

THE WORLD-Spectator AG NEWS

FEBRUARY 2024



Blueberry Kitchen's 1 lb Jr. Burger included a mozzarella crusted potato bun, burger sauce, garlic and herb spread, sautéed mushrooms, pickles, crispy onion strings, cheddar, mozzarella cheese and bacon, topped with a piece of breaded bacon.



Dairy Queen's Backyard Chicken Bacon Ranch burger had applewood smoked bacon, ranch, honey barbecue, crunchy onion rings and melty cheese.



The Red Barn Triple B Burger had bacon jam, monterey jack cheese, thick cut bacon, blue cheese spread, lettuce and tomato.



The Sportsplex burger included caramelized onions and three cheese perogies, and top-secret boom boom sauce on a toasted pretzel bun.



The Witch's Brew served a Mediterranean chicken burger with balsamic glazed chicken breast on a grilled brioche bun served with balsamic aioli, purple onions, tomatoes, cucumber, and white cheddar cheese.



The Crate House served a Smoked Cajun Cheeseburger on a Pretzel Bun. The burger is not spicy but full of flavour.



The Windsor's Candied Bacon cheeseburger included two slices of candied bacon, mozzarella cheese, lettuce, onion and mayo.



Cork & Bone's Little Italy burger had a beef and Italian sausage patty, provolone cheese, capicola ham, and tomato basil sauce on a Brioche bun.

Celebrating Canada's Agriculture Day: 2,776 burgers sold during Sharpe's Burger Blitz

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

In what has fast become a Moosomin and area tradition, the annual Sharpe's Burger Blitz was another overwhelming success this year. Filling an activity gap between Christmas and the first signs of spring, that one special week in February has fashioned into a cure for symptoms of the mid-winter blahs. Plus, as most businesses I spoke with described, a nice economic boom during what is traditionally a slower time of year; the vertex between traffic peaks, if you will.

"They all seem to always jump on board from year to year," said Lori Yeske at Sharpe's Crop Services, the organizers and namesake of the campaign. "It's always interesting to see what they come up with each year."

Sharpe's Soil Services first launched the unique week four years ago, marking Agriculture Day (Feb. 13) and as a direct way to promote Canadian agricultural products.

The natural fit was to partner with restaurants in a promotion as the final product the food-service industry utilizes on a daily basis is derived from what local producers raise. The idea has also extended to Sharpe's branches in Stockholm and Langenburg, dubbed the Burger Brawl with restaurants in those communities replicating the success of the Moosomin event.

"I do believe that the Burger Blitz draws people to town —given that this is not the first time that they've done it, I think it gets more and more popular each year," said Casey McCormac, Economic Development Officer with the Town of Moosomin. "I noticed lots of activity downtown at the restaurants for sure."

This year a total of 2,776 burgers were sold as part of the Burger Blitz week. Dairy Queen was the restaurant that sold the most burgers this year, with a total of 493 of their Backyard Chicken Bacon Ranch burger sold that week. A close second was the Red Barn with 469 of their

Triple B burgers sold. Blueberry Kitchen came in third with 360 burgers sold. People could vote on their favorite burger, and the winning burger was Blueberry Kitchen's Junior Burger. The burger included local farm-raised beef in a mozzarella-crusted potato bun, a house-made burger sauce, garlic and herb spread, sautéed mushrooms, pickles, crispy onion strings, cheddar and mozza cheese and bacon, and a strip of breaded bacon on top of the bun. The Fleming Windsor Bar & Grill came in second for favorite burger, and the Red Barn came in third.

"These types of promotions are awesome for the local restaurants to get new people in their door and to hopefully have them coming back in the future," McCormac said. "Moosomin does a great job at holding promotions to help small businesses and a great job at marketing them as well as amazing support and participation from the community and surrounding areas!"

Continued on page C4

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4 farm-friendly ideas to help with the childcare struggle

BY RONDA PAYNE

Is a lack of quality childcare holding women back on the farm?

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's report, What We Heard Report—Agricultural Labour Strategy, details feedback received during consultations on developing a National Agricultural Labour Strategy. The report notes childcare as an issue for women who want to stay in agriculture long-term.

The report also notes that many strong contributors to the industry feel hesitant to take certain jobs because they don't

want to be torn between the demands of the job and childcare.

Labour shortages, remote rural living, parents working hard and safety also contribute to the age-old issue of childcare on the farm.

And while carting the kids along for a parts run or bringing a tricycle into the barn may sometimes provide a solution, reliable, quality childcare is also critical. There isn't a tricycle lane at every job on the farm, and kids can't always be at our sides.

Continued on Page C17 ^{ESP}



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Determining the carbon cost of cattle forage production: USask research

Raising a healthy cattle herd involves providing healthy and abundant plants for cattle to eat, a process called forage production.

BY BROOKE KLEIBOER

Judson Christopherson, a graduate student at the University of Saskatchewan (USask), is investigating the levels of carbon emissions from the forage production process and how it affects the environment and economy. His research aims to develop better policies that support beef producers in their industry.

For the cattle industry, the world's changing climate has become a major consideration for producers and consumers alike. Concerns about greenhouse gas emissions are often a topic of discussion in the Saskatchewan agricultural sector, especially as it relates to environmentally friendly and sustainable production practices.

Christopherson has dedicated his master's project to determining the amount of carbon emissions produced in Saskatchewan from growing forage crops, and to developing an economic indicator of this impact for practical use in policy development. The project is supervised by College of Agriculture and Bioresources professor and Agri-Food Innovation and Sustainability Enhancement Chair, Dr. Stuart Smyth (PhD).

"A growing narrative amongst some academics and political figures has negatively portrayed beef production regarding environmental sustainability," said Christopherson, who is pursuing his master's degree in Agricultural and Resource Economics through the USask College of Agriculture and Bioresources. "Recent research discusses the importance that these emissions be viewed as a natural cycle, with methane being converted to carbon dioxide and then returned to soils via plant growth."

Christopherson is in the early stages of



USask graduate student Judson Christopherson is working on a project that will assign an economic value to the carbon emissions caused by forage production in the beef industry.

his research, but initial results from reviewing recent research demonstrate that the soils used in forage production have high carbon storage potential – good news in that storing carbon in soil can lead to healthier plant production and keeps carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere.

Christopherson said his research is applicable to consumers, the general public, and to policy groups that seek to understand the environmental impact of beef production. The research will also serve as a great tool to help producers recognize how production autonomy, sustainability,

and financial stability fit into their production processes.

"Paired with the limited use of agricultural inputs, tillage, and machinery, the carbon emissions from forage production appear to be low," said Christopherson. "The net [carbon] emissions from the forage production cycle represent a large portion of the total emissions of beef production, and furthering the understanding of this topic will add to the information available to consumers."

Right now, Christopherson is focused on administering surveys to producers

and gathering data that will document their forage production processes.

"This survey will gather information on every operation a producer performs in establishing, growing, maintaining, harvesting, and transporting a forage crop," said Christopherson. "Additionally, the research focus on forage production as a standalone practice in a single province is a new step forward in the literature."

Christopherson notes that his research is unique in that it involves surveying beef producers directly and focuses on actual forage production, instead of relying on simulation models that are often inaccurate when compared to real-world production practices. He hopes that demonstrating how forage production relates to the economics and sustainability of the beef industry will help policymakers to develop a better understanding of this piece of the beef production puzzle in a way that benefits all.

After the survey portion of the research concludes in late 2023, next steps include "carbon modelling, correlating emission changes with changes in production practices, and providing an economic value" of the carbon stored and emitted from soils during forage production.

"As a cattle producer, I am driven to ensure the practices implemented on our operation uphold environmental sustainability while driving economic success," said Christopherson. "Beyond this, I strive to tell the story of our ranch and operations like it to uphold the reputation of Saskatchewan's agriculture industry and foster the growth of the most sustainable agriculture sectors across the globe."

The research has been supported by the Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association.



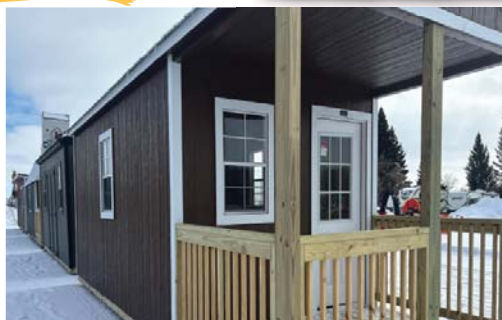
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Celebrating Canada's Agriculture Day: 2,776 burgers sold during Sharpe's Burger Blitz

Continued from front

"It brings people from a lot of different areas, it's good all around from that standpoint, especially in February, when it can be quiet," said Doug Creighton of the CrateHouse, adding that diner numbers were consistent with previous years.

The CrateHouse offered a Smoked Cajun Cheeseburger—a homemade smoked patty with Cajun aioli, Monterey Jack cheese, pickles and coleslaw, all assembled within a special bun.

"We had a pretzel hamburger bun, which was real popular," Creighton said. "It disappeared for the middle two years and then I was able to find another one for this year. That was really popular, too."

Over in Fleming, the candied bacon cheeseburger attracted folks from near and far for a taste.

"It was really busy, actually. We sold quite a few burgers," said Laura Barry of the Fleming Windsor Bar & Grill. "A lot of people said they liked our burgers, so that's really good."

She said people from Elkhorn, Virden, Welwyn and Wawota were among patrons ordering the delicious burger.

The Nutrien Sportsplex tantalized taste-buds with their offering, comprised of a "mountain of caramelized onions" and three-cheese perogies punctuated with a dollop of their famous (and top-secret) boom-boom sauce.

"It's always been a pretty popular event for us," said Mike Schwean, Director of Parks and Recreation with the Town of Moosomin. He said around 400 burgers being sold during the week, "so they were pretty close to where they were last year."

Sportsplex staff come up with a unique offering each year, with Schwean quick to credit them for creativity.

"They always do a good job of coming up with something different," he said.

The Burger Blitz is also a time for delving into more bold flavours, and the Triple B Burger at the Red Barn certainly did not disappoint.

"It was a bacon blue cheese burger," explained Melinda Griffin, General Manager at the Red Barn, adding that numbers seemed consistent at the Red Barn. "It was fairly similar to previous years, lots of amazing feedback as always."

This year's offering featured their signature patty (a 35-year-old family recipe), bacon jam, Monterey Jack cheese, thick-cut bacon, blue cheese spread, lettuce and tomato.

Deciding on what burger is featured each year takes everyone's input into account.

"We'll just design a bunch of burgers up and take our staff feedback, what they think and then that's the burger we choose to roll with," Griffin said.

Then it's time to create a huge batch of



World-Spectator staff Olha Volokh, Felicite Mailloux and Sunnette Kamffer enjoyed Red Barn's Triple B Burger—the Bacon Blue Burger which included bacon jam and a blue cheese spread.

patties as they usually hit the 600 mark each year.

Griffin also tries to sample every featured burger during the blitz, just to taste what everyone else has created and generate a buzz around the entire campaign.

"It gives people something exciting to look forward to and try something new," she said of all the interesting entries.

While most places I spoke with tend to leave designing their Sharpe's Burger Blitz item for later in the year, Griffin has begun planning the 2025 selection from Red Barn.

"I've already been thinking about that, I thought about that all weekend, actually," she said.

The Cork & Bone Bistro also brought a foreign flare to town with their Little Italy burger—a wonderful beef and Italian sausage patty topped with provolone cheese, capicollo ham and tomato basil sauce fit into a brioche bun.

"I like to just try new things and if I see some products during my shopping for my bistro, I find things that I'd like to try and then we will bounce them off each other here at work and then put it together," Owner Jarrod Slugoski said. "I wanted to try something with Italian flavours."

He said he sold over 200 of the burgers during the week, and the hit sandwich may have just found its way onto the regular menu given its popularity.

"When you have your own kitchen,

you have a lot of time to play, and try new flavours and see how things work," said Slugoski. "That combination just worked really well for us, so we're going to add it to the menu, because it was really popular. It was a different kind of burger and that's what I liked about it."

For the Cork & Bone Bistro, advance planning begins in January, and Slugoski is a fan of the annual event.

"It's always a good promotion, I enjoy being part of it. It sparks a lot of creativity and people get to reap the benefits of everyone getting together making burgers," he said. "It benefits the town and gets people talking, gets the community out and spending money at the restaurants in town."

Another creation with a Mediterranean flavour came from Witch's Brew Coffeehouse, one sandwich that veered from a beef-based patty.

"We did a Mediterranean chicken burger. It was a balsamic glazed chicken and then we put cucumbers, tomatoes, balsamic dressing and ended up with an aioli and Swiss cheese. It was all oven-baked, so all healthy," said Owner Sandra Garrett.

Inspiration for the delicious morsel came to her in a more meditative setting.

"I thought it up when we were in Mexico," explained Garrett. "This is here because we found out about the burger blitz right before I left town, so I thought it up

while we were on holidays."

For a business focussed on caffeinated beverages, the Mediterranean chicken burger proved to be a resounding success as Garrett said she sold over 300 sandwiches through the course of the week.

"We're just a lunch place, so I think that's pretty good," she said. "Actually, some of our customers—I know at least two customers—had the burger three times that week, so they must have liked it!"

Noting about the same number of people through the doors as previous years, the week kept staffing hopping as on the second day of the promotion, Witch's Brew sold 70 burgers in an hour!

"For us, it's always about maintainability because we actually we don't have a char broiler or anything like that," said Garrett. "To maintain a beef burger is sometimes hard work for us, so we tend to lean towards chicken."

Over at TJ's Pizza, a 'build your own burger' was featured on the lunch buffet.

Over at Dairy Queen, the Backyard Chicken Bacon Ranch was a big seller—a combination of Applewood smoked bacon and crunchy onion rings.

"We are always highly supported through Burger Blitz week and appreciate everyone who did come and try our burger," said Dairy Queen manager Morgan Kerr. "We also really appreciate Sharpe's for putting this on every year and getting the community out and through restaurant doors. Canadian Ag is important and what a neat way to celebrate and learn where our food comes from."

She noted that the DQ offering is from their "secret menu" and is a personal favorite. Kerr highlighted the surge of energy that Burger Blitz brings to the region.

"The town is always buzzin' all week about whose burger they tried when and which are the favorites," she said.

Blueberry Kitchen in Rocanville served up a Jr. Burger that included local farmed beef in a mozzarella-crusted potato bun. It also contained a house-made burger sauce, garlic and herb spread, sautéed mushrooms, pickles, crispy onion strings, cheddar and mozza cheese and bacon. Topping the already mighty burger was a strip of breaded bacon.

Aside from dining on wonderful meals, there was the added bonus of a prize worth \$500 in Moosomin Bucks up for grabs. At each participating restaurant, diners could get a special card stamped which once filled was entered into a draw.

This year's big winner is Telisa McGonigal, whose lucky ballot was drawn last Thursday afternoon.

By all accounts, it sounds like the fifth edition of Sharpe's Burger Blitz will be something to look forward to, and it's only 11 months and two weeks away!



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USask's Ag Greenhouse is Bantle's home away from home

While winter has many of us hibernating, USask greenhouses are full of life.

BY ASHLEY DOPKO
Jackie Bantle enjoys being in a tropical environment even during Saskatchewan's coldest days.

As the greenhouse and horticulture facility manager, Bantle has been a part of the agriculture and horticulture community at the University of Saskatchewan (USask) for more than 30 years. Originally a music teacher, Bantle quickly returned to post-secondary and discovered her love of horticulture, first working for Dr. Doug Waterer (PhD) as a research technician for 15 years before moving to the Ag Greenhouse and the Horticulture Field Research Facility.

From haskaps to drought-resistant wheat, Bantle has played a part in a number of Canadian research innovations led by USask.

"I ran into an old school mate of mine who complimented me and the university for the contributions we're making to the agriculture industry in the province," said Bantle, adding that while proud



Jackie Bantle has been a part of the agriculture and horticulture community at the University of Saskatchewan for more than 30 years.

of the accomplishments, it is difficult at times to see the far-reaching impact while amidst the daily plant care routine.

"Sometimes all I see are the weeds in front of me, but it's really true, we're really making a difference in so many people's lives. The small stuff we do every day affects the industry, the province, the country, and even the world."

The Ag Greenhouse, located at 45 Innovation Boulevard on USask's main campus and monitored by Bantle and her team seven days a week, has 15,000 square feet of growing space

that's home to everything from expected crop varieties to the unexpected, like bananas and papayas.

Originally built in 1992, an addition was made in the early 2000s to provide more space.

"Now we're out of space again," Bantle noted. "There is so much research going on."

In the past the greenhouse would take on external clients and grow plants for them, but as a U15 university, all space is now dedicated to USask's own research endeavours.

"It's a great place to work and I'm proud to be a part of it," said Bantle. "It doesn't hurt that I get to come to work every day where it's warm and bright and alive with so many plants."

When she is not on campus monitoring and nurturing thousands of plants, Bantle enjoys managing her own vegetable garden and adds new saplings to her yard. Her best advice for anyone wanting to get their hands dirty and surround themselves with plants this winter? "Don't over water."



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A deposit of 5% of the tender must accompany the bid by cheque, please specify sale on envelope.
Access to land will be April 1st, 2024.
Possession date is when payment is made in full.
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Tenders can be Mailed or Hand Delivered to:
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The Council reserves the right to reject any and all tenders.

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A deposit of 5% of the tender must accompany the bid by cheque, please specify lease on the envelope.
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2024 crop input outlook update: expenses softened but remain elevated

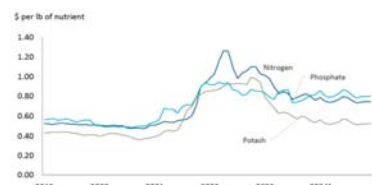
BY LEIGH ANDERSON
SENIOR ECONOMIST, FCC

As spring approaches many producers are still strategizing and finalizing their seeding plans, which means it's time for an update on the 2024 crop input market. At the farm level, we expect that expenses will come back down from their highs of 2023 but will remain elevated.

Fertilizer market outlook

Fertilizer prices have continued to drift lower, as global supplies improved and tighter global farm margins reduce demand. However, as seeding in North America approaches, we expect prices to trend slightly higher as producers finalize and secure their fertilizer needs (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Canadian fertilizer price trend and forecast

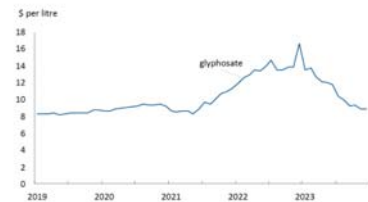


Source: Alberta farm input prices and FCC calculations

Fuel and chemicals

A continued slowdown in global economic growth is expected to result in diesel costs at the farm level being 3.2% lower for 2024. Agrochemical supplies have increased for most products as global production, particularly in China, has recovered and increased following pandemic-related supply chain issues. Increased supplies have resulted in declining prices for glyphosate (figure 2).

Figure 2: Chemical prices such as glyphosate have declined



Source: Alberta farm input prices

Issues to monitor:

1. Commodity prices

Declining crop prices and corresponding tighter profit margins are likely to influence crop input decisions. Unlike past years, global supplies of most commodities reached levels which markets seem comfortable with, and prices don't have to trend higher to incent more acres. Choices on when and what to spray, as well as fertilizer applications rates, will continue to be factors producers put an increased focus on in a tightening margin environment. Tighter farm margins will mean increased focus on

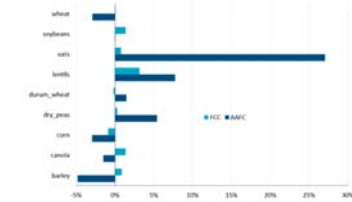


management decisions including fertilizer application rates (4R practices).

2. Seeding intentions

First estimates of 2024 by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) and FCC Economics highlight potential acreage shifts (Figure 3). Statistics Canada is scheduled to release their first estimates on March 11 which is a survey of producer intentions. The two sets of forecasts show some variation, but generally trend together directionally. AAFC sees acres falling for corn, canola, barley, and wheat overall, despite a small increase in durum acres, while FCC expects these to either remain the same or change marginally (within 1%). Both AAFC and FCC Economics forecast growth in oats, lentils, and dry peas, with those forecasts varying in magnitude. AAFC is projecting a large rebound in oat acres of 27%, after declining -36% in 2023. With respect to lentils, FCC projects a 3% increase, while AAFC projects an 8% increase. Better price outlooks and low fertilizer requirements for lentils and peas will likely drive increased acreage. Lentils, peas and wheat are also several crops that maybe more drought tolerant while oats have a lower input cost.

Figure 3: AAFC 2024 seeded acre model forecasts higher YoY variation than FCC model



Source: AAFC, FCC calculations

Current market conditions are not favoring corn acres. Preliminary estimates from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) long-term projections indicate U.S. farmers will plant 91 million acres of corn, a decline of 4.1% from 2023. The decline in corn acres is mainly

driven by an increase to soybean acres at 87 million acres. U.S. wheat acres are also expected to decline 3.2% after reaching 49.6 million acres in 2023. The U.S. corn versus soybean acreage estimate is an indicator to monitor as any deviation from market expectations could impact fertilizer prices. The U.S. prospective plantings report comes out March 28, 2024.

3. Geopolitical events

There are several geopolitical events around the globe that continue to be on our radar. The war in Gaza, and the Red Sea conflict, which if it spreads to the broader middle east region, would increase both energy and fertilizer prices. The conflict on the Red Sea has resulted in the re-routing of vessels around Africa adding up to 2-3 weeks to a ship's journey. The longer the Red Sea conflict lasts the higher the likelihood of global shipping costs rising as a reduction in global shipping capacity occurs.

4. El Nino and drought monitor

El Nino has resulted in a mild winter across most of the Northern hemisphere, reducing natural gas use and lowering global natural gas prices including in the EU which could entice additional ammonia plants to restart. Higher EU natural gas prices the last several years resulted in reduced global nitrogen supplies.

Reduced snowfall and the current mild winter are likely to result in both an early spring and early seeding. That could impact seeding decisions (e.g. moisture levels) but also spreads out the rush for crop inputs given a larger seeding window. Drought conditions across the U.S. mid-west have shown early signs of improvement, although weather remains a major watch item across North America as we head into spring.

Bottom line

Crop input demand will be impacted by seeding decisions as producers adjust to weaker crop prices, tighter margins, and dry conditions. The biggest wild card for crop inputs is global logistical challenges including Red Sea navigation that could increase global shipping rates, adding costs for crop inputs and resulting in lower demand at the farm level. A focus on farm management including farm input decisions will be key for a successful 2024 under a tight margin environment.

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USask pulse research part of \$11 million federal investment

The federal government has announced an investment of up to \$11,017,979 to Pulse Canada to support key pulse crop research at institutions across the country—including the University of Saskatchewan (USask)—and to drive the pulse industry forward.

The announcement was made on Friday, Feb. 9 by Ben Carr, Member of Parliament for Winnipeg South Centre, on behalf of the Honourable Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food.

The funding is provided through the AgriScience Program – Clusters Component, which is part of the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP). The Sustainable CAP is a five-year, \$3.5 billion agreement between federal, provincial, and territorial governments to continue building up Canada’s agricultural and agri-food sectors.

“Canadian pulse farmers are vitally important to our economy. This investment will bring together the top ex-

perts in pulse growing and research from across the Prairies to improve the competitiveness and sustainability of the sector for generations to come,” MacAulay said in a statement.

Research projects supported by this cluster will target issues of sustainability, disease prevention, and greater yields and profits for pulse growers.

“Canada is a world leader in sustainable pulse production and exportation. These investments in research from the Government of Canada, matched by our sector, will help enhance our resiliency to meet the growing global demand for sustainably grown, high quality pulses and ingredients while making a positive impact on our environment and economy,” Kevin Auch, the chair of Pulse Canada, said in a statement.

USask-led projects that have received support from this funding include:

- Large Root Systems in Pulses for Drought Tolerance,

Carbon Sequestration, and Root Rot Resistance – Dr. Maryse Bourgault (PhD), College of Agriculture and Bioresources

- Identifying Potential Resistance to Pea Aphids and Aphid Transmitted Viruses in Lentil – Dr. Sean Prager (PhD), College of Agriculture and Bioresources
- Phenotyping Pulse Crops for Improved Performance Under Climate Change – Dr. Steve Shirliffe (PhD), College of Agriculture and Bioresources

- An Integrated Approach for Accelerating Genetic Improvement of Yield and Agronomic Characteristics of Chickpea – Dr. Bunyamin Tar’an (PhD), College of Agriculture and Bioresources
- Development of Improved Pea Cultivars to Enhance Canada’s Leading Role in International Pea Markets – Dr. Tom Warkentin (PhD), College of Agriculture and Bioresources



Photo by Carey Shaw, USask

Pulses being studied at the University of Saskatchewan College of Agriculture and Bioresources in Oct. 2021.



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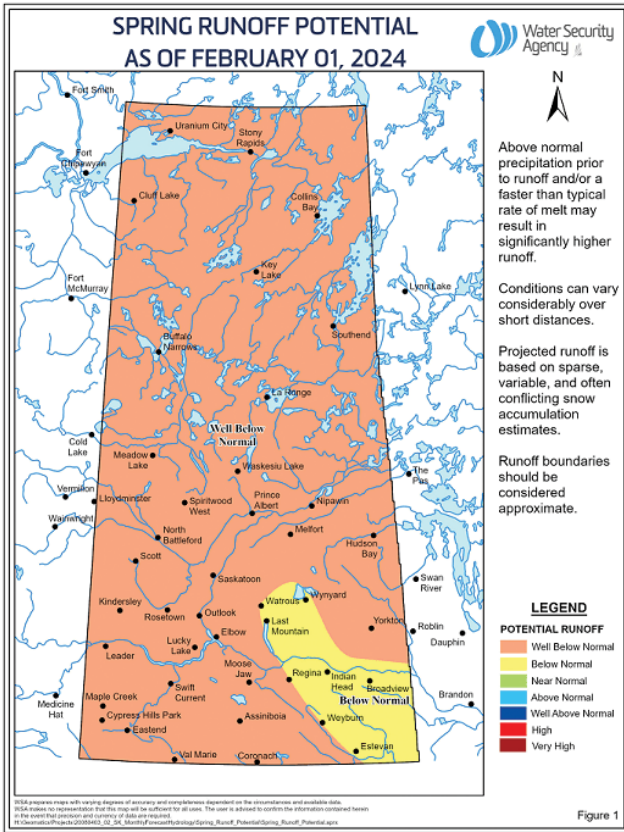


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WSA releases preliminary runoff report: Reservoirs at normal levels

On Feb. 22, the Water Security Agency (WSA) released the preliminary spring runoff report. Below average snow conditions, in combination with the generally dry fall conditions, is resulting in below normal to well below normal runoff across the province.

Despite dry conditions heading into freeze up in Fall 2023, major water supply reservoirs in southern Saskatchewan are mostly at or above normal levels, except for Avonlea and some in the southwest.

"In Saskatchewan, we are fortunate to have Lake Diefenbaker and I am glad to see other reservoirs in the province are at near normal levels," Minister Responsible for the Water Security Agency David Marit said. "In anticipation of potential dry summer conditions, a conservative overwinter operating plan focused on retaining water supplies is being implemented for Lake Diefenbaker and other reservoirs across the province."

WSA is taking proactive measures to protect and manage Saskatchewan's water by keeping water levels at Lake Diefenbaker 3.5 metres higher during the winter period to retain water supplies in the event of low mountain runoff, and by maintaining higher winter level at other major reservoirs, to store as much water as possible.

Long-range forecasts predict near-normal precipitation and warmer temperatures than usual across Saskatchewan from February to April, with the southern areas experiencing the highest temperature increases.

"Our network of reservoirs and canals combined with our allocation system means we can store water and prioritize to ensure communities have reliable drinking water, while producers and industry receive equitable supply that does not negatively impact our environment," Marit said.

WSA owns and manages 72 dams and over 230 kilometres of water conveyance channels across Saskatchewan for water management purposes. WSA collects real time data from nearly 300 monitoring stations across the province. The data allows WSA to track and forecast the province's water resources and make timely responses to changing conditions.

WSA is also working with communities across the province to identify their water supply needs and support the creation of drought preparedness plans. A full runoff report in March will be released once additional data is collected from snowpack surveys across the province, and regular updates throughout the spring.

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How can generations bridge the gap to prepare for transition?

BY DR. TOM DEANS AND MARK FOURNIER

Silence can put a family farm in jeopardy.

It must be disconcerting to be in your seventies or eighties and not have a farm succession plan in place. However, conversations and family meetings will help you realize the best path forward, particularly with the rising generation.

Many farmers struggle to relinquish control. Some think that post succession, they must simply sit down on the couch and start watching afternoon TV. That's simply not the case. This idea that one must stop farming after retirement is a misconception.

Farm operators often live with extraordinary financial risk for decades. It can be liberating for them to fully realize that they can continue to have employment income after they transition their farm ownership.

The senior generation can let go of the ownership, and truly start to engage the next generation and encourage them to risk their capital to purchase the family farm. This doesn't have to be overnight, nor should it be. Successful farm operations share financial information with the next generation, teaching them about financing early and those conversations are held often. A perfect time to start is when the next generation is in their late teens.

Ideally, you want to bridge the gap in-

crementally, though. Attempting an overnight transition is ill-advised and seldom works well. Start with the most obvious area—the physical work. From there, if the rising generation is successful, gradually add additional responsibility to their job description. Even though you will have to adjust your plan as time unfolds, the reality is that getting ready for a farm transition can feel satisfying. A major burden will be lifted off the shoulders of the senior generation, who have often carried the stress of providing for their family for decades.

It would be unrealistic for the outgoing generation to expect the incoming generation to do the same thing they did on the farm. It's just not going to happen. The first thing both generations need to do is discuss where the similarities and differences lie. For younger farmers, there is commonly some fear, frustration and confusion about farm succession.

Many young people I know would like to take over the family farm, but grandma and grandpa are still farming, and they don't know if the farm will go to an aunt, uncle or their parents. This ultimately drives young people to be confused. In this case, I encourage them to take action.

Too often, a transition happens when something happens to mom or dad and they're physically unable to farm. That's not a proactive solution. To get around the

disillusionment of being an adult child with zero input into farming operations, you must cultivate options for yourself. They could be on-farm options or they could be off-farm options, value-added or otherwise.


Create your own experience and create your own life because taking over the farm may or may not work out. Farmland is expensive, and margins are tighter. Sometimes the only choice is to go out and create off-farm careers in addition to farming. If things don't work out as planned, then there is less pressure on you and different avenues you can take.

It's not bad for the next generation to look at other, more attractive options, es-

pecially if a situation becomes unhealthy and starts to tear at family unity.

I would say by the time somebody in the incoming generation is 30, they should have a plan in place, almost to the year, when the outgoing generation will hand over the operation. That doesn't mean the outgoing generation won't be involved in the farm anymore. It just means they don't necessarily own the farm any longer.

Dr. Tom Deans is an intergenerational wealth expert from Hockley Valley, Ont. and Mark Fournier is an instructor at the Werklund School of Agriculture & Technology, Olds College, Olds, Alta.





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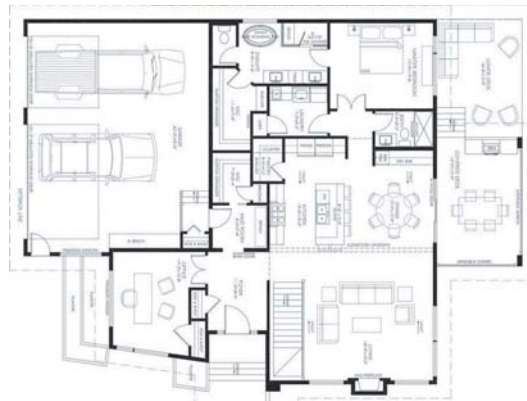
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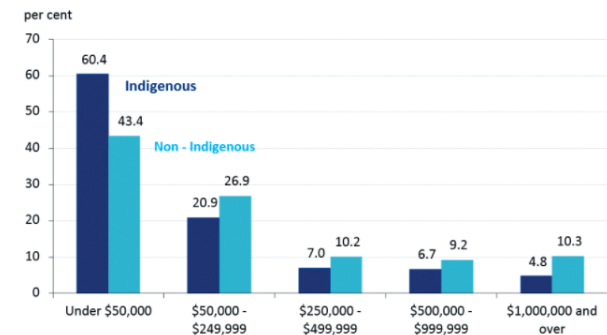
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Figure 1: Revenue class of Indigenous and non-Indigenous farm operators



Sources: Statistics Canada and FCC calculations

Table 1: Indigenous agriculture potential GDP growth

Scenario	Numbers	GDP per operator (\$)	On-farm Indigenous GDP (\$B)	Gains in on-farm GDP (\$B)
Status quo (2021)	5,405	64,900	0.35	n.a.
Proportional representation	13,036	64,900	0.85	0.50
Proportional GDP per farm operator	5,405	140,100	0.76	0.41
Proportional representation combined with closing income gap	13,036	140,100	1.83	1.48

Sources: Statistics Canada and FCC calculation

Indigenous agriculture opportunities could boost GDP by \$1.5 billion

BY ISAAC KWARTENG
SENIOR ECONOMIST, FCC

Indigenous people have a long history in agriculture, yet Indigenous participation in agriculture continues to be under-represented. Increasing participation of Indigenous people into agriculture and bridging the gap in farm income between Indigenous and non-Indigenous farm operations represent a \$1.5 billion boost in primary agriculture GDP. Renewed efforts towards reducing barriers in access to capital, equipment, and skilled labour, improved agricultural knowledge and farming methods are paths towards boosting Indigenous agriculture production, promoting Indigenous health, increasing food security, and strengthening Canada's economic well-being and resiliency.

Indigenous population remains under-represented in agriculture

Data from Statistics Canada suggests that the Indigenous population continues to face large and persistent economic disparities relative to non-Indigenous people in Canada.

According to the 2021 census, more than 1.8 million people identified as Indigenous, representing 5% of Canada's total population. Relative to the agriculture sector, there were 5,405 Indigenous farm operators out of 262,045 farm operators (2.1%) in Canada. Although this represents a

5% increase in participation from the previous census, there is still a large possibility to expand participation. Indigenous farm operators live in all provinces and territories, with the four western provinces accounting for over 70% of Indigenous farm operators. Saskatchewan has the highest number of Indigenous operators at 1,165 (21.6%) followed by Alberta with 1,130 (20.9%). Indigenous farming operations are more predominant in oilseeds and grains, vegetables, fruits, and other crops including greenhouse production followed by beef cattle ranching and farming.

Bringing equitable representation of the Indigenous population into agriculture would imply increasing the number of Indigenous farm operators to a similar level as their contribution to the total Canadian population, welcoming an additional 7,631 Indigenous farm operators in the ag economy, a 140% increase.

Closing the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous farm revenue

The impact of historical injustices on Indigenous peoples cannot be underestimated. Ongoing generational effects from the Indian Act, residential school experiences, the 60's scoop, and other factors contribute to significant and enduring economic differences between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadian populations. Lack

of access to capital, lower rates of participation of Indigenous people in the labour force, access and level of education attained, and higher unemployment are all major contributing factors that continue to hinder Indigenous economic progress overall, and in the ag economy.

According to Statistics Canada, the median farm operating revenue for Indigenous farm operators in 2020 was \$25,960, compared to non-Indigenous operators who earned \$73,440. This is a revenue disparity of \$47,480, or nearly 65%. The revenue disparity declined slightly between 2015 and 2020, being at \$49,900 (adjusted for inflation) in 2015. Revenue inequality has therefore improved slightly over the last five years.

These differences are largely due to under-representation of Indigenous farm operators in higher farm revenue brackets. Indigenous operators are highly represented in the lower threshold revenue classes (Figure 1), with 60% of Indigenous operators

earning less than \$50,000 annually, compared to 43% of non-Indigenous operators. This goes to suggest that although some Indigenous operators own major farming operations, most Indigenous operations are small-scale oriented.

Closing the revenue gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous farm operations can be converted to a contribution to the economy measured in terms of GDP. GDP related to Indigenous primary farming operations was estimated to be \$351 million, or 1.0% of Canada's primary agriculture GDP in 2021. Conversely, the GDP contribution of non-Indigenous farm operations was \$35.9 billion. This estimated primary agriculture GDP per farm operator was \$64,900 for Indigenous and \$140,100 for non-Indigenous, for a GDP per farm disparity of \$75,200.

Potential of growing Indigenous representation and revenue

An equitable representation of Indigenous agricul-

ture implies an increase in the number of operators as well as in revenues generated per farm.

Table 1 summarizes the impact on Indigenous and Canada's agriculture GDP if we increase Indigenous participation in the sector and revenue generated per farm. Achieving these goals would increase Canadian primary agriculture GDP by \$1.5 billion.

An opportunity for the overall economy

Working towards achieving economic parity for Indigenous people in Canada presents an opportunity to lift the economic resilience of Indigenous populations as well as promoting food

security. Increasing Indigenous participation in agriculture is a \$1.5 billion opportunity which would more than quadruple Indigenous agriculture GDP and provide an estimated 4.0 % boost in Canada's primary agriculture GDP. Government programs such as the Indigenous agriculture and food systems initiative and funding programs for Indigenous and northern communities and organizations are laudable, and could be complemented with an innovation plan and collaboration between all stakeholders to address the barriers to increasing Indigenous participation in primary agriculture and agri-food business.



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Why should nitrogen get all the buzz?

by WARREN WARD,
CANOLA COUNCIL OF CANADA

A successful canola crop needs a lot of nitrogen, which is why nitrogen earns A-list buzz. That same successful crop also depends on a strong supporting cast – phosphorus, potassium, sulphur and micronutrients.

University of Saskatchewan researchers recently updated the nutrient uptake and removal guidelines for 14 annual crops grown in Western Canada. The researchers, in doing their surveys, discovered considerable variability in uptake and removal due in part to differences in weather and management, which is why they say these numbers are guidelines only, not prescriptions. (See the table.)

	Canola macronutrient uptake and removal			
	New guidelines (2023)		Old guidelines (2001)	
	Uptake	Removal	Uptake	Removal
	Pounds of nutrient per bushel of crop			
Nitrogen (N)	2.38 (±1.28)	1.68 (±0.32)	3.19 (2.85-3.51)	1.93 (1.74-2.11)
Phosphorus (P ₂ O ₅)	0.90 (±0.50)	0.67 (±0.15)	1.47 (1.31-1.62)	1.04 (0.94-1.14)
Potassium (K ₂ O)	2.93 (±1.42)	0.35 (±0.07)	2.31 (2.09-2.54)	0.52 (0.46-0.57)
Sulphur (S)	0.86 (±0.57)	0.19 (±0.06)	0.54 (0.49-0.60)	0.32 (0.29-0.34)

Farmers will benefit from soil tests, yield history and economics to determine how much fertilizer their canola needs.

Nitrogen

The 2023 guidelines put average nitrogen uptake for canola at 2.38 pounds per bushel, with a wide range of 1.12 to 3.64.

A 50 bu./ac. canola crop will need 119 lb./ac. of nitrogen, based on the guideline average. Some of that will come from soil nitrate reserves and mineralization of soil organic matter. Soil test analysis will recommend a fertilizer rate based on target yield and soil nitrate levels. Nitrogen from mineralization is difficult to estimate and is not included.

Phosphorus

Many fields on the Prairies test low or very low for available phosphate. The new uptake and removal guidelines put average phosphate uptake for canola at 0.90 lb./bu., with a range from 0.40 to 1.30. Based on the average, a 50 bu./ac. canola crop will need 45 lb./ac. of available phosphate.

Farms can safely place up to 20 lb./ac. of phosphate in the seed row for an early pop-up benefit – as long as soils have decent moisture. With dry soils, any fertilizer in the seed row will put seed at risk of fertilizer damage.



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Additional phosphate could go into the side or mid-row band with the rest of the fertilizer.

Sulphur

The new guidelines say canola takes up 0.86 pounds of sulphur per bushel of yield, on average, making it a high sulphur-using crop. A 50 bu./ac. canola crop needs 43 lb./ac. of sulphur, on average.

If soil tests are low in sulphur, fertilize according to soil test recommendations. If soil is moderate or high in sulphur, a small amount, say 10-15 lb./ac., may be required to offset the high variability in sulphur levels across a field.

New research from Raju Soolanayakanahally with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada in Saskatoon showed that canola with adequate sulphur fertilizer may be more tolerant of water deficit conditions. This is another reason to make sure canola has enough sulphur.

Potassium

Canola plants need 2.93 pounds of potassium (K₂O) for every bushel of seed yield, according to the new guidelines. A 50 bu./ac. crop can take up 147 lb./ac. of potassium, on average.

Because most potassium returns to the soil through residue and because “young” Prairie soils generally have higher potassium levels, canola crops do not often show a response to potassium fertilizer. But if soil tests show less than 250 pounds per acre (125 ppm), canola may benefit from a potassium application.

Fertilizer rates are a moving target and the “right rate” can vary considerably field to field. We encourage farmers to use soil tests. Use the recommended rates – which are set based on yield projection, soil nitrate reserves and mineralization potential of each soil – as a guide to set an appropriate rate for each field.

Warren Ward is an agronomy specialist for the Canola Council of Canada. Email wardw@canolacouncil.org.



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Saskatchewan Pulse Growers makes \$5 million investment in priority research areas



Growers, and Ontario Bean Growers. Industry and other funding partners include Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), Bayer CropScience Inc., BASF Canada, FMC of Canada Limited, Syngenta Canada Inc., Producteurs de Grains du Quebec (PGQ), Les Grain Haribec and SeCan.

Projects funded under the Pulse Cluster are seeking to make advancements in critical areas for the pulse industry, including breeding peas for improved protein yield maturity, standability, and seed size; breeding dry beans for early maturation, sustainability, and improved productivity under irrigation; resistance to root rot; genomic improvements for faba bean; aphid resistance in peas; improving pulse crops under climate change; and genetic improvements for chickpeas regarding yield and

agronomic characteristics.

"Research that will increase on-farm productivity and reduce agronomic challenges is a top priority for SPG," says van Staveren. "We are targeting our research investments into projects that will create improved pulse crops and management practices for producers as we face challenges such as climate change and increased disease pressure."

The total value of research included under the five-year Pulse Cluster is over \$21 million, with \$11 million coming from AAFC and \$10.1 million from other funders.

Accountable to and funded by growers, SPG's strategic direction is guided by a nine member, grower-elected Board of Directors. SPG's mission is to provide leadership for profitable growth for Saskatchewan pulses.

Saskatchewan Pulse Growers (SPG) has invested over \$5 million into pulse research projects to improve productivity and reduce threats to pulse crop production.

Under the recently announced Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) AgriScience Program Clusters Component, SPG will leverage grower levy dollar investment with over \$21 million of Government and other industry partner funding for the Pulse Cluster.

A complete list of projects, including researchers, and SPG's investment can be seen below.

- Selection of Early Maturing Dry Bean Germplasm and Cultivars for Sustainability and Improved Productivity Under Irrigation, Dr. Parthiba Balasubramanian, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) - \$50,417

- Breed for Top-Performing Field Pea Varieties and Develop SNP-based Markers for Marker-Assisted Selection for Grain and Protein Yield Maturity, Standability, and Seed Size, Dr. Dengjin Bing, AAFC - \$166,000

- Large Root Systems in Pulses for Drought Tolerance, Carbon Sequestration, and Root Rot Resistance, Dr. Maryse Bourgault, University of Saskatchewan - \$337,321

- Accelerating Solutions to Root Rot of Pea and Lentil Using a Multifaceted and Integrative Approach, Dr. Syama Chatterton, AAFC - \$563,100

- Diversity Set for Genomic Improvement of Faba, Dr. Nicholas Larkan, Saskatoon Research and Development Centre - \$144,198

- Identifying Potential Resistance to Pea Aphids and Aphid Transmitted Viruses in Lentil, Dr. Sean Prager, University of Saskatchewan - \$333,407

- Phenotyping Pulse Crops for Improved Performance Under Climate Change, Dr. Steve Shirtliffe, University of Saskatchewan - \$675,605

- An Integrated Approach for Accelerating Genetic Improvement of Yield and Agronomic Characteristics of Chickpea, Dr. Bunyamin Tar'an, University of Saskatchewan - \$1,486,050

- Development of Improved Pea Cultivars to Enhance Canada's Leading Role in International Pea Markets, Dr. Tom Warkentin, University of Saskatchewan, \$1,182,643

"SPG would like to recognize Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada for their continued investment into pulse research," says Winston van Staveren, SPG Board Chair and Creelman-area pulse farmer. "By leveraging Saskatchewan grower levy dollars with government and industry partner funding through the Sustainable CAP AgriScience Program, we can ensure that our investments into research go further to addressing the production and market challenges facing our industry."

"Canadian pulse farmers are vitally important to our economy," says the Honourable Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food. "This investment will bring together the top experts in pulse growing and research from across the Prairies to improve the competitiveness and sustainability of the sector for generations to come."

Funding contributors on the Pulse Cluster include Alberta Pulse Growers, Manitoba Pulse and Soybean

Saskatchewan agriculture helps feed the world and helps fuel our province's growth.

Thank you to our agriculture community for the enormous contribution you make!

Steven Bonk, MLA

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4 farm-friendly ideas to help with the childcare struggle

Continued from Page C2

The issue is receiving increased focus and effort, according to Brenda Schoepp, a business consultant and mentor who has studied and works with women in agriculture. Raising her kids as a single mom on a farm, she also knows the risks, challenges and demands that overwhelm parents who farm. She's also received feedback after speaking to groups about childcare on the farm.

"This remains a very big issue," Schoepp says. "It was described repeatedly as a huge source of stress and often overwhelming for women in rural agriculture."

Overall, each family needs to find a solution that works best for their own home and situation, and most usually try several solutions before finding the right fit.

Here are four creative solutions farm families across the country have come up with for childcare:

1. Take turns with neighbours

Different crops, farms, weather conditions or other variables may mean one farm is less busy than the next on any given day, freeing up Mom or Dad to care for the neighbours' kids and their own during the downtime. That could open the door to alternating childcare among neighbours. Reach out to your neighbours to see who's willing to try it. It may take effort to sort out a schedule, so be patient.

2. Find another way to work with staff

In Portage la Prairie, Man., Sam Connery-Nichol, manager of Connery Farms, has more than 300 acres of produce, grains and pulses and 50+ staff during peak periods.

Before she had children, Connery-Nichol would meet with staff daily. But that didn't work so well after her child was born. Instead, she set up a group chat on WhatsApp that allows for quick check-ins, directions and brief conversations among team members. While she still may have a group sit-down with the team, those and one-on-one conversations have largely been replaced by WhatsApp.

3. Bring a childcare provider to the farm

Having someone in your home for childcare can take many forms—whether an arrangement with a relative, hiring a neighbour or a local student. But Aimée Ferré Stang, a content marketing program manager at FCC who also farms in west central Saskatchewan, near the Alberta border, opted to think bigger and go further afield than her in-laws next door when she needed childcare for her two young sons.

She hired an au pair for two consecutive years, bringing a youth between 18 and 30 to Canada to live and work at her home on the farm. A finished basement provides a private living space for an au pair, and Ferré Stang is clear in the job posting that the location is rural, so the au pair knows what to expect.

Ferré Stang familiarized herself with an au pair job site and spoke to others who hired au pairs before posting her first advertisement.

4. Create new options

In Prince Edward Island, Amber Dennis still lives in Souris, the small fishing and tourist community she grew up in. Now that she has her own family and operates a restaurant, she faces the same challenges as farm families—a need for quality childcare. At the same time, she needed to beef up her business venture during the quiet winter months, after the tourists had gone home and when the fishing boats sat idle.

Dennis recognized that her friends, family members, business contacts and rural farm neighbours faced the same childcare issues as she did. As a result, she decided to operate an after-school childcare program in the restaurant in the off-season.

In its inaugural year, Dennis has space for eight children, including her young daughter. The childcare arrangement means she avoids shutting

down her facility for the winter and, at the same time, offers service to the community.

"It's parents that are farmers, nurses, paramedics, entrepreneurs," she explains of those she helps

during the school season. "Everyone will always need care for their children."

Rural childcare is an age-old challenge, and while letting the kids tag along may work sometimes, it

isn't a solution to childcare on the farm. Support from peers, neighbours, family and friends, creative thinking and flexibility can help you find the best solution for you and your family.

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Savings to farmers, original Bill C-234	76	91	106	119	131	142	152	162
Savings to farmers, Senate amendments	19	23	27	0	0	0	0	0
Cost to farmers due to Senate amendments	57	68	79	119	131	142	152	162

Relief from original bill versus Senate's amendments: PBO reports (\$ millions)

Senate's Bill C-234 amendments cost farmers \$910 million

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation is calling on members of Parliament to pass the original Bill C-234 following Parliamentary Budget Officer reports showing the Senate's amendments would cost farmers \$910 million by 2030. "Making it more affordable for farmers to grow food will make it more affordable for families to buy food," said Franco Terrazzano, CTF Federal Director. "MPs must reject the Senate's amendments and make sure the original Bill C-234 becomes law now."

The federal government provided an agriculture exemption for carbon taxes on diesel and gasoline, but neglected

to exempt natural gas and propane. Bill C-234 would exempt the carbon tax charged on natural gas and propane used by farmers to dry their grain and heat their barns. The House of Commons passed this bill on March 29, 2023. On Dec. 12, 2023, the Senate passed the bill with amendments that would apply carbon tax relief to drying grain, but not heating barns. An amendment also ends the relief after three years. PBO reports show the Senate's amendment would cost farmers \$910 million. The table at the end of this news


release shows the carbon tax relief from the original Bill C-234 versus the Senate's amendments, according to two reports the PBO published on Bill C-234. Without relief, the carbon tax on natural gas and propane will cost farmers almost \$1 billion by 2030, according to a previous PBO report. "Farmers have been waiting too long for much-needed relief," said Gage Haubrich, CTF Prairie Director. "The House of Commons already passed this bill twice, now it's time for Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to ensure the original Bill C-234 becomes law."

Can Saskatchewan continue to be a leader in global food security, if support doesn't come from the government?

The Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM), along with member RMs, is the principal advocate in representing RMs before all levels of senior government. As the voice of rural Saskatchewan for more than a century, SARM has spoken strongly and clearly to represent rural Saskatchewan interests, and it is no surprise there is concern with the lack of support for global food security, more so, the lack of understanding of the number of sustainable practices that take place in Saskatchewan that reduce our carbon footprint. "SARM has exerted efforts in Ottawa to highlight the support we need to meet the federal government's food security goals. We need support to reduce the impacts of inflation, which makes it harder to get loans, diminishes our purchasing power, and creates a barrier for new farmers to enter the industry," explains Ray Orb, President of SARM. "Support to counteract increased federal environmental regulations and policies such as proposed reductions in fertilizer emissions, while still increasing agriculture exports from \$55 billion to \$85 billion. Support to deal with ineffective environmental policies that dictate that farmers find solutions to reduce their carbon footprint when the technological advancement required to convert an entire farming operation to renewable energy simply does not yet exist. And, lastly, support shouldering record inflation-fueled price hikes for gas, fertilizer, and herbicides. Expenses that pave a path to unsustainable agriculture, lower production, and food insecurity."

Saskatchewan is known worldwide as a consistent and reliable supplier of safe, high-quality grains, oilseeds, pulses, livestock, and agri-food products. In 2021, Saskatchewan's agriculture exports were the largest on record, with total international sales of \$17.5 billion. Saskatchewan

products are in demand by the world's fastest-growing countries. A continued focus on international trade strengthens our economy, draws investment to rural communities, creates job opportunities, and helps with global food security. However, according to SARM, Saskatchewan will not continue to succeed without greater support and understanding from both federal and provincial governments to reduce the obstacles of inflation, fertilizer reduction expectations, ineffective environmental policies, and rising fuel costs. Rural producers are innovative and resilient; despite all the hurdles imposed by the government, SARM and its members remain hopeful that provincial leaders can and will work together to find solutions that encourage positive change, in a pragmatic way. "It's time for provincial and federal governments to not only recognize but reward the world-class agricultural practices happening right here. Saskatchewan's producers foster environmental practices that make them among the most sustainable, technologically advanced, growers in the world," according to a release by SARM. "Every family in the province is feeling the pinch in their household budget, the cost of food and fuel are just a few things that have been hit with inflation hikes. Producers are hurting, in turn, consumers too. Saskatchewan is a self-sustainable province, we utilize everything we produce and see it on our kitchen tables, it's time to start unifying our goals," says Ray Orb, President of SARM. SARM's 119th Annual Convention is from March 13-15. SARM will address cabinet on the possible solutions and strategies to keep the sustainability of food production and food security in the province thriving.



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Major pea protein production plant coming to Saskatchewan

Louis Dreyfus Company's new facility is expected in 2025

On Feb. 7, the Government of Saskatchewan welcomed Louis Dreyfus Company's (LDC) announcement of a new pea protein isolate production plant at the site of its existing industrial complex in Yorkton.

"Louis Dreyfus Company's newest investment shows how Saskatchewan continues to be the best place to invest and do business," Trade and Export Development Minister Jeremy Harrison said. "As we work to create even more opportunities and jobs, we are fortunate to have a strong partnership with LDC. Today's announcement takes us one step closer to achieving our goal of processing 50 per cent of the pulse crops produced in Saskatchewan. This announcement is great news for the Yorkton community and pulse growers across the province."

The plant's expected completion date is the end of 2025 and, once operational, LDC anticipates that it will employ approximately 60 people. This new facility will expand and accelerate LDC's existing pea protein isolate and non-GMO soy isolate offerings, while delivering highly functional, taste-neutral and nutritious ingredients to customers.

This new facility, paired with other recent pulse processing announcements, puts the province on track to meet its pulse processing goal from Saskatchewan's Growth Plan.

"Canada is a key market for LDC, supporting our



strategic growth plans in the region and beyond, and this is reflected in the continued expansion of our origination and processing operations and activities in Saskatchewan, and Yorkton in particular," LDC's Country

Manager for Canada Brian Conn said.

In addition to helping achieve the pulse crop processing goal, the expansion puts the province closer to meeting several other key goals outlined in Saskatchewan's Growth Plan, including:

- Grow private capital investment in Saskatchewan to \$16 billion annually;
- Increase the value of exports by 50 per cent;
- Grow Saskatchewan's agri-food exports to \$20 billion; and
- Increase agriculture value-added revenue to \$10 billion.

Saskatchewan's pulse production averages approximately four million tonnes annually, accounting for approximately 90 per cent of Canadian lentil exports and roughly 80 per cent of Canada's pea exports. Crop rotations using nitrogen-fixing pulses contribute to making Saskatchewan's carbon footprint for crop production significantly lower than the global weighted average among comparable jurisdictions.

In 2022, Saskatchewan's agriculture industry posted a third consecutive year of record agri-food exports, with a total value of \$18.5 billion. Dry peas and pea proteins accounted for 6.5 per cent of that total, valued at \$1.1 billion.

Construction of the new plant is expected to begin later this year.

Eligibility area expansion and deadline extension for 2023 Canada-Saskatchewan feed program

Agriculture and Agri-Food (AAFC) Minister Lawrence MacAulay and Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister David Marit have announced updates to Saskatchewan's 2023 Canada-Saskatchewan Feed Program, administered by the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC).

"I know this area expansion and deadline extension for the 2023 Canada-Saskatchewan Feed Program is welcome news for producers across Saskatchewan," Minister MacAulay said. "We've also updated the designated regions for the 2023 Livestock Tax Deferral to help more folks who have been affected by drought and dry conditions."

"We recognize the areas significantly impacted by drought this past fall and the importance in maximizing access to financial relief for livestock producers by expanding the area eligibility," Marit said. "In addition, extending the deadline provides Saskatchewan producers an additional two weeks to review program details and submit their applications."

A total of 10 additional designated Rural Municipalities (RMs) are now added to the area eligible for full cost-shared funding of an initial payment up to \$150 per head. This expansion responds to the dry conditions that fur-

ther impacted livestock producers throughout the later months this past fall.

The application deadline is extended to March 15, 2024. The submitted application needs to indicate the number of breeding animals on hand as of August 21, 2023, and kept until January 31, 2024. This deadline extension allows Saskatchewan producers additional time to review and finalize applications with actual extraordinary costs and breeding animal inventory.

A reminder producers will need to submit their receipts or appropriate documents for the extraordinary expenses. Eligible extraordinary expenses include purchased feed, self-hauling or transportation costs for feed or breeding animals, and/or land rented for additional grazing acres or additional feed production. Eligible animal species include beef cattle and other grazing animals, limited to bison, elk, deer, sheep, goats and horses. A Saskatchewan Premises Identification (PID) is required to be eligible for the Program. This Program covers 70 per cent of extraordinary costs related to feed and freight incurred after May 1, 2023, now through to March 15, 2024.

An online application form is available at scic.ca. A

user guide is available to assist producers in completing their application. If producers require guidance or have any questions, they can contact SCIC's dedicated team by phone or email.

On August 18, 2023, Saskatchewan's Ministry of Agriculture announced the province committed up to \$70 million to assist impacted producers. Federal cost-share funding for Saskatchewan's AgriRecovery Program is up to \$77 million. AgriRecovery is a federal-provincial-territorial disaster relief framework to help agricultural producers with the extraordinary costs associated with recovering from disaster situations. AgriRecovery initiatives are cost-shared on a 60:40 basis between the federal government and participating provinces or territories, as outlined under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP).

Record agricultural exports for fourth consecutive year

Saskatchewan's agriculture industry has posted a fourth consecutive year of record agri-food exports, with shipments totaling \$20.2 billion for 2023.

The leading agri-food export commodities in 2023 were non-durum wheat, canola seed, canola oil, durum, lentils and canola meal. The top five international market destinations were the United States, China, Japan, Mexico and Algeria.

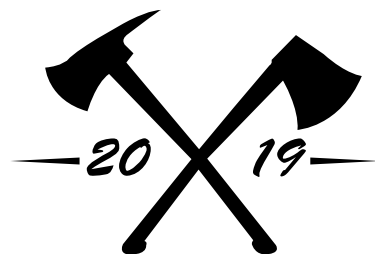
"Strong export numbers demonstrate the world-class sustainability and reliability of our province's agri-

culture sector," Trade and Export Development Minister Jeremy Harrison said. "As we have already surpassed our 2030 Growth Plan target of \$20 billion in agri-food exports, this milestone not only reflects the dedication of Saskatchewan farmers, but also the global demand for the high-quality agricultural products that they consistently deliver."

In addition to raw commodities, processed products are a key contributor to the province's agricultural exports. With canola oil as Saskatchewan's third highest agri-food ex-

port and canola meal the sixth, these products provide an opportunity to reach the 2030 Growth Plan target of increasing agriculture value-added revenue to \$10 billion.

Saskatchewan's exports have grown by more than 52.1 per cent since 2013. Trade and investment offices around the world support Saskatchewan companies seeking investment opportunities and promoting trade. The province looks forward to continuing to expand exports, opening new markets and sharing Saskatchewan's story with the world.



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Minister MacAulay opens Canada's first-ever Indo-Pacific Agriculture and Agri-Food Office

Canada has strong business and people-to-people ties across the Indo-Pacific region, and the Government of Canada will continue working to create new opportunities for Canadian farmers, producers, and the agri-food sector with key trading partners.

While in Manila, Philippines, the Honourable Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, joined Canadian stakeholders, government partners, and dignitaries to officially open Canada's Indo-Pacific Agriculture and Agri-Food Office (IPAAO) and begin a new chapter for Canada's engagement in the region. This announcement comes at the midway point in Minister MacAulay's productive trade mission to two key Indo-Pacific markets: Malaysia and the Philippines.

The IPAAO's unique model will bring a regional lens to the Indo-Pacific. Its mobile team will operate from a hub in Manila and work to build strategic partnerships that will grow our export opportunities and increase the demand for Canadian products. The IPAAO will leverage Canada's expertise as a world leader in food safety and sustainability with that of our Indo-Pacific partners to tackle common challenges.

The first cohort of IPAAO staff is already on the ground, working with partners to advance shared priorities, such as food security, create mutually beneficial opportunities, build on strong relationships and enhance technical cooperation, market access and trade.

The Indo-Pacific region currently accounts for over one-third of the world's economic activity, and in 2023, Canada's agriculture and agri-food exports to the region reached \$22.8 billion. The opening of the IPAAO supports the economic pillar of Canada's Indo-Pacific Strategy and demonstrates our commitment to the region and our Indo-Pacific partnerships.

"I'm so pleased to be in Manila to open Canada's first-ever Indo-Pacific Agriculture and Agri-Food Office. We export nearly half of what we produce in Canada and the global demand continues to grow," said The Honourable Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food. "I have no doubt this office will play a central role in growing export markets for our world-class Canadian farmers and increasing collaboration and cooperation in this important region."

"Today's opening of the Indo-Pacific Agriculture and Agri-Food Office in Manila marks an exciting milestone in Canada's Indo-Pacific Strategy!" said The Honourable Mary Ng, Minister of Export Promotion, International Trade and Economic Development. "This office will expand our trade network at home and abroad, and create opportunities for Canadian businesses working in the agriculture and agri-food sector. I look forward to seeing the new office in person, later this year, during our Team Canada Trade Mission to the Philippines."

Kevin Auch, Chair, Pulse Canada commented, "The Indo-Pacific provides a unique opportunity for growth and diversification for Canadian pulses. This office demonstrates the Government of Canada's support for our sector proactively breaking down market access barriers and playing a direct role in expanding exports of high-quality, sustainable pulses across the region."

"Canada's 43,000 canola farmers rely on trade, 90 per cent of the canola grown in Canada is exported as seed, oil, and meal," said Dave Carey, Vice-President, Government and Industry Relations, Canadian Canola Growers Association (CCGA). "The opening of the IPAAO sends a strong signal to our trading partners in the region that Canada is serious about market access, maintenance, and development. The IPAAO is a key part of our strategy to diversify our export markets and establish long lasting relationships in the Indo-Pacific."

"The Indo-Pacific region represents both key established markets as well as diversification opportunities for Canadian canola. Additional resources and an enhanced and sustained presence in the region are important to advancing both market access and market development efforts to support the growth and competitiveness of our industry and the broader sector," said Chris Davison, Canola Council of Canada.

Dean Dias, CEO, Cereals Canada commented, "The Indo-Pacific is an important and growing region for Canadian cereals, representing approximately \$2.3 billion CDN in annual purchases. We are pleased to see the opening of the Indo-Pacific Agriculture and Agri-Food Office and we look forward to working with IPAAO staff to build existing relationships and foster new partnerships

in the region."

"Canada's export-oriented grain sector contributes over \$140 billion to our GDP and accounts for 1 in 9 jobs across the country," commented Andre Harpe, Chair, Grain Growers of Canada. "Market diversification is critical for producers to secure the best price for their grain and the Indo-Pacific region presents the largest opportunity for our sector. We are proud to see the opening of Canada's Indo-Pacific Agriculture and Agri-Food Office and we look forward to working together to grow, open, and sustain markets across the region."

"Canada's agri-food exporters welcome the opening of this office, strengthening Canada's presence in regional markets that are vital to our long-term prosperity," said Michael Harvey, Executive Director, Canadian Agri-Food Trade Alliance (CAFTA).

"More than anywhere else, we need to be present in the Indo-Pacific region and this office will help us do that. We're thrilled that Canada is now better positioned to prevent and address market access issues so that our trade can be more stable and more valuable," said Brian Innes, Executive Director, Soy Canada.

Paul Lansbergen, President, Fisheries Council of Canada said, "The Indo-Pacific region is populated by strong seafood cultures. The Canadian seafood sector sees tremendous opportunity to our expand exports of delicious, high-quality Canadian fish and seafood. Our members look forward to working with the IPAAO to realize those opportunities."

"The Canadian Food Exporters Association is thrilled that there will be a dedicated office in the Indo-Pacific region to assist Canadian agri-food companies. Our association is looking forward to working with the staff in this office to promote and increase the interest for Canadian agri-food products," said Susan Powell, President and CEO, Canadian Food Exporters Association.

"Through the successful CPTPP and other significant trade agreements, we have seen export opportunities continue for our high-quality Canadian beef to the Indo-Pacific region including with countries such as Japan, Korea, and Vietnam," said Nathan Phinney, President, Canadian Cattle Association. "We are pleased to see the Government of Canada supporting our global trade efforts by opening this Indo-Pacific office, supporting our valued strategic partnership, and opening more trade avenues for Canadian beef producers."

"We're thrilled to see the years of work from the team at AAFC and from the agriculture industry bear fruit with this announcement," commented René Roy, chair of the Canadian Pork Council. "This milestone will help all of us in Canadian agriculture expand our presence in the region, and we look forward to many years of promoting our products more directly in the Indo-Pacific, thanks to the team at this new office. Bravo Team Canada!"

"Canadian cattle feeders welcome the opening of the IPAAO and consider it a critical component of the Indo-Pacific Strategy. This office will provide opportunities to grow existing markets and develop new markets for Canadian beef products," said Janice Tranberg, President and CEO, National Cattle Feeders' Association.

Chris White, President and CEO, Canadian Meat Council stated, "Today marks an important day for Canada's red meat packers, processors and producers as this office will permit us to deepen relationships that further enrich trade for our sector with the Indo-Pacific region. An ardent ally, Minister MacAulay continues to prioritize collaboration to strengthen reciprocal market access for Canadian red meat and we are grateful for his leadership to reinforce our global presence."

Quick Facts

Encompassing 40 economies, over four billion people and \$47.19 trillion in economic activity, the Indo-Pacific region is the world's fastest-growing region and home to 11 of Canada's top 20 trading partners.

Backed by a \$31.8 million federal government investment, Canada's Indo-Pacific Agriculture and Agri-Food Office (IPAAO) is a joint initiative by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

The Canadian Agri-Food Trade Alliance (CAFTA) is a coalition of national organizations that support a more open and fair international trading environment for agriculture and agri-food. CAFTA represents 90 per cent of farmers who depend on trade and ranchers, producers, processors, and agri-food exporters who want to grow the economy through better access to international markets.

The Canada Brand provides Canadian exporters with a stronger international presence by helping them leverage Canada's positive reputation around the world. Export-ready companies can sign-up for free.

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3 reasons why grain farmers need a cash flow statement

Understanding your cash flow needs is an important business management skill, giving you the knowledge and agility to act on opportunities as they come up.

- Cash flow categories are:
 - **Cash flow from operations:** the cash that flows into your farm business, less the cash outflow.
 - **Investing cash flow:** the cash the farm uses to invest in capital assets such as machinery and the cash earned in the sale of capital assets that goes back into the farm cash flow.
 - **Financing cash flow:** the cash generated by financed capital asset purchases and the cash for the principal payments of long-term debts.

These cash flow categories are outlined by accountants in your farm's year-end statement of cash flows as part of your financial statement. The Statement of Cash Flow is a rich source of information that can form the basis of a discussion in your farm business and planning meetings to determine the main sources of cash flows for your farm.

Cash flow statements vary by farm sector, bringing unique information to the farmers. Here are three important reasons grain farmers need a cash flow statement:

1. Grain farming is cyclical, with most expenses paid during the spring planting and growing seasons

These are a period of significant reductions of the cash balance on grain farms. Identifying the cash flow from operations needs during this time can indicate the amount of an operating loan the farm business might require to cover expenses in a fiscal period. This gives you time to establish the credit facilities you need with your lenders well before the busy grain growing season.

2. Commodity sales are usually driven by price, which is reliant on market fluctuations

Grain producers are speculators when holding inventories for higher prices, hoping for improved profitability. A cash flow statement can aid in your grain marketing strategy to help plan sales when cash flow is needed. This allows you to search out marketing opportunities that match your cash flow needs and potentially reduce interest costs on operating debt while giving you peace of mind when making a sale.

3. When making capital purchases, it helps to know your excess cash flow

Knowing how much excess cash flow your grain operation will have can help determine the amount of a downpayment you can afford to make and help identify how long you want to amortize the loan. If cash flows are uncertain, increasing a loan's amortization period can help reduce the annual cash outflows needed to make principal payments in lean years. You can reduce your interest costs by making lump sum payments in years when your grain operation is flush with cash.

Preparing a comprehensive cash flow statement for your grain operation can help identify areas of concern early in your fiscal period, which can go a long way in reducing your mental stress and allowing you to be ahead of the curve when cash flow needs arise.

Creating cash flow statements

Start with your bank balance, add all expected cash inflows for the month and subtract planned cash outflows to arrive at an end-of-the-month cash position.

Preparing cash flow statements at the beginning of the fiscal period highlights ahead of time when farmers need cash and identifying when there will be surplus cash. Every month, cash flow statements report all three types of cash flows.



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AVERAGE SALARY




\$100K per year x 500 employees

= \$50 Million
in wages paid annually

SASKATCHEWAN ROYALTIES AND PRODUCTION TAX PAID IN 2022

\$1.2 Billion



PROVINCIAL SALES TAX



\$50 Million

PROPERTY TAX



\$13 Million

PROVINCIAL INCOME TAX



\$6.25 Mil.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT



\$150 Mil.
invested annually per site



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