



Canadian Pork Council
Conseil canadien du porc

Call to Action: Fixing AgriStability

Background: Producers across the country have long called for AgriStability to be fixed. After years of cuts made by governments of all political stripes, the program's payments are usually too little and too late to help producers.

The likelihood that producers will need those payments has never been greater. COVID-19 has wreaked havoc on the global economy, increasing volatility and risk. Prices have gone down, costs have gone up, and the likelihood of producers leaving the industry is increasing.

Federal-Provincial-Territorial Agriculture Ministers will meet at the end of November to consider making changes to AgriStability. After years of inaction, Ministers finally can fix AgriStability.

Fixing AgriStability: The CPC supports two changes that would help farmers get the support they need from AgriStability. Governments could fix AgriStability by implementing either:

- Increase the payment trigger to 85%
- Increase the compensation rate to 85%

There are pros and cons to each, but both will deliver additional support to farmers when the farmers face a significant margin decline.

The CPC also supports increasing payment caps, which are too low and have not been kept in pace with inflation.

Without an increase to the trigger or payment rate and increasing caps, AgriStability will continue to be broken because it will not offer farmers the support they need.

Sources have confirmed that governments are considering against making these changes and are only considering removing Reference Margin Limiting (RML). This change will not help pork producers, and changing it alone is not enough to fix a broken program. The CPC will oppose fixing RML if it is the only change to AgriStability.

Call to Action:

Governments need to hear directly from producers.

The Canadian Pork Council is writing to Federal politicians including the Prime Minister, Deputy Minister, Agriculture Minister and Members of Parliament fix the program.

Provincial pork organizations are being asked to write to their Premier and Provincial Agriculture Minister.

Producers are asked to:

1. Call or email their local provincial member of the legislature (MPP, MLA, MNA, etc.). AgriStability will only be fixed if provincial governments support the change.
2. Call or email their Member of Parliament.
3. Email the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Agriculture Minister demanding they fix AgriStability. A draft email and their email address are below.
4. Get engaged on social media until the end of November demanding Agriculture Ministers #fixAgriStability.

Key Messages

Producers and producer groups are being asked to include the following messages when talking to politicians.

1. Governments must do more to protect farms, food security and the rural economy which have all been put at risk as COVID-19 increased the volatility and risk farmers face.
2. Agriculture Ministers need to fix AgriStability when they meet at the end of November by increasing the trigger or payment rate and increasing caps.
3. Removing Reference Margin Limiting alone does nothing for pork producers and does not fix AgriStability.

Remember that messages are more effective when they are personal. For example, producers are encouraged to talk about how COVID-19 has impacted their business including delays in marketing, increased costs, low prices, etc.

Draft email:

To: pm@pm.gc.ca, chrystia.freeland@canada.ca, Marie-Claude.Bibeau@parl.gc.ca

Subject: Fix AgriStability

Dear Prime Minister and Ministers,

I work hard every day to produce pork that feeds Canadian families and helps drive the economy. Along with 7,000 farmers from coast to coast, pork producers are the starting point for a value chain that adds \$23.8 billion and more than 100,000 jobs to our economy. In case you did not know, we also export \$4 billion worth of Canadian pork to 100 countries.

We are used to facing risk. Weather, markets, and animal health are only some of the risks we manage every day. But over the last three years it has become harder to manage them.-COVID-19 made a bad situation worse, forcing some farmers to stop producing food.

What I need to stay in business is a backstop that is there when I suffer significant loss. I know AgriStability is supposed to be that program, but the reality is that it is too little too late.

That is why Ministers of Agriculture need to fix the program when they meet at the end of November. It is imperative that they either increase the payment trigger or increase the payment rate and raise caps when they meet at the end of November.

Fixing AgriStability will help me face the risks that are driven by factors outside my control. It will also help protect tens of thousands of good-paying jobs that rely on farmers and it will support the rural community I live in and ensure families across the country can still count on high-quality, affordable, Canadian food.