



ALBERTA

AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

*Office of the Minister**MLA, Whitecourt-St. Anne*

OCT 10 2018

Mr. Don George  
General Manager  
Classroom Agriculture Program  
Box 25197  
Deer Park P.O.  
Red Deer, AB T4R 2M2

Dear Mr. George:

Thank you for your September 13, 2018, letter regarding the Classroom Agriculture Program (CAP). On behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, I would like to congratulate you on the fine work you are doing to educate young people about agriculture in our province, and on reaching over 23,000 students last year alone.

Modern farming is a multi-faceted, complex, and exciting industry that impacts Albertans' lives each day. Sharing that knowledge and telling agriculture's stories through individuals working in the field is essential to the continued growth of the industry. Current research conducted by the Canadian Centre for Food Integrity has shown that farmers are a trusted source of information as consumers grow more interested in where their food comes from and how it is produced. I see that as a particular strength of the Classroom Agriculture Program's model of bringing producers directly into the classrooms to share their passion and knowledge of agriculture. In fact, many of Agriculture and Forestry's own staff have volunteered for your program over the years and speak highly of its success.

Based on its broad reach, it is clear that the Classroom Agriculture Program is well-respected among teachers, and meets a growing need to connect students, teachers, and producers in a meaningful way. This is a sign of true leadership and service, and we value the important role you play in agriculture education.

I wish you all the best with your 2018/2019 program.

Sincerely,

Oneil Carlier  
Minister

cc: Andre Corbould, Deputy Minister, Agriculture and Forestry