



Dear Pork Producers,

I'm writing to you to urge you to reach out to provincial and federal politicians in your riding, your local minister of agriculture and Premier to tell them they need to fix AgriStability at the upcoming Federal-Provincial-Territorial Ministers of Agriculture meeting.

Pork producers can be proud of what we contribute, including being the starting point of a value chain that contributes more than \$24 billion to Canada's GDP and exports more than \$4 billion to 100 markets around the world.

But this year has not been an easy one for us. After years of losses caused by factors outside of our control, including the US-China trade war, we expected 2020 to be a year of recovery. Instead, COVID-19 made it one of the toughest years most of us have had to work through. One of my greatest disappointments has been the lack of support Federal and Provincial governments have offered farmers.

We keep getting told that Ministers understand the volatility and risk that farmers are facing, but they have not done much to assist us. The wage subsidy and loans have not been enough to make a difference given the significant losses we face in providing Canadian families with access to high-quality, affordable, and nutritious pork.

The good news is that it is not too late for governments to make a difference. At the end of November, Agriculture Ministers from across the country will meet, and they must use that meeting to fix AgriStability. While other business can rely on the COVID support programs, farmers are left with a broken program.

For more than eight years farmers from across the country and across commodities have been calling for the payment trigger to be increased to 85%. The CPC has recently recommended increasing the payment rate to 85% as an alternative. Either fix would help ensure that AgriStability delivers meaningful support to those farmers that they need it the most.

We have recently heard that governments are only considering removing Reference Margin Limits (RML). If that is all they do, governments will have once again failed farmers, food security and the rural economy by not making the meaningful changes needed to help hog producers stay in business.

Farmers across the country need to tell governments two things. First, AgriStability must get fixed in November. Second, changing RML does nothing for pork producers, the trigger or payment rate must also be fixed.

The Canadian Pork Council is working hard to make this change a reality, but governments will only act if they hear from farmers across the country. Please contact the Canadian Pork Council or your provincial producer organization to find out how you can make sure governments hear loud and clear that they need to fix Agristability.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Bergmann". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rick Bergmann
Chair of the Canadian Pork Council Board of Directors