

September 22, 2021

Hon. Ralph Eichler  
Minister of Agriculture and Resource Development  
165-450 Broadway  
Winnipeg MB R3C 0V8  
[minagr@leg.gov.mb.ca](mailto:minagr@leg.gov.mb.ca)

**Re: Request for Deadline Extension for BMP 503**

Dear Minister Eichler:

Keystone Agricultural Producers along with other Manitoba commodity groups are writing to request consideration for a deadline extension to apply under the Ag Action Manitoba Program for BMP 503: Managing Livestock Access to Riparian Areas.

As you are aware the recent drought conditions have caused severe hardship for many livestock producers across the province. Accumulated precipitation over the past four months has been below average in many parts of Manitoba for some time. This has resulted in dry dugouts and wells with livestock producers searching for additional water sources through means such as water well drilling, constructing new or rehabilitating existing dugouts, or even hauling water if unable to successfully source water on their farms and ranches due to inadequate groundwater resources.

Manitoba commodity groups appreciate the assistance programs the provincial government has made available through AgriRecovery to support livestock producers with respect to feed resources, BMP 503 is a beneficial tool livestock producers use to help offset some of the cost of securing water. However, the deadline to apply BMP 503 closes on October 1, 2021 while the demand for water source development initiatives such as water well drilling remains high. This demand has resulted in lengthy waitlists (e.g., 2 months) for producers wanting to secure a licensed well drilling contractor in Manitoba.

Further, with delays in securing contractors, it may be very difficult for some program participants to complete their projects and submit their claims by the November 5, 2021 deadline. It would be unfortunate if they were unable to utilize the program due to circumstances beyond their control.

Keystone Agricultural Producers, Manitoba Forage and Grassland Association, Manitoba Pork Council, Manitoba Forage and Seed Association, Manitoba Beef Producers and Manitoba Bison Association are respectfully calling on the Department of Agriculture and Resource Development to extend the BMP 503 application deadline to October 1, 2022. Such an extension deadline extension would provide valuable financial assistance in these challenging times and allow producers to work to secure water sources throughout the winter and new year.

Alternatively, if a full one-year extension is not possible, the groups ask that the application process for BMP 503 under the Ag Action Manitoba program reopen as early in 2022 as possible to allow producers to initiate needed projects and to secure contractors in a timely fashion.

Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration of this request. Having access to stable water supplies is integral to livestock production in Manitoba and having access to BMP 503 has been very helpful for producers.

Sincerely,



Bill Campbell  
President, Keystone Agricultural Producers



Robert Johnson  
President, Manitoba Bison Association



Cam Dahl  
General Manager, Manitoba Pork Council



Lucas Menold  
President, Manitoba Forage Seed Association

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Larry J. Wegner".

Larry Wegner  
Chair, Manitoba Forage and Grassland Association

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tyler Fulton".

Tyler Fulton  
President, Manitoba Beef Producers