



APAS asking for BC-level assistance for Saskatchewan producers affected by wildfires

Producers will need more than the existing business risk management programs to recover

November 6, 2017 – For Immediate Release – The Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan has written the federal and provincial Ag Ministers to request that they work together on an AgriRecovery program similar to the 2017 Canada-British Columbia Wildfires Initiative.

Last month, fires in the southwestern part of Saskatchewan decimated more than 800 cattle and 34,000 hectares of land.

“We’ve been talking to producers and RMs in the area,” APAS President Todd Lewis said. “The situation is serious enough to warrant the same level of response as in BC earlier this year.”

APAS has specifically requested assistance with:

- Extraordinary feed costs, including transportation of feed through the recovery period
- Re-establishment of safe winter feeding facilities and general clean up
- Veterinary services, including soil and feed testing of areas affected by fire
- Livestock mortality and replacement of breeding stock
- Extraordinary costs required to return farmland to production, including critical infrastructure not covered by insurance, costs to repair private fences, and the re-seeding / re-establishment of tame forages and other perennials

The 2017 Canada-British Columbia Wildfires Initiative provides all of the above for producers in BC and is funded on a 60-40 ratio by the federal and BC governments.

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For further information or to arrange an interview, please contact:

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Background: APAS is Saskatchewan's general farm organization – formed to provide farmers and ranchers with a democratically elected, grassroots, non-partisan, producer-run organization based on rural municipal boundaries. As the united voice of thousands of agricultural producers and ranchers in Saskatchewan, we strive to represent the views of a wide variety of agricultural stakeholders in order to form comprehensive policies that can benefit all sectors of society. APAS is a member of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture.