



Stock Growers Pleased with Crop Insurance Changes

Saskatchewan Stock Growers President Calvin Knoss has commended today's announcement of changes to Crop Insurance in response to drought conditions in northwest and west central Saskatchewan.

"We appreciate the efforts of federal agriculture minister Gerry Ritz and our Saskatchewan minister Bob Bjornerud, in moving these changes forward so quickly", said Knoss, "the three measures announced today stand to benefit both grain farmers and cattle producers."

"The decision to extend the deadline for seeding green feed crops to July 15, along with changes allowing producers to insure any cereal crop for green feed, should help increase forage inventories," added Knoss, "this is encouraging news for cattlemen who are short on pasture and concerned about feed supplies for the coming winter."

The Saskatchewan Stock Growers have consistently favoured Crop Insurance policies that allow for prompt decisions about when crops in drought-stressed areas can be utilized for grazing or cut for feed. "This is clearly a set of decisions that complements our position," stated Knoss.

Knoss cautioned that this year's forage problems are not limited to the west side of the province. "Cool spring growing conditions have set hay production back even in areas where moisture levels have been adequate," noted Knoss. "We expect that Crop Insurance officials are sensitive to this situation".

"However, we encourage governments not to lose sight of the situation as additional measures maybe required in the future."

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