety Act*

- Job Safety
- Job Protection
- Vacation Pay
- Minimum Wage
- Days of rest... Every 28 days /4 days off
- Currently waged, non-family has a right to union; no applications up to date

Farm and ranch employers are required to have Workers Compensation for their paid, non-family workers

In 2015, 1,300 employers held optional coverage

Now in 2018 that number increased to 4,215 and the WCB accepted 917 claims
Did you know that if a worker is injured and their employer does not have an account WCB would process their claim. WCB will open an account and assess premiums retroactively.

Workers injured at work are eligible to receive benefits regardless of fault

Occupational Health and Safety

This held the most contention in the room

Some of their standards are not reasonably practicable

If you have 5-19 workers you must have a Health and Safety Rep. for each job site.
Therefore if you are working in 2 different fields they each must have one...
You must follow OHS legislation for any work sites
In BC there is specific rules for agriculture that over ride other regulations

When we arrived, we all sat at tables with various people who were from different agricultural dynamics. Some were grain, some were just cattle and one was just bees
We all had different ideas on what would work for our operations

- Some may need more than WCB to cover all hours of operations
- The hours defiantly need to be more flexible to work with each season!
The combining doesn't stop at 5pm
- How are kids going to learn anything if they cant be out there! They have to stay away until they are 16 years old!!!
- Need more options -OHS and WCB
- OHS needs to be educated on how farms actually work
- Do not need city people making the rules if they have never step foot on a farm
- Class 1 drivers legislation was not related to agriculture it was an over reaction to a bad situation
- \$10,000 fee on class 1 drivers
- F1 drivers (which is an agricultural Class 1 with stipulations) is cheaper in Sask. and Illinois
- Agricultural education in our classrooms are not true to form being taught in our classrooms; need to redo our curriculum
- Do something with our seed royalties why do we need to keep paying!?
- AFSC adjusters- Are we going to have enough adjusters for all the varying crop damages. You can phone for an inspection and they wont show up for 6 weeks! That's a long time
- Grazing leases- Why does it take so long to transfer titles??? A year and a half ... why is it under Environment & Parks? Its agriculture...

So its safe to say that people want Farmer led research they want actual farmer/ranchers to be making the rules not some quacks from behind a desk that has never stepped foot on a farm

Todd Lowen, MLA
Devin Dreeshen, Minister of Agriculture
Dan Williams, MLA Peace River riding
Kenda Lubeck, Alberta Ag. and Forestry; Farm Safety
Sarah Murrant, Alberta Ag. and Forestry

Cattle Market Outlook

Hosted By PCBFA

Rycroft, AB

AFSC and Vision Credit Union had tables set up with give aways and door prizes

AFSC talked about their Young Farmer loans

2.4% for 5/yrs.

Over 40/ 20% down

Canfax Marketing

Brian Perillat

Risk remains elevated, can be managed

Markets don't like uncertainty

Big picture- Generally bullish red meat markets

Highly uncertain about cattle markets

Tyson had a huge fire in their Kansas plant where they processed 5600 cattle per day so the price of boxed meat went up and live cattle price went down

They say the demand for beef is still strong

People are eating more beef than ever

Record exports over 3 billion selling at higher prices

Our Canadian beef markets are staying competitive and growing faster than US

Canadian herds are declining

500-600 kills a day in Balzac plant

70% of our beef goes to the US

We sold \$130 million of beef to China BUT WE PAID 34% in TAIRIFFS so in the end did we lose???

China also has ½ the worlds hogs. They were hit with Swine Flu which has no vaccine they are down 20-30%

Brazil and Australia are selling to China but with Australia having the smallest herds since 1989 because of drought could be short

Storms in the US wiped out a million cows in one day they have 95 million but that will hurt

Feedlots wont make a noticeable profit

What drives the market?

- Exports/Imports
- Our Dollar is always a major factor
- Always after a change Ex: Election

Canfax has a mobile site you can go to

<https://cfxproapp.canfax.ca/>

Has their market research and more information !

Brian Perillat

(403) 275-5110

www.Canfax.ca

Cattle Marketing Workshop

By: Brian Harcourt

Speakers 2 from AFSC..Gave an update on their various available farm loans.
For more specific info give them a call.

Cattle MKT Outlook..Brian Perillat..403 275 5110..wwwCanfax.ca

The market has declined over the past several months.

Risk remains high but the Red meat picture is generally bullish.

many variables and unknown outcomes, meat \$ up in the store but cattle \$ down.

In US 5K to 6K are slaughtered daily.

Demand is strong in Canada and consumption is rising.

Canadian production is up 7%, faster than US, up 30% since 2015.

Bolzac plant slaughters average 500 head daily.

Canada exports 2 1/2 billion yearly.

Meat Production currently, Pork #1, Chicken #2, Beef #3.

US production Flat..19 m yearly. Farm profits good in 2014 and 2015, today not so.

Cattle herd shrinking smallest since 1988.

Total Canadian head 12M, highest was 2005 at 17M.

Canadian \$ is in a good place at around 75 cents.

Speaker Brian Perillat..

Steps to Livestock Marketing Success..

No. 1, Estimate Costs.

No. 2, Gather market info including market outlook.

No. 3, Know your product.

No. 4, Set several target prices.

No. 5, Evaluate pricing and delivery alternatives.

No. 6, Stick to your plan.

No. 7, Evaluate your plan.

Marketing is more than just selling.

For your farm to be a successful business,

it must include marketing as part of the farm management process..

Dr. Allen Williams

Principles of Compounding, Diversity and Disruption.

1..Compounding..Never any singular effect, always + or -.

Everything we do cascades and compounds and has epigenetic effects.

Epigenetics ..is the term used to describe the study of characteristics or "phenotypes" that do not involve changes to DNA.

2..Diversity..you want highly diverse and complex animals and pasture mixes. Grasses, legumes, Forbs, (weeds) even sprays.

Diversity is Key.

3.. Disruption..Soil has great resilience, Planned purposeful disruption.

Creates a host of compounding effects. Flexibility is also a Key.

Alter stock density, do not move in the same pattern.

Alter grazing heights, rest periods, species order, time of season, year.

Plants have a memory as does animals.

Best Tool..Observation, sight, sound, touch, taste and smell helps decision making.

2019 CBIC – Canadian Beef Industry Conference
BMO Centre Stampede Park
Calgary, AB
August 12 – 16, 2019

Garry Candy

This was 3 days of information about the beef industry – history, present and future. There were concurrent sessions as well as keynote speakers.

The main thing that I took away from this conference was that the Canadian Beef Industry and Cattle Industry are in great shape and position in the world. The things that we have had to do, such as CCIA tags to give history on animals, meat analysis regarding gate to plate information, has been paying off in a big way.

The meetings started in several rooms depending on where your interests lay.

Dr. John Bassarab, Dr. Troy Drake and Dr. John Crowley convened the first on genetics and breeding.

Dr. John Bassarab – Ph.D. Alberta Ag – Lacombe Research Centre

- Spoke about feed efficiency, health and climate effects on cattle
- Long term calving rate is 84% to weaning with most lost to infertility and about 4-5 early calf death
- Has worked with crossbreeding to take advantage of hybrid vigor (heterosis)
- Spoke about Beef Booster with Imogen, Angus, Charolaise and others.
- Mentioned a seminar coming up in Spirit River on Nov. 1.
 - Mentioned work of Dr. Roy Berg at the Kinsella Research Ranch, 12,000 acres in eastern Alberta. He is credited with revolutionizing the cattle industry with cattle breeding from 1960 – 1988. The Kinsella Ranch was renamed in 2014 in honour of him and is now call the Roy Berg Kinsella Ranch where there are now 850 head of genetically sequenced cattle

Dr. Troy Drake – Dr. Veterinary Medicine, University of Saskatchewan; owner of Herdtrax Inc.

- Talked about the future of genomics in the cattle industry – pros and cons. He suggested that very good things can happen with selective breeding programs
- Data collection and use is the only way to make informed decisions.
- He says DATA is the cowboy in the board room

- Finished by saying that we need common sense approaches and ended with a quote – “It ain’t what you don’t know that hurts you; it is what you do know for sure that ain’t so that hurts you”

Dave Bolduc – Stavely, Alberta – President of the Angus Association

- Dave and Dyce Bolduc own and operate Cudlobe Angus
- Began in 1967 with 3 animals, 2 heifers and a bull calf. Now have over 500
- Started breeding programs based on DNA testing\large influence on angus breeding and have sales like Real Bulls for Real Cowboys Sale.
- **Tim Caufield** – Professor of Law at the U of A - Research Director of the Health Law Institute
- Spoke of life in the age of political anxiety – fear and anxiety is crushing reality
- Explained reality using impact drivers and response
- Claims it is the best time to be alive – crime is at almost at all time low despite the negative headlines (make the best news)
- Fear works better than hope in most cases because we are wired to worry
- Risk is amplified and society is a megaphone for risk
- Fear is a powerful force – wellness industry does \$4.2 trillion spent on stuff with no evidence – pushing fear
- The word “Natural” sells 40 billion dollars of food per year, cherry picking results to claim organic is healthier. With organic on the product, the cost rises and there is very little data to back up the claims
- This info often causes people who cannot afford “organic” fruit for their kids to not buy fruit at all
- A Reader’s Digest poll asked American to name the most trusted people – top 3 out of 100 were celebrities – Sandra Bullock came in 3rd while Barack Obama was listed as 65th
- Says if you have looked at real facts – speak up. Most people tend to believe the first snippet on the internet and the news and not follow up to determine its veracity
- Refer to this as relative risk , not percentage of crap – testimonials is not evidence
- Tim is a good speaker with common sense – he has had several books published

Fawn Jackson – Senior Manager - Government and International Relations and taking CCA's message to help foreign trade

- Canada has good market access with beef exports up 20 % this year as of June
- Trade agreements include quantity vs quality, tariffs, the new NAFTA – CUSMA
- CUSMA has been ratified by Mexico who expects Canada to move in step with the USA (which at this point has no clear path)
- Trade with Korea has areas to be addressed such as verification, tattooing, etc. Korean tariffs are down from 40% to 26.7% on muscle
- CPTTP – Japan – tariffs dropped on beef to Japan
- Vietnam tariffs went from 20% to 6.8% which now is a viable market
- CCA is working on the impacts of the Chinese beef trade halted and semen exports to China as well as pork
- Spoke about the utilization of the WLPIP – Western Livestock Price Insurance Plan now available in the 4 western province
- Canadian – European Trade Agreement (CETA) allows 65,000 tonnes duty. The EU program is working on protocols for mature cattle and VBP raised cattle
- Positive development in the export industry and now working the U.K. re: pre and post BREXIT

Michael Young – New Global Strategy Segment

- Canada and the US are competitors on all levels
- Need to promote grading as a lot of countries have no system
- Adding full stories to the beef will improve market access
- Bench Marking – if you can measure it, you can manage it

Panel Discussion

- **Chef Clinton Zhu** – China – Professor with Chef Training – Academy trains 1600 – 1800 chefs per year
 - 14 hour flight to Canada to attend conference
 - 25 years' experience in china
 - Says next generation in china is going towards the western way of life

- Prefers Canadian beef because it is good and its history is traceable
- **Cam Daniels** – Harmony Beef Canadian Company
 - Food safety and supply systems matter
 - Trace the ranch to feedlot to packers to procurers to the market
 - Process 550 head/day. Markets include US, Japan, Hong Kong, Korea, Dubai
 - Noted that 25% of the world will be Muslim by 2025
- **Alex Fontaine** – Montpak International out of Quebec
 - Exporting milk fed veal, grain fed veal and lamb
 - Small company (1300 employees) supplying small niche buyers
 - Plants in Los Angeles
 - Largest markets are the US, Japan and Halal markets
- **Questions put to the panel:**
 - Chef – why do you like Canadian beef?
 - Answer: only real competition is Australia and there is a lack of consistency in the grading systems. Younger Chinese like western food, clothes and music
 - What are the difficulties with importing beef?
 - Government rules, tariffs and value added products are handled differently. Market now closed for political reasons. At this point, Alex said – let the Chinese executive go home and the market will get better
- All three of the panelists have many of the same issues and all agreed that quality, traceability and meat safety are at the top

Genomics Panel:

- **David Bailey** – Genomics Alberta and **Dr. Karin** – professor of Veterinary Medicine with the U of C
 - Agreed importance of research and how DNA is and will play a large role in production and marketing of beef
 - Spoke of the donation by the Pattersons of W.A. Ranches to the U of C. Ranch is on the outskirts of Calgary – 19,000 acres – 6000 deeded and 13,000 leased with provisions that it remain a working ranch as well as a research facility. Dr.

Karin called it a working lab for applied research and animal health and welfare, livestock and wildlife. Stress and vaccine reaction, including intranasal vaccines will be some focus areas

- **John Crowley** – Genomic Scientist from Edenborough
 - Spoke of the role DNA testing will play in the future of the beef industry and marketing
 - Says still missing data in the face of knowledge
 - Dairy herds are using sexed semen ; using beef semen on dairy cattle makes the male calves more saleable and lucrative
 - Stated re: consumer and political surveys – often altered based on certain groups and attitudes (surveys end up being what they want to see)
- **Tim Sapuck**
 - Conservation to help beef production
 - Birds depend on great plains grasses which are declining to make more farmland
 - Grazing helps the plains whether heavily or lightly grazed
 - There is a prairie crisis – land used for urban sprawl and cropland is affecting bird life
 - In 40 years a 70% decline in grassland birds is expected
 - Species at Risk partners with Aglands Ranch Management for beef and birds
 - What is said: Eating beef hurts the environment. What is not said: Not eating beef hurts the environment
 - Some realities:
 - Anti-beef forces ahead
 - Great Plains suited for beef and birds
 - Ducks Unlimited on board with this
 - Limited resources for this
 - Need to establish strategic relationships
 - Need to develop market plans
- **Questions for the panel:**

- How do we get media onside?
 - Answer: one way is to invite them on farm tours – they tend to write and talk about things they have not seen
- Should this information be included in the universities
 - Answer: should be included in undergraduate studies particularly in nutrition
- Define processed foods
 - Not grinding meat or canning fruit
- **Andrea – Dietician**
 - Beef is best protein source – 75 grams of beef is equal to 2 cups of black beans in protein and amino acids
 - Plant based diets are pitted against meat
 - 5% of Canadian calorie intake comes from beef, pork and lamb
 - Ultra-processed foods account for 50% of calorie intake
 - Distractions of plant vs animal – Green Washing – promoting green cooking etc.
 - It takes 23 ingredients in plant based burger to match 1 in beef
 - Sustainable nutrition – beef helps to utilize iron from plants by 150%
 - Less than 10% saturated fat comes from red meat – the most comes from processed foods
 - Same amount of fat from beef as from olive oil
 - 60% of fat in beef will not increase cholesterol

All markets now greatly affected by uncertainty of what Trump and the US do. Markets remain good in Canada with cattle numbers remaining flat since 2006 despite beef consumption was 1980 – 1988 was cut in half by doom published on red meat

Canada is 9th in meat production in the world. 12 minutes of work by the average worker in the US will buy 1 pound of good beef

Because of Swine Fever, 20 – 25% of sow population has been lost. 50% of Global Pork is produced in china

There were lots of careful predictions using some history but the beef industry seems to look strong. World volatility due to unstable US marketing strategies as well as foreign policies. Rising oil production in the US and OPEN have been covering beef price drops

This was a very good conference but because of concurrent sessions you miss some segments due to conflict.

Todd Loewen – MLA – Devin Dreasham – Minister of Agriculture

August 22, 2019
Fairview, Alberta

Garry Candy

This meeting was held as a follow up to an election promise to repeal Bill 6 and replace it.

The meeting was not set up to give information but to dispense it. Some topics brought up around it were costs and ruling around temporary foreign works, farm wages, the MELT (Mandatory Entry Level Training Program for truck drivers), OH&S rulings and WCB.

Four main suggestions from the group:

- Give farmers the choice of using WCB or other suppliers to give basic coverage for medical, return to work and loss of income protection
- Exempt small farms from employment legislation
- Ensure basic safety standards are in place
- Reduce regulatory burdens and red tape for farmers

The government was basically asking what changes need to be made so farmers have flexibility in employment standards, OH&S and labor relations. The approach here was good in principle but now we need to see the results.

Cattle Outlook
August 23, 2019
Rycroft, Alberta

Garry Candy

AFSC – Denise: lender for 19 years

4 Types of Farm Loans

1. Revolving fixed interest for 1, 2, and 3 years
2. Next generation loan for under 40
 - 10% down on land and up to 35 years amortization
 - 3.4% down to 2.4% for 5 years – No payout penalties
3. Normal lending – 20% down. Alberta producer debt consolidation up to 25 years; lock in up to 10 years
4. Business loans – Agri business – directly to finished product – 20% down for up to 25 years. Rural business loan – 20 years no penalty now up to 15 million instead of 5 million

AFSC Livestock Price Insurance – Kim

- Risk management loans – premium to purchase a forward price
- 3 classes of cattle
 - 550 – 650 weaning
 - 750 – 950 finish weight
 - Fed price
- Purchase on Tuesdays and Wednesdays each week
- Claims on Thursdays, Fridays and Mondays – 1:30 – 7:00
- Check AFSC website to receive daily prices
 - Printable calendar of insurance
 - Price protection plan covers any number of animals

Canfax Marketing – Brian Perillat (brian_perillat@canfaxmarketing.ca)

- All markets are down due to trade wars

- Volatility declined in Canadian markets
- Risk elevated
- Uncertainty on the rise (world markets don't like volatility)
- Current market sentiment
 - Bullish red meat but uncertain markets
 - Optimistic on red meat markets
 - Packers are taking the large slice
 - Red meat is high but cattle are low
 - 2.5 million more cattle in USA than in 2015
 - Tyson plant down 6% at kill out because of a huge fire at a plant in the USA
- Demand is strong – Canada beef consumption is on the rise
- Record export values over 3 billion this year – more beef at higher prices - Canadian beef production up 7% since 2015– faster growth than the USA.
 - 70% of beef goes to USA
 - Japan is 2nd biggest export market
- Global meat outlook ranked:
 - Pork
 - Poultry
 - Beef
- Could have locked in 600 weight at 230
- China has more hog producers that Canada has pigs
- Australia has had drought and is down 30% in cattle numbers
- USA cattle numbers are basically flat
- Our price vs USA price – Canada basically higher
- Cows are seasonal in Canada – Canadian price staying good. Packers making a killing (no pun intended). Feed costs are a large factor
 - Replacement heifers down 5%

- Grass fed steers – 1.80 for 1000 lb.
- Smallest cattle herd since 1988
- Dairy calves being fed out in southern Alberta – filling feed lots even with higher feed price. 67,000 kill per week in Canada

Market Drivers

- Dollar is major factor: 74 – 77 cents on USA dollar good; 80 cents and above slices into cattle market
- Yearling market not good right now
- August futures – minus 3 – his guess is 180 for 550 lb steer
- 1 cent drop in Canadian dollar means a 250 per 100 weight increase