



Government
— of —
Saskatchewan

November 6, 2020

Chad MacPherson, General Manager
Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association
PO Box 4752
REGINA SK S4P 3Y4

Dear Chad MacPherson:

Thank you for your email regarding the resolutions carried at the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association (SSGA) Annual General Meeting held on October 14, 2020.

Resolution #1:

WHEREAS Health Canada recently released their decision on the re-evaluation on the license of strychnine for the control of Richardson's Ground Squirrels (RGS); and

WHEREAS there is currently no equivalent or adequate alternative to strychnine as an option for controlling the overpopulation of RGS on agricultural lands.

BE IT RESOLVED that the SSGA lobby the Government of Canada to reconsider their decision to cancel the registration of strychnine for the control of RGS.

Response:

The ministry is aware of the decision rendered by Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) regarding the deregistration of strychnine and has been engaged with the PMRA throughout the process. We are disappointed with the decision and filed a notice of objection immediately after it was made public. We have also engaged our regional counterparts on the topic and are working with them to appeal the decision.

The ministry continues to review scientific literature to determine if there are any effective alternatives to strychnine available to our producers. We recently put forward a research proposal to explore available options or to find effective and efficient control measures for RGS.

The ministry appreciates the work and support of the SSGA in our efforts to get the decision overturned and have strychnine re-registered for use, and to find other effective and efficient control options for RGS.

Resolution #2:

BE IT RESOLVED that the SSGA voice its opposition to the use of the term 'meat' as a descriptive of plant based products, by partnering with other meat producing organizations such as pork, lamb, chicken and turkey and taking the opposition forward to the appropriate authorities.

Response:

The ministry agrees that descriptive terms used for plant-based products need to be clear, accurate and reflect the true nature of the product. Labels should not mislead or confuse consumers.

The ministry expects the food industry to follow Canadian Food Inspection Agency requirements when labelling and advertising all food products. The current requirement is to include the term "simulated" on labels and in advertisements for products that do not have meat or poultry but are represented as having the physical and nutritional characteristics of meat or poultry.

Thank you for discussing these important issues at your recent Annual General Meeting.

Sincerely,



David Marit
Minister of Agriculture