



November 18, 2020

Re: AgriStability - changes to the trigger/ payment rate needed

Dear Ministers,

Canada's 7,000 pork producers play an important role in their rural communities and are key contributors to agri-food exports and ensuring the security of Canada's food supply. However, their contributions are at risk due to unprecedented market volatility, much of it beyond their control.

In the current market, AgriStability should be serving as an anchor to help producers ride out the storm. Unfortunately, the drop in support levels introduced in 2012 have resulted in a program that provides little, if any support. Farmers have been left exposed to significant risk, and effectively left to manage that risk on their own. AgriStability must be fixed.

At its core, it is a good program. It is tailored to our individual situations. It only pays out when we face a significant loss. It is trade compliant. While it offers support to producers, it does not mask important signals that tell farmers adjustments are required.

Pork producers are expected to lose more than \$500 million due to COVID-19, losses that are expected to continue well into 2021. However, the impacts on producers, their rural community, supply chains and the Canadian economy can be mitigated if Ministers fix AgriStability.

In order to return AgriStability to its former role as a meaningful backstop that delivers the support producers need, when they need it, the fix must include changes to the payment trigger or the payment rate.

If all Ministers do is remove Reference Margin Limiting (RML), governments will have failed farmers once again.

Please choose to protect farmers, rural communities, the food system, and the economy.

Sincerely,



Rick Bergman
Chair, Canadian Pork Council



Jack DeWit
Chair, BC Pork



Casey Smit
Chair, Saskatchewan Pork Development Board



Eric Schwindt
Chair, Ontario Pork



Margie Lamb
Chair, Pork Nova Scotia



Paul Larsen
Chair, PEI Hog Commodity Marketing Board



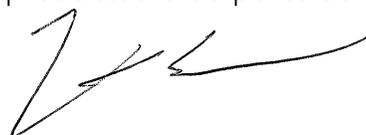
Brent Moen
Chair, Alberta Pork



George Matheson
Chair, Manitoba Pork



David Duval
Chair, Fédération des
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Hans Kristensen
Chair, Porc NB Pork