



July 5, 2023

The Honourable RJ Sigurdson
Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation
Office of the Minister
Agriculture and Irrigation
229 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Sigurdson,

Re: Additional Supports Required for Agricultural Producers – Special Area No. 2, 3, & 4

The Special Areas is no stranger to dry and challenging conditions; however, the conditions being seen throughout the region this year are uncharacteristically severe. Long term moisture deficiencies, along with extreme heat early in the growing season, have resulted in widespread annual and perennial crop failures, stock water shortages, and degrading pastures. In 2021, similar conditions created significant feed and water shortages, which was exacerbated by the delay in AFSC in allowing producers to repurpose standing crops for cattle feedstocks without undue penalty.

The Special Areas Board is requesting your support in working with AFSC to make sure producers can put insured crops, including hay, to alternate use on a timely basis. In 2021, the governments of Canada and Alberta adjusted crop insurance programs by lowering the threshold for Low Yield Allowance. The request this year is to increase the Low Yield Allowance from three bushels up to seven if the crop is going to be used as grazing or cattle feed for livestock. It would also be beneficial to have the producers' yields, in a year that has been declared an agriculture disaster, not added to that producers' long-term average. A similar adjustment would be welcomed by producers throughout the Special Areas region this year.

We will continue to monitor conditions and work closely with local Agricultural Service Boards and neighbouring municipalities to identify producer supports required in the region.

Best regards,

Jordon Christianson,
Chair, Special Areas Board

- c. Ric McIver, Minister of Municipal Affairs
Nate Horner, MLA; Drumheller-Stettler
Damien Kurek, Member of Parliament for Battle River – Crowfoot
RMA
Local municipalities