

Minister
of Agriculture and
Agri-Food



Ministre
de l'Agriculture et de
l'Agroalimentaire

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0C5

Quote: 294427

5/14/2026

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

Dear Mr. MacPherson:

Thank you for your correspondence regarding the resolutions passed at the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association's 2026 Semi-Annual Meeting on February 27.

Please find below the responses to the resolutions falling under my responsibility as Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food.

RESOLUTION 1

With regard to stopping any increase in traceability requirements, the regulatory proposal remains paused at this time. Since 2013, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has engaged extensively with producers, industry associations and provincial partners during many phases of consultation to discuss and inform the traceability regulatory proposal. Throughout the CFIA's extensive engagement with stakeholders, the regulatory proposal was adapted to reflect the input and realities of stakeholders.

RESOLUTION 2

With regard to livestock culled during a disease emergency, compensation values for animals ordered disposed are determined by evaluation of market data at the time when the animals are ordered destroyed, as well as using producer records, including receipts from previous sales. The timely submission of documentation helps expedite the process. The option for unbiased third-party evaluation currently exists within the compensation policy. All compensation payments are subject to maximums as set out in the *Compensation for Destroyed Animals and Things Regulations*.

With regard to the timing of destruction for animals ordered disposed, the CFIA works with producers to expedite the process but is limited by available and suitable slaughter capacity. While the possibility of finalizing compensation values prior to destruction could be considered, any delay in the process will result in longer quarantines and costs for feeding animals that have been ordered disposed. The CFIA has no mechanism to compensate for the cost of feeding animals ordered disposed.

RESOLUTION 3

The CFIA recognizes the work of Livestock Identification Services Ltd. (LIS) and Livestock Services of Saskatchewan (LSS) in collecting provincially required data within the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan, respectively. The CFIA has worked in collaboration with both of these organizations and consulted with each of them in the development of the proposed changes to national livestock traceability regulations. The proposed changes to livestock traceability do not exclude the participation of the provincial services and tools and aim to reduce the burden on producers where possible. However, tracing remains largely carried out via producer records, auction records and provincial movement manifests using alternate methods of identification (ID), including cattle sex, weight, colour and brands as opposed to individual animal IDs, making disease investigations challenging.

RESOLUTION 4

The proposed traceability program would include a combination of individual animal movement move-in reporting as well as lot movement reporting at assembly points and community pastures. Where possible, the CFIA uses the tools developed and implemented by LIS and LSS; however, tracing animals during an outbreak remains challenging. For example, Alberta requires move-in reporting for beef cattle moving into large feedlots, similar to what the proposed regulations would require for all cattle. During disease investigations, the tracing of beef cattle that went to Alberta feedlots was significantly more efficient than in other provinces.

RESOLUTION 5

With regard to the organizational structure of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), the Minister of Health has a responsibility to prioritize safe food and the health and safety of Canadians. Canada's food system depends on a strong agriculture sector, and healthy animals and plants are its foundation. The President of the CFIA already works closely with me in my capacity as the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food on all matters related to animal and plant health.

RESOLUTION 6

With regard to the use of Canadian entities for Canadian medical information, Global VetLink is a third-party technology provider whose digital system meets the CFIA's requirements for functionality and Government of Canada requirements for security. As a federal government agency, the CFIA adheres to Government standards and best practices for the procurement of goods and services, including information technology and data solutions.

While the Government does develop some tools internally, the CFIA is not primarily a technology developer, and therefore relies on proven, commercially available or third-party solutions when it offers the most effective and efficient means of supporting program delivery for Canadians.

RESOLUTION 7

With regard to the Pesticides Regulatory Directorate (PRD)—(formerly known as the Pest Management Regulatory Agency, or PMRA)—this resolution suggests that economic impacts and agricultural issues are not prioritized. While the PRD prioritizes the protection of human health and the environment, it does not operate without advice and guidance from other Government departments that are impacted by pesticide registrations and regulations. The Federal-Provincial-Territorial Committee on Pest Management and Pesticides includes provincial and territorial government representatives from across the country, in addition to representatives of the federal government, such as the CFIA and AAFC's Pest Management Centre.

RESOLUTION 8

With regard to the proposed five-year tag study, the current livestock traceability regulations require stakeholders to replace lost indicators and keep a record of the replacement tags for two years for animals that lose a tag on any site other than the farm of origin. The proposed regulations would shift producers' record-keeping requirement to a reporting requirement. The Canadian Cattle Identification Agency (CCIA), as the administrator for beef cattle in Canada, has extensive knowledge and data on tag retention rates gathered over its 26-year history and continues to pursue a range of initiatives to improve tag retention. For example, the CCIA most recently conducted a "retention matters" campaign, a communication and education initiative focused on improving tag retention across the Canadian livestock industry.

RESOLUTION 10

With regard to the closure of some research and development sites, AAFC was required to identify savings over a three-year period (as all federal departments were required to do). AAFC focused on approaches that protect investments in science and research to the greatest extent possible.

AAFC recognizes the importance of maintaining continuity through this transition and will work with partners on next steps for projects that may be affected, with a view to preserving research continuity to the extent possible. While these changes affect parts of our animal research footprint, AAFC will maintain significant livestock research capacity through its distributed network of centres:

- Beef research will continue at the Lethbridge and Swift Current Research and Development Centres.
- Forage management research will continue at Kentville, Swift Current, Lethbridge, Normandin and Agassiz.
- Forage breeding capacity and activities will be consolidated and will continue in both Eastern Canada (Truro) and Western Canada (Lethbridge and Swift Current).

RESOLUTION 14

As you may be aware, on March 30, 2026, under the *Pest Control Products Act*, the Government authorized an Emergency Registration to Alberta and Saskatchewan to register strychnine until November 2027. As this matter falls under the jurisdiction of the Minister of Health, I am providing a copy of our exchange of correspondence to the Honourable Marjorie Michel for consideration.

RESOLUTION 15

With regard to the creation of an industry–government working group, the CFIA is pausing further publication of the regulations to ensure the proposed changes are well understood and that all feedback is carefully considered. At this time, we invite you to consult the CFIA’s [Proposed federal livestock traceability requirements](#) webpage. The CFIA values the ongoing dialogue and remains open to input as we work together to ensure that the proposed traceability regulations are practical and effective.

Again, thank you for writing. I trust that this information is of value to the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J. Heath MacDonald". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

The Honourable Heath MacDonald, P.C., M.P.

c.c.: The Honourable Marjorie Michel, P.C., M.P.