



MANITOBA
BEEF PRODUCERS™



Canadian
Cattle
Association

Honourable Heath MacDonald
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food
Government of Canada
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Honourable RJ Sigurdson
Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation
Government of Alberta
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Honourable David Marit
Minister of Agriculture
Government of Saskatchewan
Regina, SK S4S 0B3

Honourable Ron Kostyshyn
Minister of Agriculture
Government of Manitoba
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8

February 19, 2026

Dear Ministers MacDonald, Sigurdson, Marit, and Kostyshyn:

Re: Funding support for producers impacted by bovine tuberculosis disease investigations

On behalf of Alberta Beef Producers (ABP), Saskatchewan Cattle Association (SCA), Manitoba Beef Producers (MBP), and the Canadian Cattle Association (CCA), we are writing to formally request Agri-Recovery activation for producers negatively impacted by bovine tuberculosis (bTB) investigations in 2024 and 2025.

Our organizations work on behalf of beef producers across the Prairies and Canada, and we are advocating to mitigate the impacts of these bTB investigations on our producers that are not currently recognized by current compensation frameworks.

These two investigations have identified over 200 epidemiologically linked premises to date. While many of these investigations were able to be closed without further testing, as of February 18, 2026, 51 beef producers across Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba have faced extraordinary costs due to quarantine and disease control procedures. At least 22 herds are still under investigation, and this number may grow due to the extended trace-in period assigned to the 2024 investigation.

Previous bTB investigations in 2016 and 2018 were able to access Agri-Recovery funding for additional costs related to disease control measures that are not covered by the current CFIA compensation framework, such as cleaning and disinfection, additional feed and bedding, interest carrying costs, and infrastructure. This assistance not only ensured business continuity for affected producers, but also lessened the fear and uncertainty associated with those investigations. While Agri-Recovery is not an ideal mechanism, it remains the only one available to lessen the burden affected producers carry for the protection of an entire industry reliant on export markets.

Data provided by a small sample of impacted producers to date indicates that costs incurred vary considerably but are nonetheless significant, totaling over \$1.6 million in feed, bedding, labour, veterinary care, infrastructure, loan, and cleaning and disinfection costs. While not applicable to all producers, missed marketing opportunities and contract penalties cost these producers almost \$1.2 million to date.

In 2016, \$16.7 million in Agri-Recovery funding was made available to affected producers. In 2018, \$1 million was provided. In 2023, Agri-Recovery was not deemed necessary due to the "small-scale" nature of the investigation. To

affected producers, it does not matter whether one producer or hundreds are involved – it is a significant strain on their livelihood regardless.

Given the number of producers affected to date and extrapolating from the current cost estimates provided to ABP, we would suggest a minimum of \$8 million be made available to impacted beef producers in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, providing 80% coverage of eligible expenses.

Further, we recommend that eligible cost categories include:

- Feed, bedding & additional veterinary care
- Labour (e.g. mustering cattle for testing, administrative burden associated with providing CFIA with required records, caring for animals ordered destroyed while waiting for destruction to occur, etc.)
- Cleaning & disinfection, including replacement of infrastructure if applicable
- Interest carrying costs
- Additional infrastructure costs to facilitate compliance with quarantine or testing requirements
- Marketing contract penalties

We would urge you to seriously consider this request. Consistent financial support has been demonstrated to improve compliance with disease control efforts as well as support mental health of affected producers in other jurisdictions. Uncertainty with regards to business continuity supports in animal health emergencies is a repeated and consistent flaw in our current business risk management programming.

We look forward to your response and to working with you on the details of this program.

Sincerely,



Doug Roxburgh
Chair
ABP



Chad Ross
Chair
SCA



Arvid Nottveit
President
MBP



Tyler Fulton
President
CCA

cc:

Mr. Jason Hale, Deputy Minister, Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation

Dr. Hussein Keshwani, Alberta Chief Provincial Veterinary Officer

Ms. Sandy Russell, Saskatchewan Cattle Association

Dr. Stephanie Smith, Saskatchewan Chief Provincial Veterinary Officer

Mr. Carson Callum, Manitoba Beef Producers

Dr. Glen Duizer, Manitoba Chief Provincial Veterinary Officer

Mr. Ryder Lee, Canadian Cattle Association

Dr. Leigh Rosengren, Canadian Cattle Association

Affected producers who contributed individual costs of quarantine procedures to ABP via separate email