



AFA in Action

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AFA's virtual AGM set for January 19. Here's how to register.

Our next Annual General Meeting is going virtual. The event will be held online on **Tuesday, January 19, 2021**. AFA's business meeting, resolutions and elections will take place between 10 a.m. and 12 noon. A webinar will be offered between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

"For the first time, our AGM will be delivered entirely online," says AFA Executive Director Shannon Scofield. "We have important business to conduct as an organization, but we need to do it in a way that keeps everyone healthy and safe."

AFA members have several ways to register for the 2021 AGM. We invite you to fill out the registration form at the bottom of this newsletter. It can be mailed, faxed or emailed to AFA.

Members can also register via the AFA website, www.afaonline.ca.

"We appreciate the willingness of our members to attend the AGM virtually," says Scofield. "If anyone would like help in getting the AGM set up on their computer, please don't hesitate to ask."

GFOs work together to support AgriStability changes. Your voice will help.

In recent weeks, AFA has worked closely with our fellow General Farm Organizations on the Prairies to highlight new federal government proposals to improve AgriStability. These changes include increasing the AgriStability payment cap from 70% to 80% and removing the Reference Margin Limit. AFA believes that the Government of Alberta should accept these proposals and work with the Government of Canada to implement these changes to AgriStability, effective for 2020.

These are the key points we've been making:

- This proposal is supported by the membership of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, which represents over 200,000 farm families across Canada.
- This is the first new federal money to potentially come into AgriStability since 2013.
- If these changes are adopted this year, they would be retroactive for 2020 and will be forward-looking to 2021 and 2022.
- This is meaningful short-term progress on Business Risk Management. We can achieve even more in the next Agricultural Policy Framework in 2023.

We invite you to email your provincial MLA to express your strong support for these proposed improvements to AgriStability. Find your MLA [here](#) and make your voice heard.

How did COVID-19 affect your business? Please answer this survey by January 5

Increased costs? Shortage of protective equipment? Distancing measures? If COVID-19 affected you and your employees, the Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council (CAHRC) wants to know about it.

CAHRC is inviting agriculture-related employers in Alberta to take a 15-minute online survey about COVID impacts in 2020. The results will provide a solid set of data to support recommendations to policymakers. The deadline to complete the survey is January 5, 2021. Here's the link:
http://survey.conferenceboard.ca/SE/82/COVID19_Employer_Survey/.



Getting AgSat ready for launch

AFA continues to work with our partners Aquanty Inc. to bring AgSat to market in Spring 2021. AgSat is an online toolbox of open source and satellite information that provides farm producers across Canada with essential data on their land. This includes soil moisture, soil temperature, precipitation, vegetative growth and more.

Following a beta-testing program in 2020, Aquanty is making changes to how the platform functions, to enhance its value and user experience. We'll be reaching out in 2021 to offer you a free trial of AgSat. Want to learn more in the meantime? Visit [AgSat.ca](https://www.agriculture.alberta.ca/ag-sat).

A unified front on private rail crossings

The November 28, 2021 deadline for landowners to meet new grade crossing requirements in Western Canada has emerged as a serious producer concern. AFA, APAS and KAP recently called for the federal government to extend the deadline. The pandemic has created conditions that will make it logistically difficult for landowners to comply. AFA President Lynn Jacobson also sees significant cost outlays facing affected producers.

"From the bills that we have seen so far, farmers could be expected to pay tens of thousands of dollars depending on the work that has to be done," Jacobson says. "That work and extra cost, especially during a pandemic, creates additional uncertainty and pressure with a looming deadline."

Click here for the [joint news releases](#) issued by AFA, APAS and KAP. We will keep you posted on upcoming developments on this important issue.

Ag research is changing. AFA is at the table.

Recent years have brought significant changes to how agriculture research in Alberta is prioritized, funded and performed. A new group has been designated by the Government of Alberta to manage this important work.

Results Driven Agriculture Research (RDAR) is a federal not-for-profit corporation whose mandate is to support results-driven research priorities and programs that will increase competitiveness and profitability of the Alberta agriculture industry. AFA is a Class A Voting Member of this new organization which will elect a new board of directors in of March 2021.

Here's more on RDAR: <https://www.alberta.ca/results-driven-agriculture-research.aspx#toc-0>

New website in the works

AFA is currently developing a new website: one that will be easier to navigate, with a greater focus on member experience and new member attraction. We hope to offer a sneak preview at the January 21 online AGM. The new website should be launched by early-February.



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.

The issues of private rail crossings and AgriStability improvements are great examples of what happens when Canada's General Farm Organizations work together. Collaboration brings more attention to the issues, advances our positions and helps get results for our members. Here are links to recent Western

Producer stories featuring AFA, APAS and KAP:

www.producer.com/news/farmers-continue-to-demand-rail-crossing-extension/
<https://www.producer.com/opinion/provinces-urged-to-accept-proposal/>

Merry Christmas and all the best for 2021

Certainly, 2020 has been a year to remember. Alberta Federation of Agriculture has been proud to serve farmers and ranchers in our province during this challenging time. Our industry has performed exceptionally well, in spite of it all. On behalf of the Board and Staff of AFA, we wish you a Merry Christmas, a restful holiday and every success for your business and family in 2021.





**Alberta Federation of Agriculture
Virtual AGM Registration, January 19, 2021**

NAME(S): _____		
ADDRESS: _____		
TOWN: _____	PROVINCE: _____	PC: _____
Ph#: _____	C#: _____	Email: _____

As a result of COVID-19 and to ensure all AFA members, directors, [staff](#) and attendees remain safe and healthy, the Alberta Federation of Agriculture (AFA) will host the 2021 Annual General Meeting in a virtual format on Tuesday, January 19, 2021.

- AGM Business & Resolutions: 10:00 a.m.-noon
- Speaker Presentations: 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. (TBA)

If you will require assistance with accessing our virtual [platform](#) we would be more than happy to walk you through it. Feel free to contact our office at anytime.

Please return Registration Form in one of the following ways:

Mail: Alberta Federation of Agriculture, BOX 5521, Lacombe, AB T4L 1X2
Fax #: 403.789.9152
Email: lacey.wynnyk@afaonline.ca
Register online by visiting: afaonline.ca

[Website](#) [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [YouTube](#) [Blog](#)

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