

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD**



**COMITÉ PERMANENT DE
L'AGRICULTURE ET DE
L'AGROALIMENTAIRE**

Ottawa, November 24, 2016

The Honourable Lawrence MacAulay, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food
1341 Baseline Road
Floor 9, Room 149
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0C5

Dear Minister:

The Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food held a public meeting on 22 November 2016 with cattle ranchers from Alberta to discuss their personal experience with the measures implemented by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) following the discovery of a case of bovine tuberculosis in a cow from Alberta during slaughter at a facility in the United States.

The Committee recognizes the utmost importance of the quarantine and eradication measures to ensure the health of the Canadian herd and maintain the integrity of the cattle industry for our trading partners. However, this must be done in a manner that minimizes the impact on the farm businesses affected by the control measures.


Ranchers, whose herds are under quarantine, indicated a lack of communication from CFIA about the timeline for testing animals. They also incur additional costs to feed and maintain cattle that had already been marketed but could not be sold because of the control measures put in place; one rancher must pay an additional \$92000 per month to maintain a third of his herd without any guarantee that these animals will be marketed. The ranchers told the Committee that current CFIA and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada programs' payments will either not compensate for those additional costs or, like AgriStability, be triggered after the tax filing period in several months from now while money is needed immediately.

The Committee is therefore urging you to take immediate action to

- (1) increase CFIA resources dedicated to the investigation, and cooperate with provincial authorities and local veterinarians to speed up testing with a goal to allow ranchers to quickly return to a normal business situation.
- (2) compensate for the additional costs incurred by ranchers to cope with the situation resulting from the control measures put in place by CFIA.

On behalf of the Committee, I look forward to your response to our concerns.

Respectfully,



Pat Finnigan, M.P.
Chair, Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food

c.c.: Members of the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food
Paul Cardegna, Clerk, Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food