



Government  
— of —  
Saskatchewan

Minister of Agriculture

Legislative Building  
Regina, Canada S4S 0B3

MR-2026-114

**MAR 30 2026**

Jeff Yorga  
President  
Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association  
P.O. Box 4752  
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Dear Jeff Yorga:

Firstly, I would like to congratulate the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association (SSGA) on a successful and productive semi-annual meeting and Honor Scrolls banquet.

The three resolutions related to the Ministry of Agriculture that were passed by SSGA members are listed below along with our responses.

**Resolution #12:**

**WHEREAS** many Saskatchewan acres are unsuitable for annual cropping but well-suited to perennial or short-term forage; and

**WHEREAS** forage production can improve soil function, reduce weed pressure, and create economic opportunities for both livestock and grain producers while supporting provincial goals for soil conservation and sustainability;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association promote collaboration among livestock and grain producers and urge the Government of Saskatchewan to maintain and develop policies, incentives, and extension programs that encourage converting marginal cropland to forage or forage-based management that improves soil health, limits herbicide-resistant weeds, and strengthens long-term agricultural sustainability.

As part of the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership, the Ministry of Agriculture (ministry) provides funding to convert annual crop land to forage through the Resilient Agricultural Landscapes Program (RALP). Cost-shared funding is provided for forage seed and establishment costs. Participants also have the option to sign a five-year land use

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agreement, which represents a commitment to maintain the forage for five years in exchange for an additional payment.

The ministry conducted stakeholder outreach as part of the RALP review. We remain open to feedback on an ongoing basis to ensure programs are achieving the desired outcomes. Furthermore, we are committed to engaging stakeholders to explore their needs as we approach the next policy framework.

In addition to program support offered through RALP, the ministry's agri-environmental specialists offer extension services to producers across the province focused on soil health and establishing and maintaining sustainable forage stands.

**Resolution #15**

**WHEREAS** the Saskatchewan cattle industry has voiced opposition to the increased traceability standards; and

**WHEREAS** industry has identified the need for CFIA reform;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that SSGA lobby for an industry working group with government to be created to ensure a path forward that halts increased traceability standards and ensures reform takes place.

The ministry welcomes continued discussions with industry stakeholders and producers about traceability. We will continue to oppose the proposed amendments to Part XV (Traceability) of the *Health of Animals Regulations* as presented in the Canada Gazette. It is important potential regulatory changes do not create unnecessary burden and costs for Saskatchewan livestock producers.

The province will continue to push for further and more thorough industry engagement on this matter. This will include leveraging existing traceability Federal Provincial, Territorial (FPT)/Industry committees and working groups, and discussing potential options for further industry engagement going forward. The province has also heard the industry calls for changes to place animal health related matters under the Federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food. I support these calls, and intend to raise this topic at an upcoming FPT meeting this summer.

**Resolution #17**

**WHEREAS** the transition to e-manifests is slow to take shape and be implemented; and  
**WHEREAS** manifests are an important part of our internal provincial traceability without CFIA involvement;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that SSGA lobby Saskatchewan Cattle Association, Livestock Services of Saskatchewan and the Government of Saskatchewan to expedite this process without extra cost to producers as this benefits the whole industry.

The ministry sees the availability of an electronic manifest for the livestock sector as an important option to comply with provincial and national regulatory requirements. As such, during the development of *The Animal Production Regulations*, the ministry ensured that

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both electronic and paper manifests were acceptable in Saskatchewan, demonstrating the Government of Saskatchewan's commitment to technological advancements in the livestock sector. The ministry recognizes the livestock industry's efforts to develop practical and cost-effective options for producers to comply with regulations while facilitating commerce within the livestock sector.

We look forward to continuing to work with the SSGA in advancing the interests of our livestock sector.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David Marit". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "D".

David Marit  
Minister of Agriculture