



Government  
— of —  
Saskatchewan

March 8, 2022

Chad MacPherson, General Manager  
Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association  
PO Box 4752  
REGINA SK S4P 2Y4

Dear ~~Chad MacPherson~~:

Thank you for your email regarding resolutions carried at the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association (SSGA) Semi-Annual General Meeting on February 2, 2022. Please find below responses to the resolutions pertaining to the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture and Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC).

**Resolution #1: To lobby the Governments of Canada and Saskatchewan to dedicate research funds to breeding non-dwarf cereal crop varieties.**

The Ministry of Agriculture's focus for research and development investments is the long-term sustainability of the agriculture sector in Saskatchewan. The ministry invests in agriculture research projects through Agriculture Development Fund (ADF) and Strategic Research Initiative.

During the past 10 years, the ministry has invested more than \$2 million in research projects related to lodging improvement in wheat, barley and oats. Negative impacts of dwarfing genes have encouraged researchers to find alternative genes for controlling lodging in cereals.

Researchers have the opportunity to seek funding for breeding non-dwarf varieties by applying to ADF. The ministry takes an outcome based approach when investing in ADF research every year and proposals on breeding non-dwarf varieties will fall under the ADF outcomes of development of new crops/cultivars as well as utilization of biotechnology to enhance agriculture. ADF funding decisions will be based mainly on:

- impact of the proposed research on Saskatchewan agriculture sector;
- likelihood of adoption of the innovation; and
- quality of the proposed research work.

Please visit the following website for further details on ADF and ADF outcomes;  
<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/business/agriculture-natural-resources-and-industry/agribusiness-farmers-and-ranchers/agricultural-research-programs/knowledge-creation/agriculture-development-fund>

**Resolution #2: To lobby the federal and provincial governments to fund the development of a satellite-based forage insurance program.**

SCIC continues to work with industry to improve upon existing programs and explore alternatives for forage insurance. SCIC formed the Forage Working Group in 2014, of which SSGA is an active participant, and continues to consult this group for ideas to improve upon programming. Satellite-based insurance is one of the focus areas with two key projects underway. SCIC is committed to working with SSGA and other industry groups in developing the best solution for future forage programs.

**Resolution #3: That starting in the fall of 2022 that wolves can be hunted by all licensed big game hunters in all WMZ in agricultural Saskatchewan in which livestock are being attacked.**

The current hunting season for wolves in Saskatchewan is in the boreal forest fringe, which includes the majority of wolf conflict areas in Saskatchewan. Hunting success rates, however, have been very low. A total of 874 licenses were sold in the four combined years from 2017-2021 with an estimated harvest of 50 wolves, total, over the same time period. Because wolf hunting seasons have very low success rates and little impact on local populations, the Ministry of Environment considers trapping the most effective method to remove wolves from areas of concern. Trapping can be highly targeted and has proven more successful in reducing livestock predation issues, with 618 wolves being trapped over the last four years. South of the Northern Fur Conservation Block, any Saskatchewan resident can purchase a fur licence and harvest wolves during the fur season, or landowners could seek assistance from a local trapper. There are also provisions in *The Wildlife Regulations* that allow a landowner to kill a wolf on their land to protect their property, which includes livestock, without a licence.

Saskatchewan wolf populations appear to be stable and typically fluctuate in response to food supplies. Like most predators, wolves can cover large areas to find available prey and move into new areas as part of a natural dispersal process. The Ministry of Environment has not released wolves into any area of Saskatchewan. There is no evidence that wolves are moving substantially outside of their normal range in the province. When small groups or individual wolves disperse, they move through new areas in search of suitable locations to establish territories.

The Ministry of Environment meets several times a year with the Wildlife Advisory Committee, of which SARM is a member, where issues are brought forward and discussed. This input is carefully considered as wildlife policy decisions are made. We are currently reviewing wolf seasons but have not made a decision to expand seasons further into the agricultural zones at this time.

**Resolution #5: Since deep wells and shallow buried pipelines require a reliable power source to pump water long distances, to lobby the Government of Saskatchewan for grid power to be included in the Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program (FRWIP) as an eligible expense.**

We appreciate the participation of SSGA at the FRWIP stakeholder workshop held in December 2021. At the workshop, we heard FRWIP is the most important program for Saskatchewan producers and overall, it works well. Several barriers and opportunities for improvement have also been identified, including existing limitations around eligible power sources. FRWIP allows rebate funding for solar systems when developed in conjunction with a new sustainable water development project such as a well, dugout, dugout expansion or pipeline development. The ministry is currently reviewing feedback from the workshop and will be holding additional stakeholder consultations to support planning, program enhancements or changes, as well as negotiations with the federal government for the Next Policy Framework.

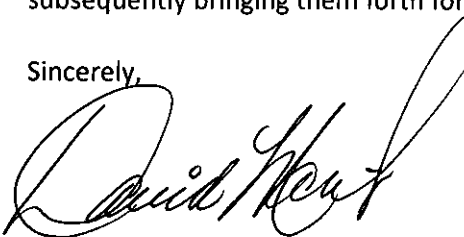
At this time, the ministry will not be including power installation as an eligible expense under FRWIP under the current Canadian Agricultural Partnership program. We appreciate the pro-active engagement from SSGA and will consider the feedback for the Next Policy Framework.

**Resolution #7: To lobby the Federal and Provincial Government to cost share Livestock Price Insurance (LPI) premiums, similar to crop insurance premiums.**

SCIC is currently negotiating the Next Policy Framework with our federal and provincial partners proposing to make LPI a permanent, national program. As negotiations for the Next Policy Framework are taking place, we will take forward the request to cost share premiums for the LPI program. There are many other considerations during negotiations as LPI is not offered in other provinces, however, the Government of Saskatchewan is committed to seek agreement to make the program permanent as it brings value to the livestock sector. SCIC along with government heavily relies on organizations such as SSGA for direction on how to ensure the future success of these programs.

Thank you for allowing discussion on these issues at your semi-annual general meeting and subsequently bringing them forth for an opportunity to respond.

Sincerely,



David Marit  
Minister of Agriculture



Warren Kaeding  
Minister of Environment

cc: Honourable Bronwyn Eyre, Minister of Energy and Resources  
Mark McLoughlin, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment