

# **APAS Resolutions to CFA 2024 Annual General Meeting**

## **Payment for Carbon Sequestration on Livestock Grazing Land**

**WHEREAS** agricultural producers play a significant role in maintaining and enhancing the carbon sequestration potential of their grasslands and grazing lands;

**WHEREAS** actively engaging in sustainable land management practices deserves recognition and financial support for their invaluable contributions to environmental sustainability.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the CFA lobby to ensure agricultural producers receive direct compensation from the federal government for the carbon that they are sequestering in their grasslands and grazing lands.

## **Fully Funded Yield Cushioning**

**WHEREAS** yield cushioning is a crop insurance feature that provincial crop insurance agencies use to cap the yields at a certain % of historical averages to calculate coverage;

**WHEREAS** this policy is meant to protect farmers' insured production averages against the impact of multiple years of low production;

**WHEREAS** the federal government does not cost-share yield cushioning because it is considered "biased" under the federal guidelines;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the CFA request the federal government to work with provincial crop insurance agencies to fully fund a crop insurance yield cushioning policy to ensure that any previous years' yields used to calculate producers' production guarantees are capped at 70% of their Individual Long-term Average.

## **Canada Transportation Agency Investigative Authority**

**WHEREAS** Transport Canada is currently reviewing the Canada Transportation Agency's mandate as the regulator that deals with rail service and rate issues;

**WHEREAS** the CTA is currently limited in capacity and authority to launch investigations and act on its own motion without approval from the Federal Minister of Transport;

**WHEREAS** captive shippers have expressed reluctance to access service and rate remedies out of fear of retribution from the rail carriers, or have signed confidential contracts preventing them from accessing these protections;

**WHEREAS** the rail system is critical infrastructure for the movement of goods and trade for the benefit of all Canadians;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that Transport Canada provide the Canada Transportation Agency the authority and resources to monitor the rail transportation system, proactively collect information from shippers about rail service, investigate issues as they arise, apply penalties, and make orders to ensure compliance with service standards and obligations set out in the *Canada Transportation Act*.

### **Railway Carbon Surcharges**

**WHEREAS** Canadian railways are currently paying a carbon tax on fuel and other inputs that is passed down to farmers through the freight rates charged on grain shipments;

**WHEREAS** Canadian farmers do not have alternative or more efficient options to transport grain to ports and other market destinations;

**WHEREAS** publicly posted surcharges suggest Saskatchewan farmers alone would incur more than 36\$ million in carbon surcharges this year;

**WHEREAS** railways are “cost plus service providers” and will continue to ensure they recoup these costs through a combination of increased rates or additional surcharges;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the CFA request the federal government to ensure that carbon taxes on railway fuel and other inputs are not passed onto shippers in increased freight charges;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that any carbon taxes collected from rail transportation be made available in a separate fund for railways to invest in projects to reduce their emissions and improve efficiency in Canada’s rail transportation sector.

### **Canada Grain Act Review**

**WHEREAS** the previous federal Minister of Agriculture was preparing to review the Canada Grain Act;

**WHEREAS** the Canada Grain Act is a key piece of legislation for Canada’s grain and oilseeds sector sector;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the CFA request Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada recommence the *Canada Grain Act* review to address key areas of concern to producers while reaffirming the Canadian Grain Commission’s mandate to maintain standards and regulate grain handling in the interests of grain producers.

### **Funding for Colleges of Veterinary Medicine**

**WHEREAS** the veterinarian shortage continues to grow, endangering animal health and welfare, and producer profitability;

**WHEREAS** there is a limited number of colleges in Canada that are accredited to host the national certification exam for foreign-trained veterinarians;

**WHEREAS** the Western College of Veterinary has limited space to continue to fulfill its teaching, research, and certification mission;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the CFA call on the federal government to invest in the expansion and enhancement of the Canadian colleges of veterinary medicine to support the recruitment and accreditation of foreign-trained veterinarians.

### **Producer Majority on the Western Grains Standards Committee**

**WHEREAS** The Canadian Grain Commission (CGC) sets grain standards on the basis of recommendations from the Western and Eastern Grain Standards Committees;

**WHEREAS** the recommendations from the standards committees play a crucial role in the CGC's mandate to establish and maintain grain quality standards "in the interests of grain producers";

**WHEREAS** the Canada Grain Act states the Western Grain Standards Committee shall include twenty-five members, comprised of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada appointments (2), CGC officials (3), producers (12), exporters (2), processors (2) and up to four members selected at the discretion of the CGC;

**WHEREAS** the CGC has four discretionary positions that could be used to ensure producers have a majority vote on Western Grain Standards Committee recommendations;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the CFA request the Canadian Grain Commission (CGC) fill its four discretionary positions to Western Grain Standards Committee with producer representatives.

### **Renewal**

### **Voluntary Offset Programs**

**WHEREAS**, Canada's agriculture sector has proven its ability to sequester carbon and has great potential for further sequestration;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the CFA support the development of voluntary carbon offset programs that reflect the following principles:

- I. Offset protocols should be designed to provide meaningful recognition of agricultural activities that reduce carbon.
- II. The maintenance of existing carbon sinks like wetlands, forests and grasslands should be eligible for financial support;

- III. Verification systems must be effective and cost-efficient
- IV. Offset protocols must provide a fair price to producers for voluntary sequestration or emission reductions
- V. Offset protocols must allow for the aggregation and stacking of credits.
- VI. Offset protocol programs must reflect the diversity of different agricultural sectors.

### **Mandatory Seed Purity Declarations**

**WHEREAS**, current allowances in the Seeds Act present a potential risk of introducing new weed species onto agricultural operations;

**WHEREAS**, managing bio-security risk requires producers to be aware of the species and amounts of weed seeds present in the seed lot prior to purchase;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the CFA lobby the federal government to make it mandatory that seed purity declarations, stating weed seed content and species, be provided to producers prior to the purchase of pedigreed forage, cereal, pulse and other crop seed.