

October 4, 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 Changes to Eligibility under the Wildlife Damage Compensation Program for Livestock Predation**

Dear Minister Eichler:

Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP) and a number of commodity groups involved in animal agriculture production are asking the provincial government to consider making changes to the eligibility criteria under the Wildlife Damage Compensation Program for Livestock Predation. This would include expanding the list of animals eligible for compensation, as well as expanding the list of predatory wildlife which either kill or injure said animals.

Manitoba producers operate in an environment inherent with risk. For livestock producers this risk can come from predatory attacks from wildlife resulting in injury or death to their animals. Consequently, producers in Manitoba rely on financial support provided by the Wildlife Damage Compensation program administered by Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation (MASC).

The present definitions of 'livestock' and 'livestock predation' in the Wildlife Damage Compensation Regulation result in limited coverage in the event a producer's livestock is killed or injured. Currently, species used for animal agriculture such as ducks, geese, turkeys and chickens are not eligible for program compensation, nor do predatory attacks on livestock from wild pigs, racoons, birds of prey, magpies, ravens, skunks, lynxes, bobcats, badgers, minks or weasels fall under the criteria for 'livestock predation' in the regulation. This results in affected agricultural producers bearing the full financial losses due to a lack of coverage.

Predation compensation provided by the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC) includes coverage for all predatory wild animals and livestock species. This comprehensive coverage has not resulted in significantly higher expenditures for livestock predation in Saskatchewan compared to compensation offered in Manitoba. In the past five years MASC issued \$8.357 million in compensation for livestock predation compared to \$9.260 million from SCIC.

The undersigned organizations believe Manitoba producers would benefit from expanded definitions of both 'livestock' and 'livestock predation' under the Wildlife Damage Compensation Regulation. This would help to minimize risk for livestock producers and provide needed financial support when animals are killed or injured.

Keystone Agricultural Producers, Manitoba Pork Council, Manitoba Forage and Grassland Association, Manitoba Bison Association, Manitoba Egg Farmers and Manitoba Beef Producers are respectfully calling on Manitoba Agriculture and Resource Development to:

- Expand the definition of 'livestock predation' under the Wildlife Damage Compensation Regulation to include all wild animals (including, but not limited to: wild pigs, racoons, birds of prey, magpies, ravens, skunks, lynxes, bobcats, badgers, minks or weasels) that cause injury or death to eligible livestock, and
- Expand the definition of 'livestock' under the Wildlife Damage Compensation Regulation to include ducks, geese, turkeys, chickens and other less common species raised in Manitoba for agricultural production purposes.

Sincerely,



Bill Campbell  
President, Keystone Agricultural Producers



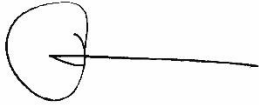
Cory Rybuck  
General Manager, Manitoba Egg Farmers



Larry Wegner  
Chair, Manitoba Forage and Grassland Association



Robert Johnson  
President, Manitoba Bison Association

A handwritten signature consisting of a circle with a horizontal line extending to the right from its center.

Rick Préjet  
Chair of the Board, Manitoba Pork Council

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

Tyler Fulton  
President, Manitoba Beef Producers

cc. Hon. Scott Fielding – Minister of Finance  
cc. Jared Munro – President and CEO, Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation