



JUL 08 2013

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 12, 2012, regarding the resolutions carried at the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association's (SSGA) Annual Meeting on June 11, 2013. The following responses are included for the resolutions related to the Ministry of Agriculture:

Resolution #2 – Sale of PFRA Pastures

After consultation with transitioning pasture patron groups, early indications are that most groups favour leasing of pastures as opposed to purchase. For any pastures sold to patrons groups, the sale revenue must be deposited in the provincial General Revenue Fund. The province will continue to provide significant investment in research and programming for the Saskatchewan cattle industry.

Resolution #3 – Bag and Twine Recycling Program

This resolution has been referred to the Ministry of Environment for response.

Resolution #4 – Transition of Livestock Inspection

Progress continues to be made on transitioning the Brand Inspection Service to an industry-led organization. The Brand Inspection Advisory Committee, made up of representatives from each of the main cattle and horse industry organizations in Saskatchewan, continues to work on details of the transition, but the organizational components are falling into place.

The Advisory Committee was recommended the establishment of a new, non-profit Corporation responsible for the brand inspection service in Saskatchewan. This new Corporation will be governed by an industry Board of Directors. Once this new Corporation has been established, a transfer agreement will be put in place to formally move the service from government to industry. This transition is expected to begin this summer.

Mr. Chad MacPherson
Page 2
July 2, 2013

The Advisory Committee members have also expressed a strong interest to work collaboratively with Livestock Identification Services Inc. of Alberta to streamline the inspection activities across both provinces and ultimately across Western Canada.

Resolution # 5 – Temporary Foreign Workers Program

This resolution has been referred to the Ministry of the Economy for response.

Resolution #6 – Transition of Agri-Environment Service Branch (AESB) Pastures

The transition plan for federal community pastures was developed as a result of consultation with a broad spectrum of the beef industry in rural Saskatchewan. The Ministry of Agriculture appreciates and thanks the SSGA for supporting this approach.

Resolutions #9 & 10 – Pasture Leases and Control of the Pastures

The Provincial Lands Act is being proposed for amendment because it is outdated, lacks clarity, is restrictive rather than enabling, and contains many clauses better suited to regulation. Replacing the Act will not change the terms of any lease offered by the Ministry, including its length or the right to control access. The Ministry recognizes the value of long term secure access to Crown Land for livestock producers and has no immediate plans to change the length of or the right to control access to any of its leases.

Again, thank you for your email and the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Lyle Stewart
Minister of Agriculture