



Unauthorized Construction at CFOs

The Alberta Cattle Feeders' Association (ACFA) is aware of concerns related to unauthorized construction at confined feeding operations (CFOs) and supports efforts to ensure producers are informed of their responsibilities.

Sean Royer, Chief Executive Officer of the Natural Resources Conservation Board (NRCB), is invited annually to present to the ACFA Board of Directors. At ACFA's November Board meeting, Mr. Royer outlined a trend of increasing unauthorized construction at CFOs and sought industry input on the issue.

Beginning the construction of a CFO, manure storage facility, or manure collection area before the required permits have been issued by the NRCB, building something different than stated in your NRCB permit, or populating your facility before your final permit has been approved are all considered unauthorized construction and are prohibited under the Agricultural Operation Practices Act.

Following the discussion, ACFA circulated a notice prepared by the NRCB through its monthly newsletter to remind members of the need to obtain the proper approvals before starting construction and to consult with an NRCB approval officer or inspector in advance.

It is important that confined feeding operators follow the rules. Doing so protects the integrity of the regulatory system, helps avoid unnecessary enforcement action or prosecution, and can prevent added costs to operators, including potential depopulation costs and complications in securing financing. ACFA encourages all operators to work with the NRCB and ensure all required permits are in place before construction begins.

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