

Helping Hands and Healthy Protein: Alberta's Chicken Farm Families Partner with Food Banks

OKOTOKS, AB — December 16, 2025

Rooted in strong family values and a commitment to supporting their communities, Alberta's chicken farming families once again stepped up to support vulnerable Albertans amid continued food insecurity across the province.

The 2025 HungerCount report from Food Banks Canada highlights a significant rise in food insecurity in Alberta, with more than 210,000 monthly visits to food banks — up 21.8 per cent from 2024 and 134 per cent since 2019. Nearly 76,000 children are affected each month, and women account for more than half of all users.

On December 15, 2025, Alberta chicken farm families, alongside Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation RJ Sigurdson, Member of Parliament John Barlow, and Okotoks Town Councillor Gord Lang, volunteered at the Okotoks Food Bank. Together, they helped pack and sort items for Christmas hampers, supporting local families during the holiday season.

Following the volunteer shift, the farmers presented Food Banks Alberta with a \$30,000 donation to help support vulnerable Albertans and ensure access to nutritious, high-quality protein.

"As of 2025, we remain steadfast in our commitment to addressing these challenges. Like all Albertans, we care about the health and wellbeing of our families, friends, and communities. We are so grateful we have been able to play a role in supporting those in need."

— **David Hyink, Chair, Alberta Chicken Producers Board of Directors**

"Protein is essential to the health and wellness of the people we serve, yet it is both expensive to purchase and rarely donated. We are grateful for the continued support of Alberta Chicken Producers through their annual donation, which goes directly to households of Albertans in need."

— **Shawna Bissell, Executive Director, Food Banks Alberta**

"I'm proud of Alberta's producers and the role they play in supporting their neighbours. This donation will help ensure families in our area have access to nutritious, high quality goods when they need it most. I want to thank Alberta Chicken Producers for their generosity and their commitment to Albertans."

— **RJ Sigurdson, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation**

The donation was made through the Alberta Chicken Producers' Good Neighbours Program, a corporate social responsibility initiative focused on supporting strong, healthy communities across Alberta. More information about the program is available at: <https://chicken.ab.ca/good-neighbours/>

Alberta Chicken Producers have contributed **\$30,000 annually since 2020**, bringing total donations to **\$180,000 as of December 2025** in support of Alberta families facing food insecurity.



From left to right: Bente, Director, Okotoks Food Bank; Lori Entz; Sam Entz; MP John Barlow; Gord Lang, Councillor, Town of Okotoks; RJ Sigurdson, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation; Lisa Lix; Farmer Byron Ference; Lillian Ference; Henk Schuur; Geoff Brown, Executive Director, Alberta Chicken Producers; Sharlene Hyink; David Hyink, Chair, Alberta Chicken Producers; Candace van Diemen; Rob van Diemen, Director, Alberta Chicken Producers; and Nieske Schuur.

Additional event photos are available [here](#).

Media Contacts:

Maria Leslie

Manager of Public Affairs & Strategic Partnerships
Alberta Chicken Producers
780-903-5177
mleslie@chicken.ab.ca