



AFA in Action

November/December 2019: In This Issue

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Members and non-members alike invited to AFA's 2020 Conference & AGM

AFA's Board and Executive is mixing it up this year by asking both AFA members and non-members to join them in Nisku, Alberta for our Conference and Annual General Meeting (AGM) on January 21 & 22, 2020.

To bring Alberta producers up-to-date on industry developments – like seed royalty proposals, soil carbon, crop and beef sustainability and more – AFA's Conference & AGM will begin with a first-day emphasis on information sharing and agricultural learning, with official AGM business taking place the second day.

All Alberta producers – whether they are AFA members or not – can attend their choice of one or both days for a fuller understanding of Alberta's current agriculture policy landscape, key issues AFA is working on, and how individual producers can help shape policy.

"We're changing the format of our AGM by placing the information sessions on one day and the AGM business on the second day," says Lynn Jacobson, AFA president. "We want to encourage members and non-members alike to come have a dialogue, discuss the issues that impact us all and be part of the solutions going forward."

For more information, check out our blog [here](#).

For registration & a tentative schedule, click [here](#).

Check out our resolution drafting tips and worksheet [here](#).

Current advocacy issues AFA is focused on

With growing concern over the activism and trespassing events that have happened on livestock farms and at processing facilities across Canada in recent months, the Canadian Federation of Agriculture decided to strike an Activism and Trespassing Special Issues Committee with representatives from across the country. AFA has a seat at the table and attended the first meeting in December, where members shared the work being done in their respective provinces on these issues. The committee will meet again in the new year.

AFA attended a Mandatory Entry Level Training (MELT) stakeholder consultation where the government provided further clarification into the MELT requirement for transition and extension (agricultural) drivers. AFA will continue to be engaged on this issue to ensure that farmers can access necessary

training for their employees so that trucking from farm to field is not negatively impacted. More information on the application process and how to get and keep your farmer's extension Class 1 licence is included in the [MELT: Agriculture Industry Fact Sheet](#).

AFA recently joined fellow Western GFOs and the CFA Seed Sector Innovation Committee at a joint session with the Grain Growers of Canada's Value Creation working group to compare principles, discuss areas of differentiation, and see if we can work together on any front in terms of a path forward with seed royalties. While common ground was found on some of these principles, that was not the case with all. AFA continues to watch for further consultations by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada in light of the results of our recent joint seed royalty survey which indicated that the overwhelming majority of respondents were not happy with either proposed model.

Don't forget to renew your AFA 2019-2020 Membership today!

All Alberta farmers benefit from AFA's work, but AFA members in particular receive:

- ✓ The opportunity to **directly influence agricultural policy** in Alberta. AFA's grassroots democratic structure means that all of our policy is set by members. Through AFA, you can ensure your voice is heard on the issues that matter most to you.
- ✓ A subscription to our bi-monthly e-newsletter, AFA in Action, **to keep you up to date** on AFA's lobby efforts and other work, as well as agricultural community events and resources.
- ✓ Access to AFA's **member benefits program**, which includes discounts and special offers on everything from vehicles to first aid training to farm insurance.

To renew your AFA membership and to check out our member benefits, click [here](#).



AFA in the News

The latest coverage on AFA in the news media.

We discuss the issues of importance to Alberta's farmers, ranchers and agribusiness.

Farm leaders discuss tough year for producers

Dec. 5, 2019 via CTV News

At the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan AGM, a farm leaders panel with AFA President Lynn Jacobson and leaders from the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) and Keystone Agricultural Producers (Manitoba) shared that tough conditions in are being felt by producers across the country. More [here](#).

Seed royalties hit brick wall

October 31, 2019 via Western Producer

AFA President Lynn Jacobson said he expects findings from a recent Seed Royalty Survey will carry weight with federal politicians. "I'm optimistic that producers' views will be considered," he said. More [here](#).

Survey shows farmers don't like either proposed seed royalty models

October 24, 2019 via High River Online

"As price-takers, farmers have little room in their margins for added expenditures. So there is little support for yet another expense to add to our bottom lines," says Lynn Jacobson, AFA President on the results of the recent seed royalty survey. More [here](#).

Prairie farmers not in favour of proposed royalty systems: survey

October 24, 2019 via Global News

How are farmers feeling about the royalties proposed by government on farm-saved seed? Global News spoke with one of the partners in our recent Seed Royalty Survey, Todd Lewis from Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan. More [here](#).

Survey finds little support for seed royalties

October 23, 2019 via Western Producer

"Producers are telling us loud and clear that they are not happy with either of the proposed models," says Lynn Jacobson, president of AFA. More on results of the Seed Royalty Survey conducted by Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan, Keystone Agricultural Producers (Manitoba) and AFA in this story: [here](#).



CFA Happenings

Items of interest from the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) newsletters are included in our AFA in Action to keep you informed on the national discussions on agricultural policy.

CFA Board Members Outline Plans for New Government

The CFA held its October Board Meeting with a forward looking focus as CFA prepares to interact with the new Liberal Minority Government. The board debated post-election government outreach strategies as well as ways to make sure Western Canada is represented as they will have no political representation in the new government's cabinet due to voting patterns. Members received updates on various subjects including:

- > Mental health programs and research
- > Business Risk Management programs
- > The Canadian Agricultural Sustainability Initiative update
 - > Animal activists and trespassing issues
 - > National Environmental Farm Plan program
 - > Deleterious substances

A detailed summary of the meeting can be found [here](#).

CFA Raises Trade Relief with AAFC

CFA Executives attended a meeting with senior officials at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada on November 14 to discuss a motion passed by the CFA board in October requesting that "CFA call on the federal agriculture minister to urgently put in place relief measures addressing the on-farm impacts of current trade disruptions and competitiveness challenges arising from support program provided to farmers by Canada's major trading partners. These measures must be developed in concert with farm groups and be informed by economic impact assessments with methodologies agreed upon by general farm organizations, affected commodity organizations, and the federal government."

CFA and Grain Growers of Canada Discuss Value Creation Principles for Cereal Crops

CFA staff and directors from CFA's Seed Sector Innovation Committee met with GGC's value creation working group on November 21, 2019 in Calgary to review the principles and policies their organizations had developed with respect to value creation for cereals crops. There was considerable discussion on how value creation can best maintain farmers' privilege to use farm saved seed, noting that the maintenance of this privilege is best discussed in the content of specific, future proposals.

***Producing Prosperity in Canada* Campaign a Success**

As the federal election has concluded, so has the election campaign portion of the *Producing Prosperity in Canada* campaign. CFA thanks all its members for helping to make this campaign a success. The *Producing Prosperity in Canada* messaging will continue on into the new year, as CFA continues to highlight the three key benefits that Canadian agriculture provides to all of Canada: economic growth, food security and environmental stewardship. More information on *Producing Prosperity in Canada* can be found on the website: <https://producingprosperitycanada.ca/>

