



*PEI Federation of Agriculture  
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*Working to improve the sustainability of Island farms and farm families*

November 7, 2019

Mr. Bloyce Thompson  
Minister of Agriculture and Land  
PO Box 2000  
Charlottetown, PE  
A1A 7N8

Dear Minister Thompson:

As you are aware, Prince Edward Island was hit with Post Tropical Storm Dorian (Dorian) on September 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019. As illustrated in the attached appendices, this storm system had peak wind gusts exceeding 100 km per hour across the Province, and rainfall amounts in excess of 135 millimeters. According to the UPEI Climatology Lab, Dorian amounted to a 1 in 100 weather event for the Island. As shown to you through a series of drone footage on October 16, 2019, Dorian inflicted widespread damage to corn crops across PEI. Some corn did not mature, some grain corn was silaged, and harvest is proving to be difficult or impossible for some farmers. Dorian came after a volatile growing season that began with a cold spring and dry summer, and the storm was followed by two frosts in mid September. This is exacerbated by the fact that forage crops on the Island were sparse and insufficient to sustain many livestock herds located across the Province. In addition, Dorian damaged apple orchards as it hit when apples trees have a full leaf canopy and well over a hundred pounds of apples per tree. The storm uprooted hundreds semi-vigorous trees, compromising full production trellises and making it very time consuming to harvest.

For these above reasons, we request you investigate the AgriRecovery Framework as a means to provide financial assistance, to help deal with the impacts that will not be covered by the Business Risk Management Programs found within the Canadian Agriculture Partnership Agreement.

The PEI Federation of Agriculture (PEIFA) is leading this effort alongside the Atlantic Grains Council (AGC), Dairy Farmers of PEI (DFPEI), PEI Cattle Producers (PEICP), PEI Hog Board (PEIHB) and the PEI Horticultural Association (PEIHA). Dorian has impacted them differently. All are independently collecting data from their respective members to utilize as facts for your consideration of this request. Apple and Corn harvest remains ongoing and the full effects of the feed shortage remain fluid so we are unable to share hard numbers today. As discussed on October 16 with you and your Deputy, we will continue to collect this data as harvest comes to a close and will share hard numbers with you on or before December 31, 2019.

We will be hiring an independent professional Accountant to help aggregate the extraordinary costs Dorian has inflicted on both Corn Producers and Livestock Producers. This will be included in what is shared with you on or before December 31, 2019.

### **1. Corn Producers**

There was approximately 17,000 seeded acres of corn on Prince Edward Island in 2019. A majority of these acres were affected by Dorian. Some of this grain was meant for sale, some was grown by livestock producers for feed. Extraordinary costs as the result of Dorian include:

- Increased harvesting costs
- Purchase of specialized harvest heads
- Slower harvest
- Increased fuel costs
- Increased labour costs
- Increased equipment repair costs
- Tillage
- Chemical application for volunteers

### **2. Livestock Producers**

Cattle and Hogs rely on corn as a source of energy in their diet. With a short supply of forage, the reliance on corn will be significant in 2019-2020. Extraordinary costs that will be incurred by livestock producers as the result of Dorian include:

- Increased transportation or freight costs to secure alternate feed sources
- Replacement feed costs
- Feed Prices
- Poor feeding rations
- Increased cost of keeping more cattle in production to meet quota requirements
- Cost of replacement livestock
- Increased value of product
- Reduced weight of gain
- Reduced feed value, in particular energy
- Reduced milk production
- Potential impact on reproduction cycles
- Generator fuel costs
- Reseeding
- Increased labour costs
- Increased fuel costs

### **3. Apple Producers**

Apple production is unique in the sense that it takes multiple years for a tree to produce a crop. When the tree is lost, there are longer term costs to a producer. With Dorian uprooting trees, it will take years to replace that infrastructure. Extraordinary costs that will be incurred by apple producers as the result of Dorian include:

- Clean up and disposal of fallen and uprooted trees
- Clean up and disposal of fallen apples
- Replacement of trees
- Replacement and/or repair of trellises
- Increased packing costs
- Increased harvesting costs
- Increased storage costs
- Pruning out damage
- Righting new plantings
- Replacing income from no crop from hundreds of trees in 2020 and 2021

The above lists of extraordinary costs are not exhaustive and more costs may become apparent as time moves forward into the winter months.

These extraordinary costs are not covered within the Business Risk Management programs available to producers including AgriStability and Crop Insurance. These costs will directly affect corn and livestock producers across the Island and their financial viability moving forward.

Your immediate attention to this matter is requested and appreciated.

The PEIFA and the partners we are working alongside have a long history of working with Government to achieve our shared goal of a strong and vibrant agriculture industry on Prince Edward Island. We wish to continue forward in this manner and we look forward to the discussion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Mol".

David Mol, President

Cc:

Brian Matheson, Deputy Minister Agriculture and Land  
Lesa MacDonald, Director, Farm Business Risk Management  
Neil Campbell, General Manager, PEI Grain Elevators Corporation  
Mike Delaney, Director Strategic Planning, PEI Grain Elevators Corporation  
Joanne Driscoll, General Manager, PEI Horticultural Association  
Amanda Miller, Executive Director, PEI Cattle Producers  
Allan Miller, Dynamic Consulting, Atlantic Grain Growers  
Heather Russell, Executive Director, Atlantic Grain Growers  
Tim Seeber, General Manager, PEI Hog Marketing Board  
Sarah Stanley, Operations and Policy Officer, Dairy Farmers of PEI  
Doug Thompson, General Manger, Dairy Farmers of PEI