



Government
— of —
Saskatchewan

Minister of Agriculture
Legislative Building
Regina, Canada S4S 0B3

March 4, 2024

Chad MacPherson, General Manager
SK Stock Growers Association
PO Box 4752
REGINA SK S4P 2Y4
gm@skstockgrowers.com

Dear Chad MacPherson:

Thank you for your email outlining the resolutions carried at the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association's (SSGA) Semi-annual Meeting on January 24, 2024. Please find below our responses to the resolutions pertaining to the Ministry of Agriculture and Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC).

Resolution #1: To lobby SCIC to put a monetary value on stockpiled forages for wildlife damage.

SCIC administers the Wildlife Compensation Program on behalf of the provincial and federal government which compensates producers with crop loss from wildlife. Producers that experience loss can be eligible for funding for wildlife prevention methods or up to 100 per cent compensation for damage to commercial crops from wildlife damage.

SCIC will provide compensation for stockpiled forages from wildlife damage provided SCIC's alternative feeding criteria are met. This means it must be either baled hay, standing corn, or a crop grown with the intention of swath grazing. This does not include native pasture stands, or hay land regrowth. As well, there must be a plan in place to ensure livestock are making full use of the feed and there is no excessive waste. To control and limit wildlife damage, producers must implement reasonable prevention measures.

To compensate for situations that are not outlined above, further consideration would be required regarding the ability to accurately assess yield before and after damage, demonstrating it is an intended management practice, and the ability to implement reasonable prevention measures. SCIC looks forward to working with producers to continuously better the programs that are offered.

Resolution #4: To lobby the federal and provincial governments to compensate producers for feed costs and any other expenses incurred as a result of a Canadian Food Inspection Agency quarantine.

The Ministry of Agriculture understands the concerns raised by your group about the potential financial burdens experienced by producers during disease quarantines. Producers can enroll in provincial Business Risk Management programs, such as AgriStability, to protect against such revenue risks, as well as proactively protect against diseases through biosecurity measures with support from Sustainable CAP programs. Although the Canadian Food Inspection Agency provides compensation for diseased animals ordered to be destroyed, neither the federal or provincial governments provide compensation for cleaning and disinfection costs or replacement costs. Based on the formal assessment criteria, AgriRecovery may be an option to help cover extraordinary expenses if it is seen as a collective experience, affecting a large enough number of producers in a region. The ministry will continue to work with industry and federal government to confirm if this is an option.

Resolution #7: To lobby the Government of Saskatchewan to implement a 2.5m setback from the property line in the fencing regulations.

The proposed new Bill (Bill 72 – The Animal Production Act) that replaces the existing legislation includes general fencing provisions that requires producers to have fencing that keeps their animals on their own property.

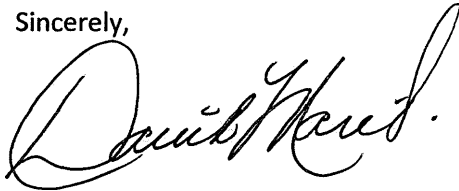
If agreements cannot be reached amicably between neighbours, it allows for an arbitration process to assist in addressing fencing issues between neighbours, which could be between livestock/livestock, or livestock/crop adjacent property.

At this time, we are not planning to implement a 2.5 m setback into our new legislation and would welcome the opportunity to meet with the SSGA board to further discuss the rationale.

Chad MacPherson
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The valuable discussion on these topics at your semi-annual meeting is appreciated. Thank you for bringing them forward to the ministry for response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Marit". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

David Marit
Minister of Agriculture

cc: Rick Burton, Deputy Minister
Venkata Vakulabharanam, Executive Director
Jeff Morrow, President and CEO, SCIC