

April 2nd, 2026

Saskatchewan Cattle Association Welcomes Strychnine Approval, Advocates for Expanded Access

The Saskatchewan Cattle Association (SCA), alongside the Canadian Cattle Association and Alberta Beef Producers, welcomes the Government of Canada's decision to grant an Emergency Use Registration for strychnine in Alberta and Saskatchewan until November 2027. This approval provides producers with a critical tool to manage Richardson Ground Squirrels, which continue to cause significant damage to rangelands, croplands and pastureland essential to beef production.

"With no viable alternatives, access to strychnine is essential for many Saskatchewan producers," said Chad Ross, Chair of the SCA. *"While not a perfect solution, this is an important step forward, and we will continue working to ensure producers have effective and practical pest management tools."*

SCA appreciates the leadership of the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture, including Premier Scott Moe and Minister David Marit, for their advocacy on behalf of producers.

The approved registration applies to 116 rural municipalities in areas with the highest crop insurance losses, while incorporating safeguards to protect non-target species and species at risk.

SCA recognizes that not all affected regions are included and continues to advocate for expanded access. On April 1, Saskatchewan formally requested that Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) broaden the eligible area to better reflect the widespread impact of Richardson Ground Squirrels.

Producers in non-eligible areas can continue to access support through the Gopher Control Program, extension services, and Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation programs.

The Emergency Use Registration includes strict stewardship requirements, including in-burrow application, carcass collection and monitoring, and mandatory training to mitigate risks to non-target species.

"This approval also allows us to demonstrate that strychnine can be used responsibly," Ross added. *"That evidence will be critical in supporting long-term access for producers."*

Strychnine will be distributed through a provincially led stewardship program, with product availability expected in the coming weeks.

SCA will continue working with industry and government partners to advocate for science-based, practical solutions that support Saskatchewan cattle producers.

