

8.4.2.6 Alberta Public Grazing Lands Improvement Program

Established in 1970 and terminated in 1995, this program provided a partial credit toward the payment of rent on public grazing land if the lessee undertook certain pre-approved range improvement projects. The leaseholder was required to pay for all the costs incurred for these improvements, and was reimbursed for 25% to 50% of the costs through credits on the rental fees otherwise due annually. All improvements belonged to the government and, once the improvements were completed, lessees were required to maintain them at their own expense. On the basis of its analysis, Commerce determined that the program did not provide a financial contribution and therefore was not countervailable.

8.4.2.7 Saskatchewan Crown Land Improvement Policy

This policy was designed to provide rental adjustments when crown land leaseholders made capital improvements to the land, such as clearing, bush removal, or breaking and re-seeding. In return, Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food agreed not to increase or even reduce the rental rate for a certain period of time, depending on the length of the improvement project. All improvements belonged to the Crown. In order for a financial contribution to exist under this program, the government had to forgo rental fees. In this case, the reduction in the rental fees corresponded to a reduction in the land's carrying capacity while improvements were undertaken. The increased value as a result of the improvements was captured with the subsequent setting of rental fees. Commerce determined, therefore, that the program did not provide a financial contribution and was not countervailable.

8.4.2.8 Saskatchewan Breeder Associations Loan Guarantee Program

This program was established in 1991 to facilitate the establishment of cattle breeder associations in an effort to promote cattle breeding in Saskatchewan. It provided a guarantee on 25% of the principal amount of loans to breeder associations for the purchase of certain breeding cattle. Eligibility was limited to breeder associations composed of at least 20 individuals who were residents of Saskatchewan. One hundred and seven associations received guarantees on loans that were outstanding during the period of investigation.

Breeding livestock was not covered by the investigation. Commerce therefore determined that the program did not provide a countervailable subsidy to the subject merchandise.