

Thank you for supporting AgCat

and our fight for immediate help for all our family of grain and oilseed producers

Thank you for supporting AgCat and our fight for immediate help for all our family of grain and oilseed producers. It is not only your financial contribution that is important in winning fairness for our industry. Your work in your community to spread awareness of the crisis, along with your advice to our working group, is key to our success. Get your MLA and MP fired up to help us.

The fight for crop insurance to be responsive to our plight has brought a small measure of success. The reduction of *premiums*, announced by the Honourable Minister Horner, is an issue we raised from the start and we thank him and the government for this action. We also asked for a substantial increase in the RIC floor price to better reflect the rise in the cost of production. Although the increase of 7% announced by Minister Horner is welcome, it is well short of the “rise” in the cost of production over the last 3 years - the time period from which the floor price was set. Our work and representation on this issue alone made your contribution to AgCat worth it.

This letter will update you on some of what we have been doing and are planning. We are very busy and we want you to be as well. We all need to work hard to save our industry. Making a contribution to AgCat and writing a few letters is not enough. Our time until spring is short and bills need to be paid, so let us push hard to win what we rightfully deserve.

We hope you have gone to the web site and clicked on the news button. We have made contact with, had discussions with or met with, the Canadian Bankers Association, petroleum industry companies and the Alberta Forage Association, to name a few. In the days ahead, we continue to meet with all the agriculture industry leaders to establish strategic alliances and move towards a solution.

We have briefed David Anderson, MP in Saskatchewan and the new Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture. Also, Ted Menzies, MP for Macleod and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Cooperation, is fully aware and supportive. The Honourable Monte Solberg, MP for Medicine Hat and Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, was fully briefed on the crisis and the federal solutions needed to help us.

We have briefed many of the Alberta Cabinet Ministers and MLAs. Without exception, we received a warm and understanding response to the need, and recognition that action is needed immediately. We expect letters of support from each of the provincial conservative leadership hopefuls in the next week.

Our booth at the Agriculture trade show in Lethbridge this past week was very worthwhile. We did not receive one negative comment about what we are doing or our approach, and many new members joined.

This week, the Honourable Minister Doug Horner set-up a working group with AgCat to look at CAIS. We feel strongly that the margins need to be increased significantly if this is the vehicle chosen to assist us. We have a commitment from the Honourable Doug Horner to work with AgCat representatives and his department, to assist producers.

We are busy with media contact: newspapers, television and radio to heighten the awareness of the crisis and solutions. An article is slated to run March 13 in the *Medicine Hat News*, given by Mayor Don Weisbeck of Brooks. This will set the bar for other Cities, Towns, Villages and MDs to support our efforts to have the Provincial and Federal Governments take immediate action and address the crises in the grains and oilseed industry.

We commissioned a report on the crisis, available on the web site.

We hope you will ask all your suppliers to support our actions with letters and by joining AgCat.

Spring is nearly here and the time is now short to get the assistance we need. We are working hard for you and appreciate your support. However, each one of us has a job to do to win this battle to save our industry and the fabric of our communities. Write and tell us what actions you are taking to help us win. Get letters and calls to all politicians telling them the time is now to solve this crisis.

On behalf of the trustees,

yours sincerely,

Gerald D. Chipeur, Q.C. LeRoy Fjordbotten

It is time our local government leaders appreciated how the crisis in the grain and oilseed sector affects all of Alberta. Read Ken's presentation on this issue on the web site.

Grains and oilseed producers are the largest supporter of our businesses in our rural communities. Without them, our communities, which our fathers and forefathers worked so hard to create and maintain, will disappear.

Thank you again for working with us towards a solution.

Ken Kultgen, Mayor of Foremost & farmer