



Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association
Board Meeting
Thursday, June 12, 2025
8 am
The Atlas – Regina, SK

Chad Ross (Chair , SCFA rep)
Keith Day Chair (Past Chair)
Kyle Hebert (Director 1)
Wade Beck (Director 2)
Roger Meyers (Director 3A)
Cyle Stewart (Director 3B)
Randy Stokke (Director 4)
Levi Hull (Director 5)
Shelby Corey (Director 6)
Joleen Shea (Director 7)
Leon Leuke (Director 8)
Christine Strube (Director 9A)
Dean Moore (Director 9B)
Henry McCarthy (Director SSGA)
Garret Poletz (Director, SCFA)
Judson Christopherson (CCYC)

SCA Staff:

Christina Betker (Policy)
Leann Clifford (Admin)
Marianne Possberg (Production)

Regrets:

Kelly Williamson (Director, SSGA)

Meeting called to order 8am

1.0 Approval of Agenda

MOTION 2025 – 031: Hebert / Strube

“To accept the agenda as amended.”

Carried

Declaration to the Assembly of possible Conflict of Interest – none noted

To be the trusted voice of then Saskatchewan beef cattle industry by striving to limit restrictions and expand opportunities.

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1.01 Review of Minutes

MOTION 2025-032: Stewart / Lueke

“To accept the April 17, 2025 minutes as presented.”

1.02 Chair Report

MOTION 2025-033: Ross / Shea

“To accept the Chair report as presented.”

Carried

1.03 CEO Report

MOTION 2025-034: Shea / Hebert

“To accept the Chair report as presented.”

Carried

1.04 Financial Report

MOTION 2025-035: Hebert / Shea

“To accept the Financial Report as presented.”

Carried

Budget 2025 / 2026

MOTION 2025-036: Hebert / Stewart

“To accept the proposed 2025 – 2026 Budget as presented.”

Carried

- Discussion on the budget
- Cattle numbers and the decline

Banking Signatures

SCA Online Banking

MOTION 2025-037: Hebert / Day

“To give authority to Leann Clifford Saskatchewan Cattle Assoc. Administrator/Finance on the Affinity accounts as a signing authority, and to allow Clifford status of Corporate Administrator for full access to all processes of online banking, including but not limited to, electronic funds transfers, bill payments, deposits and transfers. Only one Corporate Administrator is required.”

Carried

SBIC – signing authority

MOTION 2025-038: Hebert / Leuke

“To give Christina Betker and Leann Clifford signing authority on Affinity account 13224 – Saskatchewan Beef Industry Conference.”**

Carried

Discussion

- SBIC committee has been disbanded as of fall 2023. The signing authorities are no longer available. They have moved out of province and /or onto new roles not related to SBIC.

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- Responsibility has been transferred to Saskatchewan Cattle Association on the role of providing the annual conference.
- Finances to remain separate from SCA's finances and will be audited annually at the same time SCA books are audited. It will now become an audited entity.

Colin Communication Update - Call in 9am

- Going to the Ross ranch on the 23rd
- 27th to the Stewart ranch
- July 8th – Mortensen ranch
- 15th to Beaver Creek
- Work completed on the Belton videos
- Videos to be shown at AGM?
- Video with marketers

Sean MacKenzie call in 9:30pm

Investment Updates

- Update on our portfolio
- What does the state of the world have on our investments? Tariffs? Short lives and a negotiation process, geo political person advises to remove the name and talk only administration. US has the lowest tariffs rate in the world.
- A process to access various markets around the world, Trumps way is aggressive, but will be behind us sooner than we think.
- US economy is more optimistic, have a tax regulation, decommissioned tax, deferred capital payments for construction. A manufacturing renaissance happening with robotics – cheaper to build in the US with robotics than China.
- Geopolitical tension creates instability on the world markets.
- Canada only doing well because we have rare earth minerals. The last 10 years have been lost. And will continue as this government is in the seat. Canada has had no growth, housing costs huge, in a crisis. Health depleted.
- We have a trade balance with the US, only thing that unbalances in oil and gas. We sell to US with a huge discount.
- As of today, Core inflation 2.2 Headline inflation is (fuel and food)
- Oil is the key to inflation
- US dollar influences the rate of Canadian dollar.

SCIC - Warren Ames re Agristability pilot project 2:15pm

- AgriStability changes
- Alberta pilot – a) feed is currently valued can have a negative value in drought b) program not realizing relative expenses.
- Pastureland rent may now be considered for compensation
- Machinery repair / fence repair/ arms length labour are now being considered for comp.

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- Changes will be discussed July meeting
- Saskatchewan has the largest uptake on AgriStability.
- Any appetite for Agristability to work within an operation? More risk tolerant
- Agristability is a whole farm program.
- Need to meet the criteria for AgriStability
- SCA supports these changes – what is the probability that these changes are going to get through both governments?
- AgriStability modified for drought / fires? There is merit, where it lands not too sure.
- Can apply for AgriStability right to the end of July – this is the longest extension thus far, usually only till June.
- Interim registration is available as well.
- 10 year average more representative than a 5-year average. Any appetite to change these reference margins? No not do able due to the parameters in place.

Old Business

Fall Meeting Schedule

- An FYI
- Vacancies in 4 and 9B - directors are working on it.
- In the June SCA paper

Strat Plan Review- Existing & Recommended

- Reviewed and discussed.

TB Update

- Ongoing conversations with CCA and the Feds and CCIA. Hoping for some positive news at the end of the month.
- Ongoing problems with the investigation itself. Mistakes have been made and hopefully learned.
- Industry liaison being pursued. SCA, SVMA & gov't - discussions for funding through the province. This person will be the liaison between producer and CFIA/SCA/SVMA.
- Positive TB case dairy in Manitoba – different than our strain of TB – where did the TB come from? Is there beef on dairy? Feed? Predation compensation on the feed? Risk to human?
- Tb information on our website
- Lots of different roads to head down for each situation.
- 40 herds quarantined thus far.
- 5 point update in whatsapp, going forward.

MOTION 2025-039; Hebert / McCarthy

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“ That SCA work with the Provincial CVO and the Government of Sask. to provide funding for an Industry Liaison position and that SCA will be the administrator of the agreement. SCA agrees to provide funds in the amount of \$2,500 in cash and \$7,500 in kind.”

Carried

Assurance Update

- Looked at the AB model – LIS has not responded.
- LSS has no desire to move forward, engage in it.

LSS update

- Cutting costs issues looking at billing scheduling
- Alberta inspections are a dollar cheaper
- Sassy program a huge expense
- Preprinted manifest forms – cost to the producer – more efficient

Grassland Policy

- Reviewed the policy that was put together – Randy, Cyle, Keith
- Working documents.
- SSGA has their own policy.
- Easements may be different in the different areas of Sask. May not benefit the land owners. Is this something we need to look at when writing up a policy.
- Ducks and NCC control the contracted land and producer is paying the price.
- Grassland worth more, that is not the case now. Grassland broken up assessment went up 30% - this needs to change.
- A change in crop insurance on broken up land? Not insurable til year 5?

MOTION 2025-40: Stokke / Day

“That SCA adopt the Grasslands Policy as presented.”

Carried

New Business

Sponsorship

S-001 – SCFA – Western Feedlot School – Feb 2026 - \$25,000

MOTION 2025-041: Hebert / Shea

“That SCA fund SCFA 2026 Western Feedlot school in the amount of \$25,000.”

Carried

S-002 – Team Kleiter Partnership 25/26 - \$10k to \$25K – reject Beck/ no discussion

S-003 – Hospitals of Regina Foundation - \$5K – reject - Strube

S-004 – Spark Nutrition Comms - \$3K – reject – Leuke

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S-005 – VBP+ = \$35K – Joleen / Keith

MOTION 2025-042: Shea / Keith

“That SCA fund VBP+ 2026 in the amount of \$35,000.”

Carried

S-006 – Agribition – \$60,325

Recommendation – possible \$20,000/\$30,000 – negotiate. To be brought back to the board in August

Levy Refund Form

- Went over the form for 2025
- Discussion on the administration fee.
 - It costs SCA producers over \$10.00 in actual costs for every refund. The .53/head is paid out to CCA even if there is a refund. When asking for a refund you are using other peoples money for your benefit.
 - The dealer fee of .10cents/head
 - Service fees on cheqs, bank charges, envelope, stamps, paper, administration has increased substantially. These charges should not be on the burden of levy paying producers or SCA.
- Staff review further. Legal has already been done on it

MOTION 2025-043: Hebert / Moore

“That SCA move forward with an admin fee on levy refunds in the amount of \$20.00/ registration form.”

Carried

Drought

- Opportune time to ask what we are asking for. Proactive instead of reactive.
- Follow through on the recommendations.
- Feed / trucking expenses
- Province has a lot of opportunity/ resources BRM's for help. Need to get the messages out there? Has this been done already? Are people listening? Do they care until the need to are?
- Get SCIC to explain their math on rainfall insurance. Area average? Pick towers?
- Government does not do a good enough job at explaining the programs.
- Rainfall insurance paid out monthly, instead of yearly. Leverage to buy feed in the moment not when prices are high and available.

ACTION: Should we have a drought town hall meeting in the North? Get the experts out there to explain the programs.

Townhall video on programs.

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Letters - FYI's

CCA Letter to Provincial Ministers

Ministry of AG – response re AgriStability

LMS – re: assurance fund

Board Round Table

- Sodcap meeting – budget approved
- Official results of the audit not in yet , but looking ok
- WLP more accurate/ explanation on premium payout / pricing
- Enjoyed the input on the grassland committee table
- CCYC – meeting C202 rearing its head replaces C282
- Funding increase
- Advance payment programs are now in an excel program for distribution
- Thesis is done and officially published and will be shared.
- Youth roundtable discussion next week, succession, programs, conservation, policy capitalized on new entries.
- VBP+ national no update / SK VBP+ - governance next month
- BCRC – meeting next week
- Attended the swearing in of the new Marshalls. Good networking opportunity
- Northeast area dry
- Attended the chamber of commerce event – was a good opportunity for networking. Good discussions.
- Meadow Lake School – Beef days – good event
- Research meeting – lots of knowledge around the table – good thought
- 4h sale well attended
- Northern Livestock – asked them to tell producers to contact SCA for fire/ drought inf
- NCC does not want cows on their lands
- SSGA AGM complete – SCA spoke on check off
- Drugs we can no longer gets hands on – why? DIN numbers have expired? Approved drugs expiring, they have to go through the process again. How do we get established drugs to be continuous? They are needed for Animal health and management. Putting animals at risk
- Code of practice is being rewritten, how does this affect the code?
- 9B is in election
- Fed Ag Minister coming to SK – going to the Greiner ranch to a tour.
- Letter in for compensation ask on TB animals– fencing/feed/clean up
- NCO AGM is virtual – August 19
- Ontario bumped their national check off. Now can increase the import levy.
- Mechanism change committee has met 3 times and it is moving forward.
- Info session on drought, hay brokers/ feed sources / resources

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Calendar Sync

August 19 -National Check off AGM – online

September 8 – CCA AGM Quebec

October 9 – Regina - Board Meeting

October 21 – Whitewood Legion – 1:30pm

October 22 – Assiniboia RecPlex – 5pm

October 23 – Piapot Legion – 1:30pm

October 27 – Davidson Town Hall – 1:30pm

October 28 – Humboldt Bella Vista – 1:30pm

October 29 – Paradis Hill

November 26-29 - Agribition

December 12 – Saskatoon - Board Meeting

Jan 19-23 – SBIC

February 3-5 - NCBA

North Dakota/ South Dakota / Montana stockmans event - Roger

In Camera Session - Leon

Adjournment 3:15- Hebert

August 2025 Chair Report

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Moving into August we have seen a year filled with Tariff and Trade threats, TB Disease Challenges, CFIA challenges, Checkoff increases and Checkoff Mechanism changes, spotty long term drought areas all while having a new provincial Ag Minister and Federal Ag Minister. This thankfully is on the back of the highest beef commodity prices we have seen in history.

Staff continue to play catchup while maintaining the day-to-day objectives, forward planning all while implementing a checkoff increase.

All through this we can not loose sight of our objectives to maintain profitability of our producers through enhanced programs, regulation reduction, government relations while continuing to add creativity for our next generation of producers for industry sustainability. Fiscal responsibility of our organization has never been more important with projected reductions in cattle marketings. Staff and Board must scrutinise every spending decision.

National Checkoff has worked hard to move up the implementation of the checkoff collection mechanism from 2026 to August 2025. The working group of which I am a part voted unanimously to move ahead with the mechanism change. Logistics and costs are yet to be determined as we work into the change slowly.

Kyle has been active with LSS in his new position to help enhance efficiencies and explore income opportunities rather than supporting a complete fee increase. Thank you, Kyle, for stepping into this challenging role.

Marianne, Levi and I had opportunity to meet at ground zero of the TB investigation at the Sawley operation with Minister Harrison and Minister Kaeding. It was an important day to help us all realise the hardships these producers continue to endure and how need to be diligent with CFIA for these producers. My thought as I drove away was, if this happened in my operation, I would not meet with CFIA without my Lawyer, Banker and VET present. There is too much at stake and too much that could go wrong.

I was thankful as SCA chair to be able to present at SSGA AGM in June. It brought on many questions about checkoff and other issues like wildlife, youth succession, tax deferral. It is important we work along side SSGA with common issues. Let SSGA handle the issues they are experts on and SCA will do the same. A strong relationship makes a strong provincial industry. Jeff Yorga and I have intense schedules but still try to communicate on issues.

Joleen, Christina and I had the opportunity to meet with John Barlow Conservative AG Critic and Warren Steinly MP in a heathy open discussion of the issues of the day. John and Warren are working hard for us on the Ag file and appreciate their work.

I again sent invitations to provincial and federal politicians to attend my Branding days. My MLA Lori Carr now Minister of Health was unable to attend with her new duties. Steven Bonk my new MP was scheduled to attend but cancelled last minute. The Saskatchewan NDP Leader Carla Beck and Trent Wotherspoon and staff were able to attend with great conversation of our industry and how they can help.

My wife Crystal now sits on the LFCE Strategic Advisory Council and was able to attend their field day and meetings this past June.

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August 11 Crystal and I will host a Beef Innovation Day with Marianne. We look for a day of conversation regarding research and Technology on how we can move the bar higher in that regard.

A big thank you to Joleen for covering for me when I was away on vacation. Thank you also to the Executive Committee for the behind-the-scenes conversations and work.

As we move forward, we look for board feedback regarding fall meetings, youth sustainability, Livestock marketers' communication as well as many other issues.

CEO REPORT

Things have been busy since our last board meeting. Wade and I presented at the APAS meeting in Fillmore. Their board is trying to build strong relationships with other organizations, including SCA, so they wanted an opportunity to hear what we have been working on and finds ways we can work together on files. It was a quick but good meeting and worth doing again.

Joleen and I met virtually with Minister MacLeod to discuss the issue of the conservation officer and the roles they play. As Chad, Leann and I had previously met with Jeff from policing and corrections previously, the Minister was aware of the issues and the challenges, but I still felt it was important to make sure he heard it directly from us, not just from people in the department.

I participated in some CCA committee meetings and am starting to prep for the semi-annual at the beginning of September.

The TB investigation continues, with challenges and issues continuing to pop up. The provincial government is working through their process to get the contract and funding approved for the liaison position we have requested. We hope to have the contract in hand very shortly and can move forward on approaching people we will feel would be good for the role. The TB working group is also being worked on. We have determined the number of people we would think be manageable and will hopefully have this up and running in the fall.

Chad, Joleen and I met with MPs Warren Steinley and John Barlow in early July. It was a good discussion and there are opportunities to work together and leverage them with the government.

Chad and I participated in a call with Minister Harrison regarding the upcoming FPT, informing the Minister of our priorities and issues of concern.

Leann and I attended PNWER in Seattle. AI was a focus topic of the conference, with a strong focus on economics. We participated in the livestock border sessions, talking about the various diseases that challenge not only our industry but other livestock commodities. Stephanie Smith, the provincial CVO participated on a panel. We are very fortunate to have her in that role as she is a strong advocate for our industry.

I met with David Sullivan from GARS to discuss programing challenges and opportunities for private insurance to play in the BRM space.

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I also met with Brendan Tuchscherer from Highway Patrol to discuss how we can work better together regarding emergency situations such as rollovers and addressing the issue that was raised at the weigh scales.

The Agri-Stability announcement was welcome and appreciate that Joleen was able to attend on behalf of SCA.

We have submitted letters regarding strychnine and livestock tax deferral to the federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food.

I did two interviews with Ryan Young and Glenda Lee Vossler regarding Agri-Stability and check-off changes.

As of August 1st, our provincial portion of the check off increased and the mechanism for check off did as well. Letters went out early in July from Leann to her people. As we move forward, we will see how this all plays out.

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