



County of Stettler No. 6

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July 20, 2023

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

Dear Minister Sigurdson,

RE: Feed and Transportation Assistance Programs for Alberta Ag Disaster Areas

The County of Stettler No. 6 declared an Agricultural Disaster on Wednesday, June 14, 2023 at their Regular Council Meeting.

We gratefully acknowledge the drought support so far provided in the form of a Temporary Livestock Water Assistance Program, which assists producers who have an urgent need for water for livestock and poultry.

Heading into mid-summer, our agricultural producers who provide a valuable commodity to Canada are struggling to find enough affordable feed in our region. Producers are searching beyond normal regional boundaries in order to provide adequate feed for today and for the coming fall, winter and spring.

Council for the County of Stettler No. 6 respectfully requests additional assistance for producers in the form of a feed and transportation assistance program, to compensate Alberta producers who are affected by drought, for extraordinary feed costs.

Additionally, we are seeking expanded mental health supports be advertised and made available to all producers, highlighted in areas of Agricultural Disaster. Our citizens, friends and neighbors are struggling with the additional stresses associated with an uncertain future and a threatened livelihood.

Many producers who may right now be making the difficult decision to cull herds due to lack of feed availability and affordability, are of the age they may not even consider rebuilding their herds at this stage of their life. Younger farmers and producers may simply not be able to afford to rebuild after devastating business losses. There is no doubt this will have a trickle-down effect on our food chain, affecting our entire nation and the export industry.

We humbly request more support for our region, and others who are facing the same dire situation. We thank you in advance for your consideration of additional programming to assist Alberta's agricultural industry as they face tremendous hurdles and a very uncertain future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larry Clarke". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Larry" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Clarke".

Larry Clarke
REEVE

CC

Honourable Nate Horner, MLA for Drumheller-Stettler,

President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance

Honourable Ric McIver, Minister of Municipal Affairs

Honourable Pete Guthrie, Minister of Infrastructure

Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food

Honourable Damien Kurek, Member of Parliament for Battle River-Crowfoot

Honourable Dr. Carolyn Bennet, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions

Honourable Dan Williams, Minister of Mental Health and Addiction

Ms. Kelly Smith-Fraser, Board Chair, Agriculture Financial Services Corporation

Mr. Darryl Kay, Chief Executive Officer, Agriculture Financial Services Corporation

Mr. Paul McLauchlin, President, Rural Municipalities of Alberta

RMA Member Municipalities

Jamie Wuite, Government of Alberta Drought and Excessive Moisture Advisory Group