



News Release – For Immediate Release – November 12, 2009

At their November 10th, 2009 meeting, Saddle Hills County Council declared the municipality as an Agricultural Disaster Area. Based on the new information presented by the County's Agricultural Services Board in relation to poor harvest conditions for the month of October; the lack of quality hay; the prices being charged for bales and the poor pasture conditions causing producers to begin their feeding operations earlier than usual, County Council agreed to bring the matter back for further discussion.

Council received information relating to growing season precipitation, forage production potential, forage supply and the local crop conditions. The weather that occurred across the municipality as a whole during the month of October has been viewed as detrimental to an already shaky year for agricultural produces. All agricultural producers have experienced financial hardship due to the recent weather developments. Excessive amounts of crops remain unharvested and cattle producers who had previously experienced a cold spring and dry summer, now are faced with further feed supply shortages where grains would be used as supplemental feeds. Also shortages of straw further hinder beef producers ability to adjust to forage shortages. The Agricultural Disaster Area declaration puts agricultural producers in line for any Agricultural relief that could be announced by the Provincial or Federal Governments.

Reeve Tim Stone has stated "I can't recall ever having seen a more challenging October for harvesting which has added to the total overall condition in our County for all Farmers".

Council will now be presenting this information to MLA Hon. Hector Goudreau with the desire to have him bring the information forward to the Honorable Minister of Agriculture, George Groeneveld in hope of taking Alberta's disaster situation forward to the Federal Minister of Agriculture & Agri-Food.

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For further information, please contact:

Reeve Tim Stone
Phone 780-351-2353 or
780-864-0554

Or

Dianne Nellis
Chief Administrative Officer
780-864-3760

www.saddlehills.ab.ca