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April 22, 2025

Honourable RJ Sigurdson
Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation
Office of the Minister
Agriculture and Irrigation
Executive Branch 131 Legislature Building
10800-97 Avenue NW
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

## **RE: Cypress County Letter of Support for AgKnow**

To The Honourable Minister RJ Sigurdson, via email: (AGRIC.Minister@gov.ab.ca),

The Cypress County Agricultural Service Board wishes to extend our strong and unwavering support for the AgKnow Program and to advocate for its continued funding by the Government of Alberta.

Many other municipalities have expressed their support of AgKnow to the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation as well, and we all are hopeful for the outcome. Mental health needs for agricultural producers are a major concern since there is this stigma that they are a resilient demographic. AgKnow plays a vital role in offering essential support to agricultural producers who are facing serious mental health crisis. Stable funding for the program would ensure producers have support available that is accessible online and at any time they need it.

Agriculture is a key industry in Cypress County and a vital part of Alberta's economy. The implications of losing this program could be devastating to the producers in the province.

We thank-you for your continued support of the Agriculture Industry and we wholly support and urge you to consider advocating and funding the very important AgKnow program.

Sincerely,

Shane Hok

Agricultural Service Board Chairman

**Cypress County**