



P.O. Box 249, 217 Railway Avenue North, Morrin, AB T0J 2B0
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www.starlandcounty.com

July 26, 2023

Honourable RJ Sigurdson
Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation
131 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 2B6

AGRIC.Minister@gov.ab.ca

Re: Local State of Agricultural Disaster

Dear Minister Sigurdson,

This letter is to officially inform you that at the July 26, 2023, Council meeting, Starland County passed a motion declaring a local state of agricultural disaster.

Low soil moisture levels, significantly low growing season precipitation levels, and periods of extreme heat during critical periods have combined to create widespread poor growing conditions throughout Starland County.

The drought conditions facing agricultural producers in the area are severe. Surface water sources and dugouts have dried up, having been initially low due to lack of snowfall accumulation over winter followed by minimal spring rainfall for runoff. Pasture and tame hay crops are poor, in many cases hay crops will not be harvested this year. In many areas of the county, native grasses are still partially dormant as there has been limited rainfall to initiate growth.

Due to the situation facing producers, the County is respectfully requesting the opportunity to participate in the implementation of a provincial disaster recovery plan. This council recognizes and appreciates the recent actions that have been taken, including raising the low yield allowance to increase the amount of crop available for livestock feed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Wannstrom", written over a horizontal line.

Steve Wannstrom
Reeve
Starland County



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CC: Hon. Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Hon. Ric McIver, Alberta Minister of Municipal Affairs
Mr. Nate Horner, Minister of Finance and MLA for Battel River-Crowfoot
Mr. Damien Kurek, MP, Battle River-Crowfoot
Mr. Paul McLauchlin, RMA, President
Ms. Linda Hunt, Executive Assistant, Provincial Agricultural Service Board Committee
Ms. Kelly Smith, AFSC Board Chair