

Quote: 185884

Mr. Chad MacPherson  
General Manager  
Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association  
[ssga@sasktel.net](mailto:ssga@sasktel.net)

Dear Mr. MacPherson:

Thank you for your email regarding recent resolutions passed by the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association. I appreciate the opportunity to respond to the resolutions that refer to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC).

With respect to the first resolution, the Government of Canada's integrated renewable fuels strategy includes four key elements: a regulation to establish minimum biofuels content, programs to support farmer participation in the industry, a production incentive to stimulate domestic production, and initiatives to support next-generation technologies. The Government remains committed to establishing a strong domestic renewable fuels industry that will benefit the environment, the economy, and farmers. Biofuels offer new markets for farmers, new jobs for our cities and towns, and a new source of cleaner renewable energy. AAFC's ecoAgriculture Biofuels Capital Initiative was created to provide funding for the construction or expansion of biofuels production facilities, provided that agricultural producers invest in the biofuels projects and that agricultural feedstocks are used to produce the biofuels. This program ends on March 31, 2013. Canada's biofuels production incentives are designed to decline over time, eventually ending in 2017. Import tariffs on ethanol are relatively low and in the case of our NAFTA partners, biofuels enter Canada tariff-free.

Regarding the fourth resolution, since the announcement of the planned divestiture of community pastures, which will occur over the next five years, officials from AAFC have been working closely with Saskatchewan Agriculture to ensure a smooth transition from federal to provincial administration. Senior officials meet on a regular basis, and several joint working teams are collaborating to complete the work necessary to prepare the lands for return. There are many details to be finalized, and both Canada and Saskatchewan agree that a co-operative approach is needed.

I trust that this information will be of assistance to you. Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

Gerry Ritz, PC, MP