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Election Priorities - Key Messages

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Who is NCFA

The National Cattle Feeders' Association (NCFA) serves as the national voice for cattle feeders across Canada. NCFA works closely with federal decision-makers to improve the growth, sustainability and competitiveness of the Canadian beef sector – and contribute to food affordability and food security.

Tariffs and Trade

Each year, Canada exports up to 50% of the value of all cattle and beef we produce and 70% of those exports go to the US. The beef industry is a highly integrated North American market. Given the limits of transporting live animals, diversifying live exports to global markets is a very limited option.

Key Asks

- a) Continue to work with the Canadian beef sector to **prevent US tariffs on live cattle** and **refrain** from Canadian **retaliatory tariffs** on **corn, distillers' grains** and **live cattle**.
- b) **Provide immediate financial assistance to Canadian cattle feeders** who will be impacted by tariffs on day one. This temporary support will allow the sector time to pivot and for longer term-support programs to come into play.
- c) As **foot and mouth disease** continues to spread globally, ensure Canada's Border Services Agency is increasing **protection efforts** and that the Canadian Food Inspection Agency is fast-tracking the establishment of a **vaccine bank** and a **preparedness plan**.

Regulatory Barriers

Canadian regulators are increasingly risk adverse while our global competitors, including the US, are becoming less risk adverse and therefore more competitive. Canadian farmers are being left behind – encumbered by inefficient regulatory systems.

Key Asks

- a) **Fast-track resolutions to regulatory misalignments between Canada/US** that impact Canada's competitiveness including harmonization of our Enhanced Feed Ban with US standards (SRMs).
- b) **Address barriers of government approval systems that prevent or delay Canadian farmers access to innovative** products and technology that are being used by global competitors (including the US).
- c) **Transform** and modernize **government agencies and departments** to **better support Canadian farmers** by acting as partners – rather than obstacles - to the growth of the Canadian agriculture sector.

Productivity and Competitiveness

Canadian farmers compete on the world stage and require government to maintain a business environment that cultivates success. Canada's regulatory, policy, and taxation requirements must track alongside those of our international competitors (including the US) so our farmers can remain globally competitive.

Key Asks

- a) Recognize industry-led initiatives on **climate change** and ensure **government-mandated solutions do not** place Canadian agriculture at a **competitive disadvantage globally**.
- b) Conduct an **inventory and cost analysis** on the totality of **federal taxation, regulations and policy burdening Canadian farmers** and complete a **comparison to our global competitors**.
- c) **Apply a food affordability and food security lens** to all federal government legislation, regulation and policy to prevent unintended and detrimental impacts on Canadian farmers.
- d) Ensure **Business Risk Management programs** reflect the realities of the agriculture sector today.

Supply Chain and Inputs

Recent years have brought about unprecedented challenges to the accessibility and affordability of farm inputs, which includes items such as fertilizer, feed, seed, machinery and fuel. The cost of farm inputs has skyrocketed. Transportation challenges have made obtaining inputs more difficult due to rail and port labour disputes as well as roads and bridges that are unable to withstand extreme weather. Geopolitics will continue to challenge access to farm inputs and alternative pipelines need to be considered.

Key Asks

- a) Build and fund a **Critical Farm Input Strategy** to ensure Canada's farmers can continue to provide affordable and available food for Canada and the world.
- a) Deem **rail service and port service as essential** in spite of labour disputes.

Labour Shortages

Labour shortages continue to be the single largest challenge to the growth of Canadian agriculture, costing the industry \$3.5 billion in lost sales annually. Despite best efforts, the agriculture sector cannot secure enough Canadian labour. This results in a need for foreign workers, yet the system to bring in foreign workers is complicated, backlogged, and fraught with unnecessary complications.

Key Asks

- a) **Establish a cross-departmental government task group** that will collaborate directly with the sector to develop and implement **practical solutions** for the chronic **labour shortage** in Canada's **agriculture** sector.
- b) Streamline **accreditation for foreign-trained professionals** (i.e. large animal veterinarians and veterinary techs).
- c) Establish a Federal **Food Security Immigration Stream** to provide a permanent solution for year-round agriculture jobs.
- d) Ensure the **Temporary Foreign Workers Program** supports industry needs **without caps** that limit productivity.