



Agriculture is Everyone's Business

Honourable Gerry Ritz
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
1341 Baseline Road
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0C5

June 17, 2010

Dear Minister Ritz

I am writing on behalf of the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS) with respect to the excessive moisture conditions that have affected seeding in Saskatchewan and Manitoba. We understand that you toured the Wishart area yesterday and expect that you gained insight into the extent of the problems.

The APAS Board of Directors met in Regina this week with the excess moisture conditions throughout the province as the priority agenda item. We are calling on federal and provincial governments to provide timely assistance to farmers, ranchers and rural communities affected by this year's excessive moisture. In addition, we call on Ministers to kick start the first step in implementation of AgriRecovery through the appointment of a task team.

AgriRecovery was created to provide a process to enable governments to "respond quickly" when a natural disaster hits and addresses gaps left by existing programs. That time is now. The widespread feeling amongst farmers and ranchers is that 2010 proves that current programs and coverage are woefully inadequate.

We believe that the AgriRecovery task team must be activated immediately to assess the extent of the damage affecting unseeded acres, crop establishment, and livestock production and to develop options and recommendations for response. APAS is eager to participate on the task team to represent the interests of all farmers and ranchers in the province. APAS is strongly of the view that any program response through AgriRecovery must be province-wide and available to assist both crop and livestock producers.

We look forward to your consideration and response on these matters, and the opportunity for further dialogue with you and your officials on this important and urgent matter.

Sincerely yours;

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Marshall", written in a cursive style.

Greg Marshall,
President
Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan

Copy to: APAS Board of Directors
Honourable Bob Bjornerud
Saskatchewan Minister of Agriculture.