

Federal Election Priorities

The success of our industry is influenced by many factors, including the policies and regulations implemented by all levels of government. Our success is not just measured by the amount of beef we produce, but by the economic and environmental sustainability of our producers. While policies and regulations may meet political objectives, they can have detrimental effects on our industry. Inaction on key issues can also negatively impact the sector. Below are several areas SCA would like to see addressed by the next Canadian government.

Competitiveness

Saskatchewan producers compete on the world stage and require government support to maintain a business environment that cultivates success. Canada's regulatory, policy, and taxation requirements must keep pace with those of our international competitors so our farmers can remain globally competitive. Therefore, we recommend:

- Conducting an inventory and cost analysis of the full scope of federal taxation, regulations, and policies burdening Canadian farmers, and completing a comparison with our global competitors.
- Establishing a cross-departmental government task force that collaborates directly with the sector to develop and implement practical solutions to the chronic labour shortage in Canada's Ag sector.

Business Risk Management

Many factors beyond producers' control—such as weather, disease, and trade disputes—impact the agricultural sector. To help manage these risks, producers rely on a suite of Business Risk Management (BRM) programs cost-shared between the federal and provincial governments. While these programs are appreciated, the SCA recommends several changes to make them more effective and responsive to producers' current needs:

- **AgriStability:** Permanently increase the payment cap to \$15 million, with a review every five years. The recent increase to \$6 million for the 2025 production year is welcome, but the change must be made permanent.
- **Alberta Pilot Review:** Review the results of the Alberta pilot project with a view to implementing recommendations that would improve the program for cattle producers (e.g., including homegrown feed as an eligible expense).
- **Whole Farm Insurance:** Continue developing the whole farm insurance program currently underway at AAFC.
- **Livestock Price Insurance (LPI):**
- Cost-share premiums between governments and producers, similar to crop insurance, to create parity between crop and cattle producers.
- Make LPI a permanent program under the BRM suite.

- Livestock Tax Deferral (LTD)
- Make the provision producer-elected, rather than requiring enactment by the federal Finance Minister.
- Expand eligibility to include situations involving disease outbreaks, not just extreme weather.
- Extend the provision to include all classes of cattle, not just breeding stock.

Value-Added in Saskatchewan

The Qu'Appelle South Project (through the Regina-Moose Jaw corridor) and the West Side Project (in the Conquest area) are two large-scale irrigation projects proposed for development in Saskatchewan. The SCA strongly supports both initiatives and believes they would deliver significant economic benefits not only to agriculture but also to the province and country. Expanded irrigation would enable crop diversification, increased crop processing, enhanced livestock feeding and processing, and strengthen the services that support irrigation districts.

While the provincial government has begun foundational work, federal investment has not yet materialized. The SCA sees these projects as transformational.

- The SCA requests federal funding for large irrigation projects—comparable to infrastructure investments made in other parts of the country. This funding should be in the form of direct investment, not loans.

Regulatory

Canadian regulators are increasingly risk-averse, while global competitors—especially the United States—are becoming more risk-tolerant, making them more competitive. This trend risks leaving Canadian producers behind, encumbered by inefficient regulatory systems.

- Develop and execute an action plan to address barriers within government approval systems that prevent producers from accessing innovative products and tools used for years by global competitors.
- Transform and modernize government agencies and departments to better serve producers and consumers through coordinated, engaged, and knowledgeable leadership committed to being a partner—not a barrier—to the Canadian agriculture sector.
- Conduct a full and comprehensive review of compensation provided by the CFIA, including the maximum value placed on cattle ordered destroyed during disease outbreaks.
- Additional costs incurred by producers during disease investigations should also be considered for CFIA compensation, including:
 - Clean-up and disinfection
 - Additional feed costs due to quarantine
- Finalize the process to harmonize SRM (Specified Risk Material) regulations with those of the United States.

102-2255 13th Avenue
Regina, SK S4P 0V6
Phone: 306.585.2333
Fax: 306.585.2334
www.saskbeef.com



The Saskatchewan Cattle Association (SCA) was established in 2009 and represents over 12,000 cattle producers in the province. Our mandate is to provide a united voice for Saskatchewan's beef industry, with representation from all industry sectors and across all regions. The SCA works to develop and promote the industry by investing in research and advocating at both provincial and national levels. We collaborate closely with other provincial cattle and forage associations, as well as national organizations such as the Canadian Cattle Association, the National Cattle Feeders Association, and the Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef, among others.

Saskatchewan Cattle Association – Developing and promoting the success of all production sectors of the Saskatchewan beef cattle industry through effective representation from all regions of the province.

