



Government  
of  
Saskatchewan

Minister of Agriculture  
Legislative Building  
Regina, Canada S4S 0B3

June 26, 2014

Mr. Chad MacPherson, General Manager  
Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association  
PO Box 4753  
REGINA SK S4P 3Y4

Dear Mr. MacPherson:

Thank you for your e-mail of June 11, 2014, regarding the resolutions carried at the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association's (SSGA) Annual Meeting on June 10, 2014. The following responses are included for the resolutions related to the Ministry of Agriculture:

**Resolution #1 – The Provincial Lands Act Update**

The use of Crown land and improvements as collateral is not presently permitted under *The Provincial Lands Act* (the Act). The Ministry of Agriculture (the Ministry) undertook preliminary consultation with Crown land stakeholders in 2007 and again in 2013 during consultation sessions regarding amendments to the Act. As this legislative process progresses, the Ministry will consult further with the agricultural and conservation sectors as well as with financial institutions to further investigate the ability of Crown land leases to be used as security.

**Resolution # 4 – Former PFRA Pasture Access Control**

The lessees control access to the land year round. Hunters are the only public users that have unique access provisions on these pastures. The federal pasture lands have traditionally been used by hunters and these long time users do not want to lose this access. Hunting is open beginning in November. Vehicular access is restricted to roads and trails, and in certain conditions access may be restricted to foot only. In extreme fire hazard access may be denied. Hunting can be restricted in areas where livestock are present or where pasture maintenance or construction activities are occurring. The individual hunter is liable for any damages caused on the pasture. Accordingly, hunters are the only users that have specific access provisions; all other user access requires consent of the patron group. It is acceptable for these lands to be posted with a contact name and number for hunters to report to and get access instructions prior to entering the pasture.

**Resolution #5 – SCIC Forage Insurance Program Enhancement**

Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC) representatives met with SSGA to discuss the issue of forage insurance. It was recognized that there are inherent challenges with insuring forage.

SSGA suggested the current producer focus on Western Livestock Price Insurance provides a good opportunity to promote the forage program to its members.

We would welcome further discussion and input on potential program enhancements and will consider forage insurance promotion strategies.

**Resolution #7 – Species at Risk Act Compensation**

The administration of *The Species at Risk Act* and any associated funding is the responsibility of the federal government.

Saskatchewan feels that both species at risk and their habitat can be managed through *The Wildlife Act, 1998*, and *The Wild Species at Risk Regulations*, both administered by the Ministry of Environment. The Ministry of Agriculture favours a landscape approach which enables a healthy ecosystem which is beneficial to all species found on these lands, including species at risk. Grazing is a natural component of grasslands, and with well managed grazing systems there is no need for livestock reduction to maintain ecosystem health.

**Resolution #9 – Import Permit Application Process.**

On April 1st, 2014, all applications for import permits issued by the Terrestrial and Aquatic Animal Health Division of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) are required to be submitted to a new Centre of Administration in Mississauga, Ontario. Prior to this date, producers were able to submit applications and obtain permits from district CFIA veterinarians.

It has been brought to our attention this is impacting producers' ability to trade internationally. I will be expressing these concerns to CFIA and the federal government regarding the lengthy time to process these applications for import, urging a more streamlined process.

**Resolution #11 – Temporary Foreign Workers Program (TFWP) and Labour Shortage**

Due to Saskatchewan's economic growth, our province has the lowest unemployment rate in Canada and a large and unfulfilled demand for workers in many sectors. Our government supports the TFWP, as we recognize that access to skilled workers, as well as to the supply of labourers, has become a significant challenge for the agriculture and agri-processing sectors.

I have written the federal government expressing my concerns with changes to the program.

The Ministry of Agriculture will be participating on a Provincial Labour Market Information Panel that is being led by the Canadian Agricultural Human Resources Council. This project will develop a labour market information supply and demand model that will provide an overview of the current agricultural labour market and forecast labour supply and demand, provincially, nationally and by commodity.

Again, thank you for your email and the opportunity to respond. I look forward to working with SSGA in the future.

Sincerely,



Lyle Stewart  
Minister of Agriculture