

Quote: 228455

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 (SSGA) meeting on January 25, 2017. It is great to see the work the SSGA is doing to support advancements in the beef industry and position it for a prosperous future.

Canada's cattle industry remains one of the largest single generators of farm receipts, with over \$10 billion dollars in farm-gate sales and exports to over 55 countries in 2015. Enhancing the competitiveness of Canada's beef industry through research, food safety, trade opportunities, and sustainability is a priority for Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and is critical to the continued success and growth of the sector.

In the July 2016 *Calgary Statement*, federal, provincial, and territorial ministers of agriculture committed to address several key priority areas to further support the sustainable growth, adaptability, and prosperity of the agriculture sector through research and innovation. One of the key priority areas identified is environmental sustainability and climate change adaptation. Initiatives under this priority will help industry address agriculture's impacts on Canada's natural resources, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and mitigate and adapt to the anticipated impacts of climate change. These impacts include changing growing conditions, extreme weather events, reduced water availability and quality, soil degradation, and new and increased pests and disease outbreaks. Our government is committed to creating a cleaner, more innovative economy that reduces emissions and protects our environment.

Federal, provincial, and territorial governments are engaged in negotiations regarding the next policy framework agreement with the aim of starting implementation in 2018. Engagement sessions on business risk management programs with industry have provided valuable insight on the current suite of programs, in particular on AgriStability. We are committed to ensuring that government priorities and investments are aligned with agricultural sector needs, and we will continue to engage industry with respect to the longer-term direction of programming.

Rest assured the SSGA's resolutions will be considered as we continue to develop and grow Canada's cattle industry. Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

Lawrence MacAulay, PC, MP