



ALBERTA  
AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION

*Office of the Minister  
MLA, Highwood*

August 21, 2023

Dear Stakeholders:

The 2023 growing season has been difficult for many Alberta farmers and ranchers, with compounded challenges including hot, dry weather, wildfires, grasshoppers and more. These events have significantly affected the ability to grow forages for grazing and winter feed production and hindered many producer's ability to procure feed for their livestock.

As you are aware, in early July, we asked the federal government to work with us on an AgriRecovery assessment to address the impacts of the hot, dry weather on livestock producers in Alberta. We are working closely with the federal government to expedite next steps and maximize on cost-shared federal funding, which is critical to ensuring the program provides the maximum benefit to producers. I will continue to emphasize the urgent need here in our province for a Canada-Alberta joint response.

In the meantime, the province is moving ahead with drafting program eligibility to help offset extraordinary costs of feeding livestock to maintain the breeding herd. For example, extraordinary costs may include feed and transportation costs related to hauling feed or animals. Eligible animals would need to be located in Alberta, and may include grazing animals such as cattle, bison, horses, elk, yak, deer, llamas, alpacas, sheep and goats. Extraordinary costs could be compensated using a feed need calculation, similar to the 2021 Canada-Alberta Livestock Feed Assistance program.

I expect to have updates for you in mid-September. Thank you for your understanding as we work through this process.

Sincerely,

Honourable RJ Sigurdson  
Minister, Agriculture and Irrigation

cc: Jason Hale, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation