

Resolution E2-23: Stable Funding for Farm Mental Health

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST that the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation provides stable 5 year funding support to the Alberta Farm Mental Health Network to hire and maintain staff and cover operational costs to continue the support and services offered through AgKnow.ca.

Response:

The mental health of farmers is an important topic. Agriculture and Irrigation is actively working to provide support for Farm Mental Health Network.

Last year, the Ministry provided \$524,500 to the Agriculture Research Extension Council of Alberta to fund proposals for farmer mental health supports in the province. To date, this funding has helped achieve the following milestones:

- Team members for the Farm Mental Health Network were established.
- Research contracts for University of Alberta studies on Farm Mental Health were signed.
- The AgKnow.ca website was soft launched.
- A Community of Practice platform for mental health professionals that have experience in providing farmers with support was established.
- The Livestock Depopulation Support Program was launched.

Agriculture and Irrigation is currently working on the Resiliency and Public Trust Program under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership. This program will include funding opportunities for projects that support and empower producers and agri-food workers to take care of their mental health.