

MOVING ALBERTA  
*forward* 



**AGRICULTURE**

**WILDROSE**  
OFFICIAL OPPOSITION

# AGRICULTURE

The Wildrose Caucus believes that the agricultural industry in Alberta is now and will continue to be a vital component of Alberta's economic and social well-being.

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*A competitive agricultural sector must be built around the actions of individual producers left free to decide what they produce and where and when they want to sell it.*

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As the Province's largest and most dynamic renewable resource, the food production sector will become even more important as other important non-renewable resources decline. We have the land, the water, and above all else the expertise to supply a range of safe, high quality food products into

domestic and world markets at a competitive price. Those markets are growing, but to fully develop these opportunities we must have an efficient, market-oriented, and flexible agri-food sector that isn't overburdened by government red tape, or jeopardized by a government that doesn't respect property rights.

We are convinced that a competitive agricultural sector must be built around the actions of individual producers left free to decide what they produce and where and when they want to sell it. Wildrose believes the role of Government is to provide a positive business environment, to remove artificial production and marketing distortions, and to administer proper regulations in a fair manner. Your Wildrose Caucus will fight for the success of Alberta's agri-business sector.

# POLICIES

- » Institute a review of all regulations that affect agriculture to ensure that they meet strict cost/benefit criteria and remove or amend those that do not
- » ***Develop an “Agricultural Land Preservation Strategy” to avoid the premature fragmentation or conversion of agricultural lands to other uses***
- » Pass legislation entrenching property rights protection in law and review all existing laws dealing with property rights to ensure that when needed public projects are undertaken, negative impacts on affected property owners are minimized and fully compensated for
- » ***Provide more certainty to farmers and ranchers about their access to and use of land, water, and other private property***
- » Accelerate capital cost allowance to encourage investment in productivity upgrades and increase the capital gains exemption for small businesses
- » Work with the Federal Government to introduce tax reforms including effective income averaging and saving plan provisions that meet the needs of the agricultural community
- » Introduce policies and programs that ensure adequate supplies of and efficient use of water for food production
- » Put pressure on the Federal Government to change the emphasis of their current trade policies to ensure access to world markets for Canadian farm products

