

May 31, 2010

AgriRecovery aids livestock producers facing drought

Lloydminster... Livestock producers in Alberta and Saskatchewan facing two years of drought will receive funding from federal and provincial governments to buy feed while damaged pastures recover. Federal Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz joined Jack Hayden, Alberta Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development, and Bob Bjornerud, Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister, to make the announcement today in Lloydminster.

"Ranchers in Western Canada know how to deal with all kinds of weather, but when they get hit hard with back-to-back droughts AgriRecovery is there to make sure they have the support they need," said Minister Ritz. "This investment will help producers buy the feed they need to keep their animals off the pastures while the grass recovers from the drought damage."

Under the 2010 Pasture Recovery Initiative, livestock producers living in the eligible counties and municipal districts in Central and Northern Alberta and West Central and Northwest Saskatchewan will receive pasture assistance for breeding cattle, as well as assistance for other types of breeding livestock, totaling up to \$114 million subject to size of the eligible livestock. It is estimated that there are more than 2.2 million breeding animals in the affected areas.

In 2008 and 2009, portions of Alberta and Saskatchewan experienced challenging weather conditions that have resulted in delayed pasture development for 2010 in the hardest hit areas.

"The drought conditions experienced during the last several years have been a challenge for many producers in the province and it is important that we address this type of extreme situation through risk management initiatives," said Minister Hayden. "This AgriRecovery payment to livestock producers in the extremely dry areas will allow them time to evaluate pastures and make alternate plans or decisions related to their operations."

"I witnessed first-hand the dry conditions in several parts of West Central and Northwest Saskatchewan during my drought tour in 2009," said Minister Bjornerud. "The drought had a major effect on livestock producers in the designated area and this initiative will help them address the resulting additional feed costs."

The program will be administered in Alberta by Agriculture Financial Services Corporation, and by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture in Saskatchewan.

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Media inquiries may be directed to:

Media Relations
Agriculture & Agri-Food
Canada
Ottawa, Ontario
613-773-7972
1-866-345-7972

Meagan Murdoch
Press Secretary
Office of the Honorable
Gerry Ritz
613-773-1059

**Agriculture & Rural
Development**
Ag Media Line
780-422-1005
*To call toll-free within
Alberta dial 310-0000

Donna Rehirchuk
Saskatchewan
Agriculture
306-787-5389

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2010 Pasture Recovery Initiative (PRI)

The federal and provincial governments have agreed to support an AgriRecovery response to extreme drought areas located in Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Who is eligible for the 2010 Pasture Recovery Initiative?

Livestock producers pasturing in the eligible counties and municipal districts in Central and Northern Alberta and West Central and Northwest Saskatchewan will receive variable payments based on the type of breeding livestock they had as of January 1, 2010.

How were the primary drought areas determined?

The areas that were severely damaged due to drought were determined in consultation with the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan. Information used to determine drought impact and severity included various sources of data such as soil moisture indexes and precipitation models.

What areas are eligible for PRI?

In Alberta, the eligible Counties and Municipal Districts are:

Acadia No. 34	Opportunity No. 17
Athabasca County	Paintearth County No. 18
Barrhead County No. 11	Parkland County
Beaver County	Peace No. 135
Big Horn No. 8	Ponoka County
Big Lakes No. 125	Provost No. 52
Birch Hills County	Red Deer County
Bonnyville No. 87	Rocky View No. 44
Brazeau County	Saddle Hills County
City of Calgary	Smoky Lake County
Camrose County	Smoky River No. 130
Clear Hills County	Special Area No. 2
Clearwater County	Special Area No. 3
City of Edmonton	Special Area No. 4
Fairview No. 136	Spirit River No. 133
Flagstaff County	St. Paul County No. 19
Foothills No. 31	Starland County (and Drumheller)
Grande Prairie County No. 1	Stettler County No. 6
Greenview No. 16	Strathcona County (and Elk Island)
Kneehill County	Sturgeon County
Lac La Biche (Lakeland) County	Thorhold County No. 7
Lac Ste. Anne County	Two Hills County No. 21
Lacombe County	Vermilion River County No. 24
Lamont County	Wainwright No. 61
Leduc County	Westlock County
Lesser Slave River No. 124	Wetaskiwin County No. 10
Minburn County No. 27	Wheatland County

Mountain View County	Woodlands County
Northern Lights County	Yellowhead County
Northern Sunrise County	

Saskatchewan, the eligible Rural Municipalities are:

Canaan No.225	Kindersley No.290	Grandview No.349	Round Valley No.410	Eldon No.471
Victory No.226	Milton No.292	Mariposa No.350	Senlac No.411	Wilton No.472
Lacadena No.228	Montrose No.315	Progress No.351	Douglas No. 436	Spiritwood No.496
Coteau No.255	Harris No.316	Heart's Hill No.352	North Battleford No.437	Medstead No.497
King George No.256	Marriott No.317	Eagle Creek No.376	Battle River No.438	Parkdale No.498
Monet No.257	Mountain View No.318	Glenside No.377	Cut Knife No.439	Mervin No. 499
Snipe Lake No.259	Winslow No.319	Rosemount No.378	Hillsdale No.440	Frenchman Butte No. 501
Newcombe No.260	Oakdale No.320	Reford No.379	Manitou Lake No.442	
Chesterfield No.261	Prairiedale No.321	Tramping Lake No.380	Meeting Lake No.466	Britannia No. 502
Fertile Valley No.285	Antelope Park No.322	Grass Lake No.381	Round Hill No.467	Big River No. 555
Milden No.286	Vanscoy No.345	Eye Hill No.382	Meota No.468	Loon Lake No. 561
St. Andrews No.287	Perdue No.346	Mayfield No.406	Turtle River No.469	Meadow Lake No. 588
Pleasant Valley No.288	Biggar No.347	Buffalo No.409	Paynton No.470	Beaver River No.622

What is the definition of a breeding animal?

Breeding animal means horses, beef cattle, bison, elk, deer, llamas, sheep, goats, horses (meat or PMU) or alpacas that were:

- Bred to produce offspring in 2010 or a breeding male;
- Primarily grazed on lands within the primary drought area in 2009; and
- Were on hand at January 1, 2010.

How does the payment work?

PR1 will pay an eligible applicant an amount calculated as the number of eligible breeding livestock multiplied by the following per head amounts:

Horses	\$60.00
Beef Cattle and Bison	\$50.00
Elk	\$25.00
Deer and Llamas	\$12.50
Sheep, Goats and Alpacas	\$10.00

Payments may be prorated based on grazing acres in cases where eligible applicants also pasture outside the Designated Areas.

How many eligible animals are there?

It is estimated that there are more than 2.2 million breeding animals in the affected areas.

How do livestock producers receive their payment?

In Alberta, producers within the primary drought area will be receiving an information package in the mail that includes an application form. This form must be filled out and returned to Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC), who is administering the program. There will also be forms available at www.afsc.ca and at AFSC district offices within the affected area. The deadline to apply is September 1, 2010.

In Saskatchewan, eligible producers can pick up applications at their local Rural Municipality Office, Saskatchewan Agriculture Regional Office, Crop Insurance Office, or by calling the toll free line at 1-877-874-5365. Application forms are also available online at www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca. The deadline to apply is September 1, 2010.

Why is this payment important for livestock producers?

Pasture development for 2010 is expected to be delayed by at least four to six weeks or more in the hardest hit areas, resulting in feed challenges for livestock producers. This payment will allow eligible livestock producers time to evaluate their pastures and make decisions, as necessary.

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