



Agriculture Policy Brief

alberta party
common ground. common sense.



Agriculture is a significant economic driver in Alberta and is a complex industry with roots reaching back to the foundations of this province, and a future as strong as the need to eat.

The Alberta Party is committed to ensuring that agriculture remains a pillar of Alberta's economy and a satisfying way of life for farmers. The Alberta Party also envisions a robust, vibrant, domestic and international agri-business sector that leads the Canadian economy and feeds the world.

THE ALBERTA PARTY BELIEVES THAT:

The agriculture industry in Alberta is composed of two separate but equally important components, primary agric-culture and agribusiness; AND

Independent farmers and producers in Alberta have faced significant challenges including urbanization, diminishing profit margins, the trend toward corporate farms and increased urban development on agricultural lands; AND

Albertans increasingly value locally grown food.

The Alberta Party will strive to diversify the market for Alberta's agricultural products both domestically and internationally through:

- Reviewing the range of funding models in existence to increase value added opportunities here in Alberta to ensure initiatives are effective;
- Supporting local consumption and relationships with local producers.

The Alberta Party will support diversity in the scale of agricultural operations in the province, as we believe there are important roles for small and large operations to fill, both with respect to utilizing available resources and meeting consumer demand.

The Alberta Party will cooperate with the farm and agribusiness sectors to assist in establishing and promoting the "Alberta Advantage" in production and innovation by Alberta agribusiness.

The Alberta Party will work with farmers, farm representative groups, agri-business representatives, other stakeholders and government agencies who have a direct role in planning, to organize an Agricultural Summit to gather direct input and engage in shared planning to support, manage and promote the agriculture industry in Alberta.

The Alberta Party will support research and development for innovative solutions towards making high productivity, industrial agriculture more efficient (less input for yield and lower environmental impact/yield).

The Alberta Party will commit to assisting farmers in land management decisions through:

- Professional assistance implementing sustainable management techniques, like the existing Environmental Farm Plan program;
- Financial assistance or incentives for producers to implement sustainable management techniques;
- Pursue methods/vehicles to help farmers earn income from conservation (payment for ecosystem services, carbon capture in soil organic matter, etc.).

The Alberta Party will work with the agricultural community to help develop initiatives that facilitate the continuing availability of farmland in Alberta through succession strategies, the promotion of initiatives to increase farm income, and to bring new farmers into the industry.

The Alberta Party will work with the farm, agricultural association and agri-business sectors to develop an Alberta Food Security Strategy that provides a long term plan for the development and sustainability of agriculture and a secure and safe food supply for Albertans.

The Alberta Party will strive to make the department of agriculture more accessible, have more local presence and provide practical functions to producers.

The Alberta Party will promote the existing Watershed Alliances as a forum for municipalities, farmers, landowners and environmentalists to work on wider issues.

The Alberta Party will foster the development of a food production system to allow for food destined for local markets to be inspected, processed and stored in a manner that is scale sensitive, flexible and bureaucratically streamlined while ensuring food safety and quality for consumers.

