



ALBERTA  
AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION

*Office of the Minister  
MLA, Drumbheller-Stettler*

November 9, 2022

Beth Halford  
Manager, Strategic Partnerships  
Ag for Life  
32 Priddis Creek Drive  
Foothills, AB T0L 1W2  
[bhalford@agricultureforlife.ca](mailto:bhalford@agricultureforlife.ca)

Dear Beth Halford:

Thank you for your October 11, 2022 email regarding the Classroom Agriculture Program (CAP). I congratulate Ag for Life for taking on this valuable program and ensuring it continues to bridge the urban-rural divide in Alberta's classrooms.

I have had the opportunity to talk to producers across the province and I am always impressed by the passion rural Albertans have for agriculture and food. Since 1985, your program has embodied that passion. Each spring, agri-food industry representatives, including some who work in my ministry, take time out of their busy lives to share their agriculture expertise and passion with Grade 4 students. No textbook can replace the valuable sharing that occurs when producers connect with students. The consistently positive teacher evaluations you share on your website are a testament to your program.

I understand that the past two years posed immense challenges for agriculture education. While online programs have their place, there is no substitute for in-person interactions and connecting students directly with the land. I wish you much success as you return to schools with CAP and your other classroom programs. The more than 20,000 Grade 4 students who listen to an expert guest ag-speaker through CAP will have a greater appreciation of Alberta's food system and the hard work that goes into feeding Albertans and the world.

I commend you for the excellent work you do and I wish you all the best in the coming years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nate'.

Honourable Nate Horner  
Minister, Agriculture and Irrigation

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