



AFA in Action

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**Wishing our AFA members and their families
a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.
All the best in 2019!**

Register for AFA's AGM on January 16 & 17, 2019 in Leduc, Alberta!

Many issues have emerged recently in Canadian agriculture. AFA members will want to hear from AFA's regional directors and executive and other presenters on issues like farm-saved seed, grain transportation and more. Read about the AGM topics on AFA's [blog](#). We'll also have an update from the Hon. Minister Oneil Carlier at our January AGM. There are several issues we need your voice on, and this is the time we make important policy decisions and set the directions for the year. Please attend and help us shape the future of agriculture. Register online [here](#).

Producer input needed in consultations on proposed royalties on farm-saved seed

At the beginning of December, AFA President Lynn Jacobson and Board Member Humphrey Banack attended an engagement session on value creation models for cereals research and variety development in Canada. This session was one of a handful of consultations across the country conducted by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) on the proposal for royalties on farm-saved seed. The issue has proven to be of great interest to producers, including our own membership. Read our blog [here](#), or attend our AGM in January to hear more information about this and share your views about this discussion.

There is still time to renew your AFA membership - just \$150/year for producers!

Have you renewed your membership? For just over \$12 a month, AFA producer members get access to many benefits. There are some great new benefits this year!

- **significant** Fiat Chrysler Automobiles (FCA Canada) fleet discounts on new vehicles, which can translate into savings of thousands of dollars
- **enhance** your farm insurance coverage from The Co-operators Insurance for a fraction of the retail price
- AFA members receive **discounts** on farm, home and travel insurance from The Co-operators Insurance
- **NEW** AFA Travel Discount Program gives members an exclusive worldwide travel discount service, saving you an average of 10-20% below-market price on all hotels and car rental suppliers around the world – anywhere, anytime. We'll negotiate the best deals and provide a comparison price for you
- **save** between 10-20% on St. John Ambulance's public rates for first aid classes and get a special discount on their 'Safety on the Farm' module
- members receive 10% **off purchases** made at Mark's Work Wearhouse

Don't miss out. Renew and pay online at this [link](#) on our AFA website, or download a form to renew manually by mail. Read more on our blog [here](#).

Alberta Government to fund Agricultural Plastics Recycling Group (APRG)

In November, Minister Shannon Phillips (Environment and Parks) and Minister Oneil Carlier (Agriculture and Forestry) announced funding for a province-wide agricultural plastics recycling pilot project. Agricultural plastics recycling was raised as an important issue by our AFA members,

and AFA continues to be an integral member of the APRG. It's our hope that the pilot project application will have the government's formal approval within the next two months. As it stands now, the project will be a three-year program for grain bags and twine. Waste characterization and market studies will collect accurate data on the type of materials generated plus ensure responsible management options for all agricultural plastics.

AFA will share further details on the program once government approval is given. The APRG will play an advisory role in the management of the agricultural plastics as set out in the pilot program business plan. This includes promoting agricultural plastics recycling actions and programs that are sustainable. Alberta Beef will act as the program administrator of the funding and a committee will determine the pilot operations and details.

Hear the provincial update from Minister Carlier at our AGM in January

AFA met with Alberta's Agriculture and Forestry Minister Oneil Carlier in mid-December for a year-end conversation on important issues that are front-and-center for Alberta farmers and ranchers. As we head into 2019, we look forward to hosting Minister Carlier at our upcoming AGM on January 17, 2019 where he will provide us with a provincial update and join us for lunch.



CFA Happenings

AFA includes 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.

Safe Food for Canadian Regulations: your farm may need a licence soon

On January 15, 2019, the [Safe Food for Canadians Regulations \(SFCR\)](#) come into effect. Your farm business may need a licence or be required to meet other SFCR requirements. To find out, visit the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's [interactive tools and timelines](#). Or, [visit this website](#) for more information about applying for a licence.

CFA President takes part in news conference on mental health outreach

Farm Credit Canada, in partnership with Agriculture Canada, 4-H Canada and Farm Management Canada, announced \$50,000 in funding for a new Healthy Living program that 4-H Canada will provide to 25,000 of its members. This follows their \$50,000 contribution to the *Do More Ag Foundation* to fund 12 mental health first aid workshops. CFA President Ron Bonnett offered his support of these initiatives, [speaking to media](#) about the importance of mental health in agriculture and outreach efforts.

CFA attends Transport Canada's Commodity Supply Chain Table

On December 6, CFA Vice-President Norm Hall and Trade Analyst Bob Friesen attended the Commodity Supply Chain Table hosted by Transport Canada and chaired by Deputy Minister Michael Keaton. This meeting launched phase two of Transport Canada's Collaborative Forward Planning

consultation exercise. Transportation Minister Garneau, Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister MacAulay, and Natural Resources Minister Sohi attended – clearly indicating the government's commitment to the issue of rail transportation. Participants included farm organizations, commodity shippers, port authorities, short-line railways, and the two national railways.

2019 Federal Government pre-budget consultations begin

The Federal Government has launched their [pre-budget consultations for 2019](#). These consultations help the government decide on priorities and funding for various sectors across Canada. Producers and farm organizations can contribute their ideas to the Government's pre-budget consultations through in-person and digital events with Parliamentarians, or send in submissions through the [Your Budget website](#).

CFA Year in Review

The CFA has spent a busy year advocating for Canadian farmers. Some of the issues covered include the Temporary Foreign Worker Program, Mental Health and Agriculture, October Agricultural Lobby Day, USMCA Negotiations, Federal/Provincial/Territorial (FPT) Minister's Roundtable, Grain Transportation News Conference, Carbon Pricing and Farm Fuel Exemptions, AgGrowth Coalition and BRM Review, Public Trust Initiative Funding, and Adoption of Climate Change Policy. To find out more about these activities, visit the [CFA website](#).

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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