

Standing Committee on Finance (FINA)

Pre-budget consultations 2012

National Cattle Feeders' Association

Responses

1. Economic Recovery and Growth

Given the current climate of federal and global fiscal restraint, what specific federal measures do you feel are needed for a sustained economic recovery and enhanced economic growth in Canada?

Cattle feeding operations across Canada support the following federal measures to sustain economic recovery and enhance economic growth within the sector. - Continued access to credit is critical. - Risk management programs that are effective, timely and bankable. - increased financial commitment to growing trade and market opportunities. - increased financial commitment to growing the Canadian agriculture brand driven programs (Canada Beef). - Increased investment is required to grow production capacity to meet new trade and market access. - increased commitment that will support research and innovation.

2. Job Creation

As Canadian companies face pressures resulting from such factors as uncertainty about the U.S. economic recovery, a sovereign debt crisis in Europe, and competition from a number of developed and developing countries, what specific federal actions do you believe should be taken to promote job creation in Canada, including that which occurs as a result of enhanced internal and international trade?

Cattle Feeding operations are an important employer in rural Canada contributing significant value throughout (both up and down) the beef cattle value chain. Cattle feeding operations are, for the most part, family run operations that purchase and turn over large volumes of inventory several times per year. They require: - Continued access to credit and financial sound risk management programs they can take to the bank. - the elimination of 'Caps' in all disaster recovery programs. It is discriminatory to eliminate a small sector that is heavily invested in the industry. - access to skilled labour is vital to growth within the sector and immigration policy must align with fulfilling the sectors labour needs.

3. Demographic Change

What specific federal measures do you think should be implemented to help the country address the consequences of, and challenges associated with, the aging of the Canadian population and of skills shortages?

The cattle feeding industry requires a broad range of highly specialized skill sets to function efficiently and effectively. The ongoing consolidation of farming operations effectively reduces the talent pool of skilled managers which will be able to grow the industry. - Support for programs that develop and train next generation producer/managers is critical. - Support for programs that assist next generation producer/managers recapitalize operations is also critical. - support for program that assist with the integration of temporary foreign works into Canadian society is also important. In many cases TFW are critical to maintaining efficient operating feedlot systems.

4. Productivity

With labour market challenges arising in part as a result of the aging of Canada's population and an ongoing focus on the actions needed for competitiveness, what specific federal initiatives are needed in order to increase productivity in Canada?

The cattle feeding industry is a very high tech industry that has continuously increased productively, improved product quality and consistency and all while reducing environmental impact and improving animal health and welfare. To remain competitive and gain competitive advantage in a global market federal support is required for: - ongoing research into feed utilization and efficiency, beef carcass quality and consistency (support Beef Cattle Research Council). - development and implementation of feed grain strategy to ensure feed inventory can meet future demand of enhanced market access. - a strong commitment to financially support the ongoing reduction of regulatory burden (within CFIA) and the drive to harmonize regulations with the United States (Support for the Regulatory Cooperation Councils) - financial support is required for a national traceability program that will backstop access to new markets. - Financial support is required to diversify processing and slaughter capacity in order to enhance the capacity of brand driven programs and the value they can gain from the marketplace.

5. Other Challenges

With some Canadian individuals, businesses and communities facing particular challenges at this time, in your view, who is facing the most challenges, what are the challenges that are being faced and what specific federal actions are needed to address these challenges?

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