

---

**From:** Correspondence / Correspondance (AAFC/AAC) <aafc.Correspondence-Correspondance.aac@agr.gc.ca>

**Sent:** Wednesday, April 1, 2026 9:26 AM

**To:** County <county@flagstaff.ab.ca>

**Subject:** Correspondence from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – Quote #294801

Unclassified / Non classifié

Quote: 294801

Murray Hampshire  
Reeve  
Flagstaff County  
[county@flagstaff.ab.ca](mailto:county@flagstaff.ab.ca)

Dear Reeve Hampshire:

I am writing in response to your letter to the Honourable Heath MacDonald, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, regarding Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's (AAFC) reductions under the Government of Canada's Comprehensive Expenditure Review. Please be assured that your comments have been brought to the Minister's attention. I appreciate the opportunity to reply.

Like other departments across the Government of Canada, AAFC was asked to identify savings to reduce costs over three years. This review of spending reflects a focus on returning to core responsibilities and the need to balance fiscal discipline, quality service delivery for Canadians and economic growth. This includes spending less on the day-to-day running of government by reconsidering programs and activities for alignment and efficiency. The difficult decision to close three research and development centres and four satellite research farms means AAFC can continue delivering impactful science while operating at fewer locations. This decision was made for greater cost efficiency and to sustain investment in developing innovations that strengthen the agriculture and agri-food sector and help grow the economy.

Even with these changes, AAFC will remain the largest agricultural science organization in the country and every province will continue to have at least one research and development centre and research farmland addressing regional and national priorities. The remaining centres and sites will continue to advance strategic and high-impact science with a focus on areas such as crops and horticulture, animal production, food processing, biodiversity and environmental sustainability.

We will also continue to strengthen collaborations with industry, governments, academia and other key stakeholders, in Canada and internationally, to advance our shared science and research priorities.

Thank you for taking the time to write on this important matter.

Sincerely,  
Andrew Goldstein  
Associate Assistant Deputy Minister  
Science and Technology Branch  
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada