



June 16, 2026

Honourable Tara Sawyer
Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation
Government of Alberta

Honourable Joseph Schow
Minister of Jobs, Economy, Trade and Immigration
Government of Alberta

Dear Minister Sawyer and Minister Schow,

On behalf of the Alberta Cattle Feeders' Association (ACFA), we are writing to express our concerns with Bill 26, *The Immigration Oversight Act*, and its potential impact on Alberta's agricultural sector.

Agriculture is already heavily regulated under the federal Temporary Foreign Worker Program. Employers must meet strict federal requirements, including advertising for Canadian workers before accessing temporary foreign labour. Despite these requirements, feedlots continue to face serious labour shortages, particularly in rural areas where it remains difficult to attract and retain domestic workers.

ACFA is concerned that Bill 26 will duplicate existing federal oversight, increase costs and red tape, and create additional delays for producers. Any disruption to timely access to temporary foreign workers will increase operational risk, affect animal care, and place further pressure on a sector already facing significant workforce constraints.

Similar systems in other provinces have resulted in added administrative burden and processing delays without resolving the underlying issues. Alberta should carefully assess these experiences before introducing a new provincial oversight system that could create unintended consequences for primary agriculture.

For these reasons, ACFA does not support applying Bill 26 to the agricultural sector and respectfully requests that agriculture be exempt from the legislation and its associated regulations.

Should the government proceed, implementation must be targeted, practical, and focused on areas of highest risk. Trusted employers and low-risk sectors with a strong history of compliance should be exempt or subject to reduced requirements. Any new process must avoid duplication with the federal government, include clear communication and practical tools, and only introduce inspections or penalties after an appropriate grace period.



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ACFA also urges the government to protect producer privacy and safety. The names and addresses of primary producers should not be made public, as this could create personal safety, security, and biosecurity risks.

Alberta's cattle feeding sector depends on reliable access to labour to care for animals, maintain daily operations, and support food production. We urge government to reconsider the application of Bill 26 to primary agriculture and would welcome the opportunity to discuss a practical path forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Tranberg", is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Janice Tranberg
President & CEO
Alberta Cattle Feeders' Association

A decorative graphic of golden wheat stalks curves across the bottom of the page, framing the contact information.

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