



### **Livestock Response Unit**

Red Deer County's Livestock Response Unit was the first unit of its kind in Alberta. The response unit is stocked with equipment and supplies to assist in the containment, movement and management of livestock in Emergency or disaster situations.

When an emergency involving livestock occurs, the RCMP and local fire services would most likely be the first responders. The Technical Rescue team would be contacted for the Livestock Response Unit, which has valuable equipment like fencing and halters. People with animal handling experience would also be contacted, which may or may not include a veterinarian depending on proximity and timing.

### **History**

Red Deer County has a livestock population of over 500,000, and over 40,000 animals are transported on Alberta Highways daily. Up to 20,000 animals are processed per day by the livestock industry in Red Deer County and the cities/towns within. That amounts to 6,240,000 animals processed per year. Red Deer County is also home to two major livestock Auction Marts, and freight lines travel through the County connecting Edmonton to Lethbridge.

Any number of disasters could occur that would warrant livestock response.

The Red Deer County Ag Services Board identified the need for a Livestock Response Unit which came to fruition in 2006. With donations from industry and individuals, Red Deer County and surrounding municipalities now have the ability to provide the service of livestock rescue.

The Livestock Response Unit offers efficient containment of animals, which can save livestock and human life, and save property. Emergency response personnel are able to work more safely and efficiently as a result of being properly equipped with the contents of the Livestock Response Unit.

For more information, please contact Emergency Management Officer, Tina Colberg at [tcolberg@rdcounty.ca](mailto:tcolberg@rdcounty.ca)