



Government
— of —
Saskatchewan

Minister of Agriculture

Legislative Building
Regina, Canada S4S 0B3

August 26, 2021

RM of Enterprise No. 142
P.O. Box 150
RICHMOUND SK S0N 2E0

Dear RM of Enterprise:

Thank you for reaching out regarding the drought conditions facing the RM of Enterprise. The Government of Saskatchewan shares your concerns. We continue to monitor the situation and have responded with a number of programs to support producers.

We recognize the seriousness of the situation facing Saskatchewan farmers and ranchers as a result of the drought conditions. We appreciate the RM of Enterprise passing this resolution as it speaks to how dry it is and to the challenges presented by the current conditions.

Moisture conditions in the province are rated based on Saskatchewan's weekly Crop Report top soil moisture maps and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Drought Monitor. Conditions vary from area to area, but generally speaking the entire province is facing extremely dry conditions.

The Government of Saskatchewan has announced \$119 million in direct support for drought-affected livestock producers under the AgriRecovery program. The program will provide a per head payment to help maintain breeding stock. This financial relief will help producers with extraordinary costs due to drought, such as accessing feed and water. AgriRecovery is part of the Canadian Agricultural Partnership agreement, with funding shared on a 60-40 federal-provincial basis. The federal government is requested to provide an additional \$178 million, for a total program of \$297 million.

The amount of the per head payment will be finalized pending federal agreement. With full federal participation, it would be \$200 per head to cattle producers, with a portion provided as an immediate per head payment and the remaining amount issued later in the fiscal year based on year-end herd numbers. The Government of Saskatchewan looks forward to working closely with the federal government to ensure that our producers receive the support they require.

The Ministry of Agriculture has also developed the [Saskatchewan Agricultural Drought Preparedness Plan](#), which outlines preparedness, monitoring, and response and recovery approaches. It is intended to help producers understand their drought vulnerability and ensure they are aware of the tools and data available.

Producers' primary line of defense is provided by our existing business risk management programs – Crop Insurance, AgriStability and AgriInvest. For those enrolled in AgriStability, an Interim Payment can be requested. The federal government and the province have agreed to increase the 2021 AgriStability interim benefit payment percentage from 50 per cent to 75 per cent for Saskatchewan producers. The AgriStability interim benefit can help producers with cash flow needs and provide them with additional flexibility to deal with the dry conditions. Clients can ask about information required to submit an application for an Interim Payment by calling toll free: 1-866-270-8450, or via email: agristability@scic.ca.

At this time of year, I recognize program enrolment deadlines may have passed. However, a variety of other programs remain available specifically for livestock producers. The Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program provides funding to eligible applicants to develop new wells, pipelines, dugouts, or expand existing dugouts. Under the Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program, costs related to dugouts, pipelines and wells are typically funded at 50 per cent of eligible costs, to a maximum rebate of \$50,000 over the life of the program.

For the period April 1, 2021, to March 31, 2022, the maximum rebate for livestock producers will increase to \$150,000. The first \$50,000 will be based on a 50-50 cost-share and the remaining \$100,000 will be on a 70-30 government-producer cost-share. The Ministry of Agriculture (the Ministry) strives to provide a funding decision within 30 business days, once we have received all of your required information. During periods of high application volume, it may take longer to provide a funding decision. However, the Ministry is committed to issuing a decision as quickly as possible.

SCIC recognizes there is a cost to harvest a severely damaged crop. If the appraised yield falls below the established threshold level, SCIC can reduce the appraisal to zero based on the information gathered during the inspection. This threshold level is meant to reflect the approximate cost of harvesting a severely damaged crop. SCIC is mindful when working with producers to ensure they can put these types of crops to an alternate use and feed livestock. In response to the current drought conditions, SCIC is doubling the Low Yield Appraisal threshold values for customers who salvage their cereal or pulse crops as feed, without negatively impacting future individual coverage. For example, the previous established threshold for barley was seven bushels per acre. For Crop Insurance customers wanting to utilize a grain crop for feed, the

threshold will now be 14 bushels per acre. In this case, a zero-bushel yield would be used for the claim and the original 14 bushels would be used to update future coverage.

If a customer does not want to carry a crop through to harvest, they can file a pre-harvest appraisal. Crops carried through to harvest and with a reduced yield or loss in quality, may result in a post-harvest claim. Clients wanting to put insured acres to alternate use, must contact their local SCIC office or call 1-888-935-0000 prior to doing so. To account for all production, an adjuster will inspect any acres put to an alternate use. The appraised value will be added to the total harvested production for that crop in the event of a claim. Checkstrips and enclosures may be requested so adjusters can assess any damage.

The Ministry's livestock and feed extension specialists keep a hay pricing document that lists hay for sale across the province. Producers are encouraged to reach out to their local specialist for support in making the most of feed supplies.

Again, thank you for taking the time to contact me with your concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Marit".

David Marit
Minister of Agriculture

cc: Honourable Scott Moe, Premier of Saskatchewan
Honourable Christine Tell, Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency
Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities
Larry Grant, SARM Division 3 Director