



YOUNG CATTLEMEN'S
COUNCIL

Canadian Cattle Association
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July 11, 2022

The Hon. Marie-Claude Bibeau
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food
Canada

The Hon. Lana Popham
Minister of Agriculture and Food
British Columbia

The Hon. Nate Horner
Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural
Economic Development
Alberta

The Hon. David Marit
Minister of Agriculture
Saskatchewan

The Hon. Ralph Eichler
Minister of Agriculture
Manitoba

The Hon. Lisa Thompson
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
Ontario

The Hon. Andre Lamontagne
Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Quebec

The Hon. Derrick Bragg
Minister of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture
Newfoundland and Labrador

The Hon. Margaret Johnson
Minister of Agriculture, Aquaculture and
Fisheries
New Brunswick

The Hon. Bloyce Thompson
Minister of Agriculture and Land
Prince Edward Island

The Hon. Greg Morrow
Minister of Agriculture
Nova Scotia

The Hon. David Akeeagok
Minister of Environment
Nunavut

The Hon. Shane Thompson
Minister of Environment and Natural
Resources
Yellowknife

The Hon. John Streicker
Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources
Yukon

RE: Young Canadian beef farmers and ranchers' Next Policy Framework priorities

Dear federal, provincial, and territorial agriculture ministers,

Canada's beef industry has a strong and vibrant next generation, eager to continue to advance shared priorities such as climate change solutions, food security and innovation.

Ahead of the Federal-Provincial-Territorial (FPT) ministers of agriculture meeting this month, we would like to sincerely thank you for your dedication towards youth in agriculture and bring your attention to several necessary supports that will ensure the Canadian beef industry is an active contributor to both environmental and economic growth for generations to come.

Climate Change and Sustainability:

Young producers are at the forefront of the climate change and environment discussion, where we see a need for both strong environmental and economic sustainability. We are proud to be part of Canada's beef sector which has worked hard to set ambitious targets towards 2030 and drive continuous improvement in our sector.

We recommend strategic investment in sector-led initiatives to ensure the highest outcome and positive impact on Canada's climate change goals. We ask for your support to help amplify and share the positive role of beef producers in Canada for the environment, and to include young producers at the table for environmental policy conversations. We are a part of the solution and are ready and eager to work with you to achieve our shared climate objectives.

Livestock Price Insurance:

Recent years of unforeseeable natural disasters such as floods, drought, and fires, have highlighted the essential need for young producers to have access to affordable business risk management programs. The next generation has greatly benefited from the Livestock Price Insurance program as it increases our ability to secure financing and survive downturns in the market. However, premiums for these programs can be unaffordable in many cases for young people getting their start and are currently not offered in provinces like the Maritimes.

We recommend making the Livestock Price Insurance program a national, permanent program that is not dependent on the renewal of each agriculture policy framework, with cost-shared premiums that are more accessible and comparable to crop insurance.

Livestock Tax Deferral Provision:

Extreme weather challenges, as mentioned above, impact a producer's ability to sustain their herd, which may result in the sale of some of their breeding stock. As these weather challenges can be hard-hitting and long-lasting in nature, the current timeline of the livestock tax deferral is not always feasible for producers to restock their herds the following year. This is specifically true for young producers who often don't have enough equity to rebuild their breeding herds in this short time frame.

We recommend the livestock tax deferral become multi-year and to allow producers to self-elect when they require a tax deferral. This enhancement will help improve the resiliency of young producers who are looking to rebuild their herds.

AgriCompetitiveness Youth Funding:

Building the next generation of leaders in the Canadian agriculture and agri-food industry is a shared priority between the federal government and our council. It is our understanding that sector-specific activities and commodity groups, such as the Canadian Cattle Association (CCA), are not eligible for funding under the AgriCompetitiveness Program within the current policy framework. Sector-specific youth programs play a unique role in building solutions hand-tailored to our industry's needs.

We have seen tremendous success in both the CCA's youth programs (Young Cattlemen's Council and Cattlemen's Young Leaders Mentor Program), but funding availability is the single largest constraint to enhancing development opportunities. We believe that ongoing support of positive youth development programs, such as those offered through the various national or provincial agriculture associations and commodities groups, should be a priority for the AgriCompetitiveness Program moving forward.

We remain committed to working closely with you to build a strong Canadian agriculture and agri-food sector for young producers and future generations across Canada. We look forward to the outcomes of the July FPT meeting and thank you for your support of the industry's youth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CH', followed by a long horizontal line that tapers to a point on the right.

Carley Henniger, President
Young Cattlemen's Council

cc: Reg Schellenberg, President,
Canadian Cattle Association

The Young Cattlemen's Council

The Young Cattlemen's Council is a youth subsidiary of the Canadian Cattle Association (CCA) and welcomes beef enthusiasts from across Canada between the ages of 18-40. The vision of the Young Cattlemen's Council is to cultivate youthful leadership by exposing YCC delegates to industry policy development, while giving them opportunities to gain experience and bring fresh ideas to the CCA and Canadian beef cattle industry. The council is made up of seven provincial representative delegates and three members at large delegates. Learn more about the Young Cattlemen's Council at www.youngcattlemencouncil.com

In the latest census, a total of 12 per cent of all beef cattle farms have an operator 35 years old or younger and 8.8 per cent of beef farms are run by a sole operator who is 35 years or younger. The Canadian cattle and beef sector contributes \$22 billion to Canada's GDP generating 347,000 jobs nationally.