



# BRITISH COLUMBIA CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

*Representing the Beef Cattle Industry of British Columbia*

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Honorable Pam Alexis  
Minister of Agriculture and Food  
Email: AF.Minister@gov.bc.ca

February 2, 2024

BCCA File: 2024-005  
SENT BY EMAIL

Dear Minister Alexis,

**RE: Hayshed Construction, Stackyard and Hayshed Fencing**

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On behalf of British Columbia's beef cattle producers, we write to request an Environmental Farm Plan Program inclusion for haysheds as well as funding for fencing containment of stackyards and haysheds.

As we work towards the reduction of non-reusable farm waste especially plastics, we are requesting that hayshed construction be included under the Environmental Farm Plan Program to mitigate the reduction of non-reusable material farm waste in the form of feed storage plastics. Cattle feed that must be left outdoors and uncovered must be wrapped in plastic to protect it from the elements and mold. As noted in the EFPP covered hay storages are also beneficial to reduce feed losses and to eliminate leachate.

Our second request is that provisions be developed for funding opportunities for stackyard and hayshed fencing and containment through government supported programs. Stackyards are outside, uncovered feed storage areas and haysheds are typically large, covered structures for feed storage. If not fenced and contained, this feed is open and available to be consumed by livestock and wildlife.

Both of these requests further serve to assist cattle ranchers as they work to protect the environment as well as their own crops and feed. Unfortunately, in these times of severe forest fire activity and drought, ranchers have no margins for loss of critical feed stores. These measures also reduce agriculture – wildlife conflicts.

We appreciate the cooperation of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food to support BC's ranchers as they work towards their stewardship goals. We look forward to your response, please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or to discuss our request.

Best Regards,

Brian Thomas,  
President  
BC Cattlemen's Association