



ALBERTA
AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION

*Office of the Minister
MLA, Highwood*

November 7th, 2023

Dear Stakeholders:

On October 30, 2023, producers were able to begin applying for the 2023 Canada-Alberta Drought Livestock Assistance Program. Since that time, I have been asked a number of questions from producers related to the geographic requirements for this initiative.

During the 2023 growing season, Alberta's producers dealt with varying conditions including exceptionally low moisture conditions, flooding and wildfires. The Canada-Alberta Drought Livestock Assistance Program only addresses extreme dry conditions. By targeting municipalities identified with a severe or one in 10-year or more severe drought on the Canadian Drought Monitor map, the intent is to provide targeted support to those producers who need it the most.

The situation faced by producers in 2021 was different than 2023. Extreme dry conditions were more widespread in 2021, so there were no geographic restrictions on the AgriRecovery response for livestock producers that year. That being said, Alberta's government once again advocated for a province-wide program without geographic eligibility, on the basis that applicants must demonstrate feed need and drought impact to be eligible for funding. However, area-specific eligibility was a requirement set by the federal government as a condition of the program. My ministry and I have been fierce in negotiations, advocating to the federal government for our producers to receive drought relief. However, simply put, the federal government would not have provided its portion of this program's funding without area-specific eligibility requirements. The urgency for the program was clear. While Alberta fought against these conditions after months of negotiations, Alberta also couldn't risk its producers being shorted on critical funding as they enter the winter months.

Once again, I would like to thank you for your patience as we negotiated the Canada-Alberta Drought Livestock Assistance Program with the federal government. We are proud to help support the Alberta agriculture industry through this incredibly difficult year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'RJ Sigurdson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Honourable RJ Sigurdson
Minister, Agriculture and Irrigation

cc: Jason Hale, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation
Darryl Kay, Chief Executive Officer, Agriculture Financial Services Corporation