



# **SASKATCHEWAN STOCK GROWERS ASSOCIATION**

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## **Media Release**

**For Immediate Release**

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### **Saskatchewan Stock Growers Welcome Today's Provincial Budget**

Ed Bothner, President of the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association, Saskatchewan's largest cow-calf producer organization, welcomed today's provincial budget. "We are pleased to see that agriculture is back on the provincial government's radar," said Bothner, "It's been decades since our industry has received this level of attention and support from the provincial government."

"We applaud Premier Wall, Agriculture Minister Bjornerud, Education Minister Ken Krawetz and their government for recognizing that agriculture continues to be a backbone industry for the province that offers incredible potential over the long-term", said Bothner.

"The \$35 million reduction in the education portion of farmland taxes will be especially beneficial to cow-calf producers", Bothner added.

Stock Growers First Vice President, Mark Elford stated that, "Cow-calf producers typically depend on relatively larger amounts of acreage than many grain farmers. Assessments and education tax mill rates did not reflect the fact that ranch land is typically less productive per acre than farmland. And school tax rates certainly did not reflect the fact that cattle producers have been experiencing a succession of poor income years."

Elford also commended Rosetown/Elrose MLA Jim Reiter for the work he put into the property tax relief measures contained in the budget.

Stock Growers President Ed Bothner added, "Today's budget follows on a series of announcements and initiatives the provincial government has taken on behalf of cattle producers over recent months."

The list includes the \$29 million federal-provincial Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program, which we are pleased to see will now be available on a province-wide basis; the recently announced \$40 per head program to help producers sustain their breeding herds; last year's cash advance program and subsequent grace period for interest payments; assistance for gopher and predator control; and the Lease Land Purchase Program.

*"The Business of Beef – Freedom in Strength"*

“While we were pleased to see that the government will be fully funding the province’s portion of Crop Insurance and Agri-Stability”, said Bothner, “we remain concerned that the eligibility parameters for triggering producer payments still aren’t working. However, we appreciate that the province shares our views in this area and has been trying to win support for changes from other provinces and the federal government.”

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