

## Picture Butte Auction Market 2001 Ltd.

**Date:** April 29, 2020

**RE:** COVID-19 Outbreak

Picture Butte Auction Market is still going ahead with all regularly scheduled auctions at this time. In order to comply with the guidelines set forth by the Government of Alberta and in order to help protect our customers and staff, we have had to make some changes.

First and foremost, we are limited to having no more than 15 people in the sale ring and 5 people in the office at any given time. We are also asking anyone who is ill or who has recently travelled out of the country to stay home.

We would really appreciate it if the limited space we do have could be saved for people coming intending to buy, and that visitors and spectators stay home for the time being. We also ask that only one person per family/farm attend. Buyers of pigs, sheep, goats, and horses – please come at 10:00am. When that portion of the sale has finished, please make payment and loading arrangements so that we can make room for the cattle buyers. Cattle buyers – please come at 11:30am. When the sale has finished, again please make payment and loading arrangements right away. If the sale is a little busier that day, if the type of animal you are there to buy is not currently in the ring – please wait outside until it is (basically try and keep active buyers in the sale ring only).

We have also made changes within our office to help with physical distancing. Buyer's numbers are now available in the kitchen – so that only people registering animals or paying are in the office area. We also are opening the office window that we clerk the outside sales out of between sales to accept payment from to cut down on line-ups.

The kitchen is closed for the time being for lunch – but we will have a staff member on hand for refreshments.

Next we are asking that if sellers could just drop off and not stay for the sale. Drop-off times will be from 7:30-9:45am on Saturdays. Arrangements can also be made to drop off on Fridays. We will ask that you stay in your vehicle, just hand the manifest to our gate person, and they will take care of the rest. They will let you know if they need anything else from you. We will have you indicate if you will be picking up your cheque (available at 2:00pm Saturday) or if you want them mailed to you.

All animals should be consigned ahead of time so that we have a full list available for interested buyers – this way they know if they should come or not. Also, in the case of small animals like rabbits and chickens we only have a limited number of spots available and they will need to be booked in ahead of time to ensure you will be able to sell that day.

We also offer the option for buyers to make absentee bids by phone before the sale. If there is something consigned you are interested in, or something you are looking for, call Erik before 9:30am on Saturday with instructions on how to bid for you. He can be reached at the office at 403732-4400 or on his cell at 403-308-6662 for more information. You can also come to look before the sale and leave a bid after you have seen the animals for yourself. We are also currently working on getting a livestream service going on Facebook for people to watch our sales (not as a bidding platform).

We remain open as an essential service, as part of the food chain. We understand that these rules can be difficult – but we have implemented them for everyone’s safety, and they only work if everyone respects them. Hopefully things can return to normal soon.

Please, watch our Facebook page and our website for updates and changes.

Thank You  
Management and Staff  
Picture Butte Auction Market

