

Minister
of Agriculture and
Agri-Food



Ministre
de l'Agriculture et de
l'Agroalimentaire

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0C5

December 6, 2021

Quote: 266166

Mr. Chad MacPherson
General Manager
Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association
Box 4752
Regina SK S4P 3Y4

Dear Mr. MacPherson:

Thank you for your email and attached resolutions, which were passed at the 2021 Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association's annual general meeting. I sincerely regret the delay in this response.

The resolutions address key issues related to policies affecting Canadian agriculture, and I commend your organization for working to advance the interests of Saskatchewan cattle producers. I appreciate the opportunity to address resolutions #1, #13, #15 and #16, which fall under the mandate of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC).

Record keeping is essential to ensure that important information is available regarding animals and their care, and who has responsibility for them at each stage during transport. Under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, provinces and territories have the flexibility to design and deliver cost-shared programs that meet regional needs while advancing national priorities to help address issues similar to the additional documentation costs you mention as result of the *Humane Transport Regulations*. I encourage producers to look into the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture's suite of cost-shared programming, specifically costs associated with developing materials to meet industry standards that may be available under the [Assurance System Producer Program](#).

As you know, consultations are under way on the next policy framework (NPF) for 2023–28. Currently, AAFC is consulting broadly on priorities for the NPF, opportunities and challenges facing the sector, and experiences with the Canadian Agricultural Partnership. I strongly encourage you and your stakeholders to raise priority issues, such as your funding request for the development of agricultural carbon protocols, at these consultation sessions or submit directly to aafc.npf-pcs.aac@agr.gc.ca.

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A suite of business risk management programs is available to help producers manage severe risks, including AgriStability. AgriStability provides support when producers experience large margin declines relative to their historical averages and is well-suited to respond to pressures that threaten the viability of the farm. Specifically, AgriStability margins are calculated on a whole-farm basis and account for impacts on both revenues and variable costs directly related to production (e.g. feed, fuel, storage and drying). Some expenses, such as fixed or capital costs and discretionary expenses (e.g. machinery repairs, non-arm's length labour, custom work), are non-allowable under the Program. Expenses that are deemed non-allowable under the program guidelines reflect aspects of farming (e.g. capital purchases, operating structures and business expenses) that are not variable inputs to farm production, vary significantly between commodities or are difficult to verify. Overall, this ensures that AgriStability coverage is restricted to production or price declines, rising input costs and market losses, and for factors largely beyond a producer's control.

I am pleased to inform you that AAFC supports research in eco-friendly agricultural plastics through the AgriScience Program. This program aims to accelerate the pace of innovation by providing funding and support for pre-commercial science activities and cutting-edge research that benefits the agriculture and agri-food sector and Canadians. Research into the field of agriculture-based plastics is currently being supported through the Program in the Bioproducts Cluster, which is led by Bioindustrial Innovation Canada, with a federal investment of up to \$11.2 million along with \$10.9 million in contributions from industry.

Lastly, the Government of Canada recognizes the challenges that exist relating to the federal regulatory regime governing interprovincial trade of foods in Canada. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency is working with the provinces and territories to better understand regional objectives and challenges facing the meat sector. Additionally, a working group has been created to explore solutions to accessing federal licensing by meat establishments that are currently provincially-inspected but want to expand their market to other provinces. I assure you that the federal government continues to explore measures that will help secure the food supply and reduce challenges in the sector.

I trust that this information will be of assistance to you. Again, thank you for writing to me on these matters.

Sincerely,



The Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, PC, MP