



AFA in Action

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After a very challenging fall 2018 harvest season, as of this email, we see that Alberta Agriculture and Forestry [reports](#) that up to 85% of major crops are combined. We hope everyone will continue to be able to bring in their crops successfully.

Nominate mental health advocates in your community

The Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) recently announced the annual *Brigid Rivoire Award for Champions of Agricultural Mental Health* to recognize an individual, organization or group of individuals making outstanding contributions in raising awareness and addressing the stigma of mental health in agriculture. AFA is asking their members to help spread the word about this important award, and to nominate deserving mental health champions in your region. See the free resources to use in local meetings and on social media on the CFA website [here](#).

AFA membership renewal time is here

AFA's membership year ends October 31st, so it's time for our AFA members to fill in their membership form and get it to us ASAP. Renewal is made easy by visiting this [link](#) on our AFA website where you can apply and pay, or download a form to apply manually by mail. AFA producer members enjoy significant fleet discounts on vehicles from Fiat Chrysler Automobiles (FCA), enhanced coverage and savings on The Co-Operators insurance, 10% off purchases made at Mark's Work Warehouse, special consideration on our annual AFA scholarship, and more! See producer benefits [here](#) - apply today!

Agricultural plastics recycling update

We wanted to provide an update on agricultural plastics recycling as this has been identified as an important issue by our members. This summer, we had a meeting with the Agricultural Plastics Recycling Group (APRG), plus Assistant Deputy Ministers and staff from Alberta Environment and Parks and Alberta Agriculture and Forestry. Although no direct commitment was made, this meeting raised awareness of the issue and it was decided that a pilot program would be a valuable starting place. AFA has joined with APRG to develop a business plan for an agricultural plastics recycling pilot program in Alberta and has been in touch with [Cleanfarms](#) in Manitoba, who have successfully implemented a pilot program like this.

Fall Lobby Day to raise agricultural awareness in Ottawa

AFA is once again participating in CFA's annual Fall Lobby Day on Tuesday, October 30. On this day, farm leaders from across Canada join together in Ottawa to meet with parliamentarians. By joining with CFA, AFA helps create a unified voice when advocating for Canadian farmers at the national level. The opportunity to keep lines of communications open with MPs is critical, especially in light of recent developments related to trade negotiations and regulatory changes, plus other areas that have impacted rural and agri-food producers.

Save the date:

AFA's AGM is January 15-17, 2019 in Nisku, AB!

There's so much going on in Canadian agriculture, we know producers will want a chance to meet with AFA's regional directors and executive, plus other AFA members to discuss the issues of the day.

At our January AGM, we discuss challenges and opportunities emerging in agriculture and make important policy decisions that determine our direction for the coming year. Watch your email,

AFA's [website](#) or our [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#) channels for more details coming your way soon!



CFA Happenings

AFA is now including items of interest from the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) newsletters at the end of our AFA in Action each month to keep you informed on what's happening with the national discussions on agricultural policy.

CFA disappointed with USMCA

The Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) is deeply disappointed with the agricultural concessions included in the new United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). While the government did achieve beneficial results for some sectors within agriculture, such as increased U.S. market access for Canada's sugar beet producers, indications suggest the livelihood of producers in Canada's supply managed sectors will be hurt by the concessions included within this new trade deal. Read more about the CFA's reaction [here](#).

CAHRC seeking input for 2018 Agricultural Labour Market Information Survey

To assist in addressing agricultural workforce issues, from October 12 to November 30, 2018, the Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council (CAHRC) is surveying stakeholders on the state of the agricultural workforce in Canada. All farm owner-operators, agricultural workers and supporting stakeholder groups are asked to provide valuable input to guide future action on labour shortages by completing the [online survey](#).

Advocacy priorities discussed at CFA national members meeting

Executive directors and senior managers of CFA member organizations met in Montreal, QC, at the end of September to discuss advocacy priorities and create plans to advance the agricultural sector in the coming years. On the agenda was NAFTA and other trade agreements, business risk

management programs, climate pricing, public trust, and a proposed campaign to make agriculture a higher priority in the Election 2019 campaign.

Researchers to explore relationship between food safety and public trust

The [Canadian Food Safety Forum](#) takes place on November 14 where CFA has assembled a panel that will look at the range of consumer views and behaviours on food safety and safe food handling practices. Some of Canada's leading researchers will discuss the areas of consumer trust, market acceptance and the varying perspectives around food safety.

Follow AFA on social for latest updates!

Wondering what we're up to in between newsletters? A great place to get information and updates on our current and ongoing activities is on AFA's [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) channels, or the [AFA blog](#). Join in the conversation there!

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