



Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association
Serving the Saskatchewan Cattle Industry Since 1913

2025 SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING
February 7th, 2025
Dakota Dunes Resort

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Jeff Yorga called the Meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. President Yorga welcomed everyone to the meeting and acknowledged government officials, media and special guests that were in attendance.

President Yorga stated that with more than 25 SSGA members in attendance and online, he declared a quorum and that the 2025 Semi Annual Meeting will be conducted in accordance with 'Robert's Rules of Order'.

The President introduced Brian Weedon, who would serve as Parliamentarian for the meeting.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion: Gord Kozroski/Neil Block
"To approve the agenda as presented."

Carried

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE 2024 SEMI ANNUAL MEETING

The minutes of the 2024 Semi Annual Meeting were circulated.

Motion: Chay Anderson/Larry Flaig
"To approve the 2024 Semi Annual Minutes as circulated."

Carried

4. GREETINGS FROM SASKATCHEWAN AGRICULTURE

Venkata Vakulabharanam, Executive Director of the Livestock Branch brought greetings on behalf of the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture.

5. GREETINGS FROM OPPOSITION

Carla Beck, Leader of the official opposition brought greetings on behalf of the Saskatchewan New Democratic Party.

6. Greetings from Warren Steinley

Warren Steinley brought greetings on behalf of Pierre Poilievre and the Conservative Party of Canada.

7. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Yorga highlighted SSGA's activities in the past year and outlined SSGA's goals for the coming year.

Motion: Jeff Yorga/Calvin Knoss

"To approve the President's Report as presented".

Carried

8. 2nd Call for RESOLUTIONS

9. FINANCIAL REPORT

Chay Anderson highlighted the 2024 unaudited financial statement.

Motion: Chay Anderson/Jason Pollock

"To approve the 2024 unaudited financial statement as presented".

Carried

10. FINAL Call for RESOLUTIONS

11. Kareen Holtby Presentation on U.S. Tariffs

Kareen Holtby gave an update on the implications of proposed US tariffs on Saskatchewan agriculture.

Coffee Break

12. LIVESTOCK SERVICES OF SASKATCHEWAN

Jason Pollock with Livestock Services of Saskatchewan (LSS) gave an update on LSS's current operations and regulatory changes happening within LSS.

13. Saskatchewan Stock Growers Foundation

Mindy Anderson gave an update on SSGF's operations and programming.

14. RESOLUTIONS

Resolution #1

Whereas SSGA vision statement supports an independent industry and free market; and

Whereas SSGA mission statement is an advocacy organization representing independent self-reliant cattle producers and support an environment where we do business within a free and open market.

Be it resolved that SSGA reaffirm our commitment to these traditional values and keep this in mind when we consider a response to any possible political decisions or trade actions that effect our industry.

Moved by Kelly Williamson/

Died

Resolution #2

WHEREAS Alberta Beef Producers (ABP) has a defined policy on private land conservation; and

WHEREAS Canadian Cattle Association has a draft for environmental policy and is pushing to engage in conservation activity.

BE IT RESOLVED that SSGA create guiding policy for its organizations around environmental conservation to be ratified by membership.

Moved by Kelly Williamson/Neil Blocks

Carried

Resolution #3

WHEREAS TB and CWD are threats to the livestock industry caused by carriers [from the] natural environment; and

WHEREAS Control of the environment and the natural carriers of TB and CWD are the control of the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment.

BE IT RESOLVED that SSGA lobby the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment to create a strategy to address TB and CWD, and eradicate it.

Moved by Kelly Williamson/Jeff Yorga

Carried

Resolution #4

WHEREAS the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture is planning to amend grazing co-operative lease agreements to include a hunting clause in 2025; and

WHEREAS there has been no formal consultation on this change to grazing co-operative lease agreements.

BE IT RESOLVED that SSGA lobby the government of Saskatchewan to pause any changes to lease agreements until grazing co-operatives have been consulted.

Moved by Kelly Williamson/Neil Block

Carried

Resolution #5

WHEREAS cattle prices in the CFIA compensation schedule haven't been updated since 2015; and

WHEREAS cattle prices have increased significantly since 2015.

BE IT RESOLVED that SSGA lobby AAFC and CFIA to update cattle prices in the compensation schedule.

Moved by Kelly Williamson/Chay Anderson

Carried

Resolution #6

WHEREAS water is an important resource in the often-dry landscape of southern SK; and

WHEREAS unauthorized, excessive, and poorly designed drainage works by individual landowners can cause significant damage to downstream land owners, including contaminating livestock water sources with pesticides, phosphate, sodium, sulphates, algae and toxic algae blooms, etc; and

WHEREAS livestock producers depend on sufficient and good quality water supplies; and

WHEREAS the Water Security Agency (WSA) policy for enforcement for drainage violations relies on a complaint-based system that can pit neighbour against neighbour and costs \$1000 to file a complaint.

BE IT RESOLVED that SSGA lobby the Government of Saskatchewan and the WSA to re-evaluate the proposed Agricultural Water Stewardship Policy to ensure that it does not result in an economic and competitive disadvantage to livestock producers, including allocating the necessary staff resources with a mandate to carry out enforcement policies.

Moved by Kelly Williamson/Jeff Yorga

Carried

Resolution #7

WHEREAS the cowboy culture of western Canadian ranches, not unlike the image depicted by the SSGA logo, are what resonates in consumers purchasing choice. Examples of grassland landscapes and cowboy culture provide strong linkages to values of our consumers; and

WHEREAS the history and culture of Saskatchewan ranches is what has enabled the strong environmental outcomes that are provided today on many landscapes; and

WHEREAS the industry modernizes and innovates, it will be important to make sure the knowledge of this culture is enabled to be passed on; and

WHEREAS First Nation cultures have common intimate relationships with grassland landscapes in which we operate.

BE IT RESOLVED that the SSGA explore ways to support, promote and celebrate cowboy culture and look for opportunities to collaborate with First Nations on common cultural values.

Moved by Kelly Williamson/Tom Harrison

Motion: Kelly Williamson/Kurtis Reed

"I Move we table this resolution until we have a better definition for Cowboy Culture"

Calvin Knoss/Kurtis Reed

Motion Tabled

15. OTHER BUSINESS

Calvin Knoss explained a resolution that he didn't bring forward about asking government for more Business Risk Management Funding – before we declare a disaster.

Motion: Kelly Williamson/Kurtis Reed

"I Move we suspend the rules and consider to reopen resolutions"

Carried

Resolution #8

WHEREAS the United States is planning to implement 25% tariffs on Canadian goods; and

WHEREAS these tariffs are a leverage point to fix our border and the drug problem; and

WHEREAS the federal government is discussing retaliatory tariffs will also negatively affect Canadian consumers and producers.

BE IT RESOLVED that the SSGA lobby the provincial government and CCA to lobby the federal government to pursue negotiations to avoid retaliatory tariffs.

Moved by Kelly Williamson/Henry McCarthy

Carried

Resolution #9

WHEREAS the federal government is talking about providing financial support to consumers and producers that are negatively impacted by these tariffs; and

WHEREAS the financial support provided during the Covid-19 pandemic, which has been shown to negatively impact the Canadian economy in the long run, digging the hole deeper for future generations; and

WHEREAS the real problem is that we have backed ourselves into a hole for all our industries, leaving us with only one customer, that being the United States.

BE IT RESOLVED that the SSGA to lobby the provincial government and national associations that any government spending be directed towards the development of business activity in new markets (LNG, pipelines, food production), and not having funds used in a vote buying scheme.

Moved by Kelly Williamson/Henry McCarthy

Carried

16. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Calvin Knoss/Adrienne Hanson

"Motion that the meeting adjourn"

Carried