

March 16, 2021

Corey Beck, Chair, Provincial ASB Committee  
c/o Jane Fulton, Secretary, Provincial ASB Committee  
PO Bag 100  
Didsbury, AB T0M 0W0

*Sent via email*

Dear Mr. Beck:

Thank you for your February 1, 2021 letter regarding the resolutions passed at the January ASB Conference. I am pleased to provide a response to Resolution 6-21: Agriculture Research Association Check Off Option.

Each of Alberta's 20 agricultural marketing boards and commissions (MBCs) is created and governed by a set of regulations under the *Marketing of Agricultural Products Act* (MAPA). These regulations set out specific purposes and powers for each MBC, and clearly establish the requirement that service charges collected under each regulation are to be used to finance the respective MBC's activities. The formation of any MBC under MAPA requires producers of a specific commodity to take collective action to establish the organization for the express purpose of representing producers of that commodity. This includes demonstration of producer support to establish a service charge to fund the organization.

Shifting to a model that directs service charges to Applied Research Associations (ARAs) or Agriculture Research and Development Organizations (ARDOs) would require amendments to MAPA that may change the intent of the legislation and expand Marketing Council's mandate beyond commodity-specific MBCs. MBCs may choose to direct service charges toward research projects through ARAs or ARDOs – producers may present this option for consideration by the MBC Board, who would likely seek support from the majority of producers.

In addition, twelve of Alberta's 20 MBCs operate with a refundable service charge model. Producers in these sectors can request a refund of their service charge contributions and could potentially provide this funding to ARAs or ARDOs if they feel this is a more appropriate use of their funds.

Recently, Results Driven Agriculture Research (RDAR) approved funding the ARAs \$2 million per year for 2 years (2021-22 and 2022-23). Funding is to be delivered to a single organization to administer. RDAR is open to providing this funding, including a potential increase, but will require a written plan demonstrating increased efficiency, results measurement, and a province-wide approach to activities. In addition, RDAR will further assist the ARAs by providing an additional grant in the range of \$50,000 to \$75,000 to hire a consultant to help the ARAs work through the planning process and writing of the detailed plan.

I encourage the ASB Provincial Committee to work with RDAR and the MBCs in defining specific opportunities for partnerships, which may also include funding or contracting research and extension projects.

Please feel free to contact me at 780-644-1507 or [brent.mcewan@gov.ab.ca](mailto:brent.mcewan@gov.ab.ca) if you have any questions. Thank you again for the opportunity to respond to this resolution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brent McEwan", is positioned above the typed name.

Brent McEwan  
General Manager  
Alberta Agricultural Products Marketing Council

Filename: 2021-03-11 - Response to ASB Provincial Committee on Service  
Charges  
Directory: \\GOA\MyDocs\J\joanne.jones  
Template: C:\Users\joanne.jones\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Templates\Normal.dotm  
Title:  
Subject:  
Author: Reuben Joesse  
Keywords:  
Comments:  
Creation Date: 3/16/2021 8:13:00 AM  
Change Number: 2  
Last Saved On: 3/16/2021 8:13:00 AM  
Last Saved By: Joanne Jones  
Total Editing Time: 1 Minute  
Last Printed On: 3/16/2021 12:38:00 PM  
As of Last Complete Printing  
Number of Pages: 2  
Number of Words: 496 (approx.)  
Number of Characters: 2,828 (approx.)