

Background - Extension Services Expanded in Rural Saskatchewan

Expanded Extension Services

- Increased emphasis on serving the needs of farmers and ranchers.

- 10 fully staffed rural Regional Offices:

| | |
|------------------|---------------|
| Kindersley (new) | Swift Current |
| Moose Jaw (new) | Tisdale |
| Outlook | Watrous (new) |
| North Battleford | Weyburn |
| Prince Albert | Yorkton |

- Staff at each office will include a:
 - o Crop specialist;
 - o Livestock specialist;
 - o Forage specialist; and
 - o Farm Business Management specialist.
- Staff are now available for on-farm visits and to meet one-on-one with producers.

Agriculture Knowledge Centre (AKC) - located in Moose Jaw

- Front doors re-opened to the public as a Regional Office.
- Remains an option for producers to contact for immediate and specialized answers to technical enquiries. Farm Stress Line and the Ministry General Inquiry Line now delivered by the AKC.

Simplified Ministry Structure

- Staff from the Agri-Business Development Branch, Crop Development Branch, Livestock Development Branch, Inspection and Regulatory Management Branch and Market Development and Food Branch will be transferred to three new branches with simplified, clear mandates – Regional Services Branch, Livestock Branch and Crops Branch.
- Will result in improved coordination and delivery of services.

Impact of Simplified Ministry Structure

- Will result in an increased presence for the Ministry in rural Saskatchewan, with 15 positions transferred to rural regional offices.
- The reorganization of services will result in layoff or termination notices for 20 permanent full and part time employees, representing an overall reduction of 16 Full Time Equivalent (FTEs) in the Ministry. The reduction in positions is a result of efficiencies obtained through reorganization, making better use of existing resources and elimination of duplication of services.