



ALBERTA  
AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

*Office of the Minister  
MLA, Innisfail-Sylvan Lake*

FEB 03 2021

To: Primary Agricultural Societies

I am pleased to provide you with an important update on your annual agricultural societies grant. I know that COVID-19 has presented significant challenges for your organizations and communities, as well as creating questions around the impact that event cancellations would have on your annual grant application.

Agriculture and Forestry has developed a new grant approach to address these impacts and provide grant certainty for the next two years. It will assist agricultural societies to continue to play an important role in Alberta's economic recovery. The full \$8.7 million annual grant budget for primary agricultural societies will continue to be maintained through 2021 and 2022 as previously committed.

Each primary agricultural society's grant for both 2021 and 2022 will be based on the five-year average annual operating grant received from 2016 through 2020, combined with the regular \$17,500 base grant. The annual operating grant component combines the amounts typically received for eligible leadership, agricultural activities, and operational expenses.

Program area staff will be contacting you shortly to notify you of the five-year average grant total so that you can plan your budgets and activities accordingly. You will not need to fill out the regular grant application that previously detailed expenses you incurred during the previous year. Instead, program staff will provide you with a streamlined form to apply for the pre-determined amount, saving you a significant amount of time and effort.

Once departmental budgets are loaded in the new fiscal year (after April 1, 2021), program staff will prioritize grant payment processing as soon as reasonably possible. It is anticipated that this could begin as early as May 2021.

Please note that this new grant approach does not affect your regular annual reporting requirements under the Agricultural Societies Regulation, which are still due on February 15, 2021.

I would like to thank you for your patience, resilience, and innovation through these challenging times. I look forward to continuing to partner with agricultural societies as we work together to rebuild Alberta.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Devin Dreeshen".

Honourable Devin Dreeshen  
Minister, Agriculture and Forestry