

Quote: 221990

Mr. Chad MacPherson
General Manager
Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association
ssga@sasktel.net

Dear Mr. MacPherson:

Thank you for your email and the attached copy of the resolutions passed at the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association's meeting on June 14, 2016. I appreciate the opportunity to respond to the resolutions applicable to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC).

Resolution #2

Although this resolution is not specifically directed toward AAFC, I recognize the importance of southwestern Saskatchewan irrigation projects to the irrigators. For this reason, when the previous government made the decision in 2006 to divest the six irrigation projects, it provided a 10-year transition period in preparation of the divestiture. Meetings in recent months with the irrigation projects' stakeholders have indicated that they intend to continue using the projects under use-of-works agreements (agreements to use federally owned assets, such as canals and water diversion infrastructure, and to delineate responsibility and liability of both parties) after AAFC involvement ends on March 31, 2017. The details of these agreements are currently being finalized in consultation with the stakeholders.

Resolution #6

AAFC's science strategy encompasses research that focuses on agricultural practices to enhance soil carbon stores (carbon sequestration). The Department's ongoing research in this regard includes efforts to assess the effects of replanting grasslands on the soil's ability to store carbon, the influences of different grazing intensities on soil carbon, and the development of new technologies to estimate greenhouse gas emissions for farms. Much of AAFC's research is carried out in collaboration with agricultural sector stakeholders.

I trust that this information is of assistance. Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

Lawrence MacAulay, PC, MP