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Concern Over CFIA Livestock Traceability Regulations

REGINA, SK – The Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS) affirms its support for stronger livestock traceability in principle to better equip producers and the entire sector to respond effectively to animal disease events. APAS recognizes the value of robust traceability systems for animal health and market confidence.

"While traceability enhancements can benefit the industry and the public by strengthening disease response and market assurance, it is critical that implementation costs do not fall unfairly on livestock producers," said Bill Prybylski, President of APAS. "Producers need clarity on the financial and operational impacts of these regulations before moving forward."

APAS emphasizes that the costs associated with new regulatory requirements must not be borne solely by producers. Equitable cost-sharing and practical implementation strategies are necessary to safeguard the sustainability of livestock operations across Saskatchewan.

Moreover, this situation underscores the need for government to reconsider the organizational alignment of the CFIA. APAS maintains that CFIA should be brought back under the umbrella of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada to ensure that animal health regulations are developed and assessed within an agricultural context.

"The future growth of the livestock industry must guide regulatory changes," stated Prybylski. "We invite the CFIA to collaborate closely with producers, ensuring that new traceability rules are fair, practical, and beneficial for the agricultural community."

APAS welcomes the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's (CFIA) decision to pause the progression of proposed traceability regulations until producers have a clearer understanding of the implications and their concerns are comprehensively considered. A transparent and thorough consultation process is essential to ensure producers are sufficiently informed and prepared.

APAS remains ready to engage with federal officials, provincial partners, and stakeholders to advance traceability approaches that enhance animal health outcomes while supporting producer viability and the long-term success of Saskatchewan's livestock sector.

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