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August 18, 2021

Minister of Agriculture and Forestry
229 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB
T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Dreeshen:

RE: Declaration of Agricultural Disaster – Starland County

On August 18, 2021, Starland County passed a motion to declare a State of Agricultural Disaster.

This decision was based on the impacts that extreme heat and prolonged drought conditions have had on crops, forages, and pasture throughout Starland County. County Council is aware of the hardships facing Starland County residents, and this decision is meant to raise awareness of the problems facing the agricultural industry both in our County and throughout the Province of Alberta.

Low growing season moisture and intense heat during critical growing periods have further depleted initially low soil moisture reserves. This has led to severe impacts across all sectors of agricultural production. Livestock production has been and will continue to be significantly impacted by shortages of surface water, significant decreases in pasture growth, and reductions in forage production. When coupled with the reduction in annual crop production in our County and throughout western Canada, the high cost of livestock feed could lead to substantial reductions in livestock breeding herds.

This Council recognizes the recent actions that have been taken by government, including the request to initiate funding under the AgriRecovery program, the inclusion of Starland County in the 2021 Livestock Tax Deferral prescribed regions, and the increase of the Low Yield Allowance threshold for salvage crops. We welcome any opportunity to further assist supporting our producers through this difficult period.

Thank you for your continued advocacy for Albertan producers dealing with these devastating conditions.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Wannstrom".

Steve Wannstrom
Reeve of Starland County

Cc: Ric McIver, Minister of Municipal Affairs
Nate Horner, MLA; Associate Minister of Rural Economic Development
Damien Kurek, Member of Parliament for Battle River – Crowfoot
Paul McLauchlin, President of RMA
Amber Link, Zone 2 RMA Director
Local Municipalities