

Ministry of Agriculture



Plan for 2020-21

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Statement from the Minister



*The Honourable
David Marit
Minister of Agriculture*

I am pleased to present the Ministry of Agriculture's Operational Plan for 2020-21.

Government Direction and Budget 2020-21 is focused on growth for a better quality of life – fostering a strong economy, creating strong communities and strong families – and Building a Strong Saskatchewan.

The 2020-21 budget for the Ministry of Agriculture is \$368.9 million, including \$71.2 million for strategic programs under the five-year, federal-provincial Canadian Agricultural Partnership agreement. This includes programs in six priority areas: Science, Research and Innovation, Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change, Risk Management, Value-Added Agriculture and Agri-Food Processing, Public Trust, and Markets and Trade.

The budget includes \$244.3 million to fully fund business risk management programs, including Crop Insurance, AgriStability, AgriInvest and Western Livestock Price Insurance. Investments in strategic and business risk management programs position the agriculture industry for long-term sustainable growth.

The ministry will report on progress towards the targets laid out in this plan, within the financial parameters provided, in the 2020-21 Annual Report.

Response to Government Direction

The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to *Building a Strong Saskatchewan*. Investing in strong communities and strong families creates opportunities for a better quality of life for the people of our province. Maintaining a strong economy will enable us to build upon the past decade of growth and continue to provide the services, jobs and infrastructure that meets Saskatchewan's needs.

Saskatchewan's Vision

"... to be the best place in Canada – to live, to work, to start a business, to get an education, to raise a family and to build a life."



A Strong Economy



Strong Communities



Strong Families

Saskatchewan's vision and three goals provide the strategic direction for organizations to align their programs and services to build a strong Saskatchewan.

All organizations will report on progress in their 2020-21 annual reports.

Operational Plan

Mandate Statement

The ministry helps the industry manage risk and enables a globally competitive, thriving and sustainable agriculture and food sector by supporting farmers, ranchers and agri-businesses.

Mission Statement

The ministry enables a prosperous, market-driven agricultural industry through a supportive legislative framework, policies, programs and services.

Government Goals



A Strong Economy



Strong Communities



Strong Families

Ministry Goal

Growth in the primary agriculture sector.

Strategy

Enhance the business environment to attract investment and support growth.

Key Actions

- Identify and address barriers to growth in the primary agriculture sector.
- Work with government, partners and industry stakeholders to ensure agriculture development processes are clear, predictable and transparent.
- Influence federal policies and regulations to create a better business environment.
- Deliver programs and services to maximize irrigation capacity in Saskatchewan.

Strategy

Advance research, innovation and knowledge transfer to improve productivity and sector competitiveness.

Key Actions

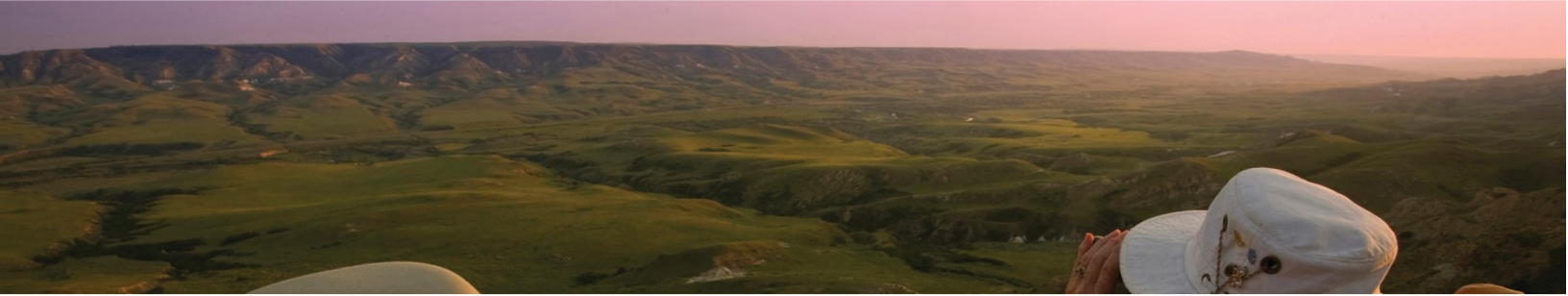
- Leverage industry partnerships to invest in research and identify priorities for the development of new technology, practices and extension information.
- Drive adoption of new technology and practices that support economic growth while protecting the environment and building public trust.
- Support the application of emerging digital technologies in the agricultural sector.

Strategy

Influence trade policy to reflect Saskatchewan priorities.

Key Actions

- Advocate for Saskatchewan trade interests domestically and internationally in partnership with other ministries, including the Ministry of Trade and Export Development.
- Enhance coordination with other ministries, provinces, industry partners and the federal government to identify and address trade issues.



- Leverage partnerships with Canadian provinces, the federal government, U.S. and Mexican states, and other countries, as appropriate, to influence trade policy.

Strategy

Expand product and market diversification opportunities.

Key Actions

- Increase industry's trade capacity to support growth.
- Participate in trade missions to promote Saskatchewan interests in key markets.

Performance Measures

Annual Crop Production

A key goal of Saskatchewan's Growth Plan is to increase crop production to 45 million metric tonnes (MMT) by 2030. Driven by advances in technology and best practices, primary crop production increased from 23.6 MMT in 2007 to an estimated 37.4 MMT in 2019. While there are many variables that go into producing a successful crop, including weather, the ministry will continue to emphasize the importance of adopting beneficial crop management, production and protection practices to ensure that profitable and sustainable crop production continues to increase in Saskatchewan.

Annual Livestock Sector Revenue

The target of Saskatchewan's Growth Plan is to increase annual farm livestock cash receipts to \$3 billion by 2030. Market prices led to the industry achieving \$2.3 billion in livestock cash receipts in 2018 and an estimated \$2.3 billion in 2019. Significant global population growth is anticipated over the next 30 years, which is expected to drive continued growth of the sector. Saskatchewan has 19.9 million acres of pasture and forage land well-suited for livestock production, providing an excellent opportunity for Saskatchewan to supply this growing demand. The ministry will continue to emphasize the importance of adopting the best livestock management, production and biosecurity practices to achieve increased livestock production in Saskatchewan.

Value of Agri-Food Exports

Under Saskatchewan's Growth Plan, the province's agri-food exports target is \$20 billion by 2030. Exports experienced rapid growth from \$8.3 billion in 2010 to the peak of \$15.6 billion in 2015. The markets have experienced a slight decline in recent years, but the forecasted value of agri-food exports in 2019 remains strong at \$12.9 billion. With the forecasted growth in world populations and income levels, global demand for food and agricultural-related goods is anticipated to increase. The ministry will continue to support the sector to take advantage of these emerging opportunities by expanding market presence, influencing trade negotiations and collaborating with industry.

Irrigation Development

Irrigation provides a reliable water source for crops to off-set the impact of unpredictable weather. Expanding irrigation infrastructure in Saskatchewan will be an important part of increasing primary production and on-farm profitability through diverse, high value crops. Saskatchewan's Growth Plan provides direction to expand irrigation in the province, including 85,000 acres in existing irrigation districts by 2030.



Government Goals

A Strong Economy

Strong Communities

Strong Families

Ministry Goal

Growth in the value-added sector.

Strategy

Enhance a competitive business environment and attract investment.

Key Actions

- Identify and address sector level constraints and opportunities.
- Develop and implement communications and targeted marketing plans to attract investment.

Strategy

Support value-added agriculture businesses to improve competitiveness and profitability.

Key Actions

- Enhance effectiveness of programming and services.
- Enhance pathfinding services for value-added agriculture businesses.
- Support market development for agriculture value-added businesses to access key markets.

Performance Measures

Annual Value-Added Revenue

Saskatchewan has set an ambitious target to grow Saskatchewan's value-added sector to \$10 billion in revenue by 2030. Saskatchewan has had one of the strongest value-added industries in Canada, with rapid growth from \$3.5 billion in 2012 to \$5.2 billion in 2018. In order to achieve this new target, the ministry will focus on capturing economic value beyond primary production through increased investment, infrastructure development and innovative technologies.

Canola Processing in Saskatchewan

Canola processing currently represents the largest portion of Saskatchewan's value-added sector while also representing the greatest potential for growth. The target in Saskatchewan's Growth Plan is to crush 75 per cent of the canola produced in Saskatchewan by 2030. Currently, the Saskatchewan industry processes approximately 40 to 45 per cent of our canola crop, which represents \$3 billion in revenue.

Saskatchewan Pulse Crop Processing

Saskatchewan currently processes approximately 10 per cent of its primary pea production within the province. Saskatchewan's Growth Plan targets 50 per cent of Saskatchewan pulse crops to be processed in the province by 2030. Increasing processing to 50 per cent would add approximately \$1 billion in new value-added revenue by capitalizing on the global demand for proteins.



Saskatchewan Meat and Animal Feed Processing

The livestock sector provides a critical local market for lower quality crops and by-products from processing activity. The target in Saskatchewan's Growth Plan is to double meat processing and animal feed revenue to \$1 billion by 2030. Increasing livestock production in Saskatchewan will drive the animal feed manufacturing sector and the ministry will also focus on meeting increased demand for high protein pet food.

Government Goals

 **A Strong Economy** **Strong Communities** **Strong Families**

Ministry Goal

Improve the agriculture sector's long-term resiliency.

Strategy

Improve sector preparedness for natural and economic shocks.

Key Actions

- Targeted work and promotion of crops and livestock biosecurity surveillance, response and mitigation efforts.
- Strengthen initiatives on livestock emergency preparedness and response.
- Develop ministry plans to respond to future agricultural droughts and excess moisture.
- Continue surveillance of established and economically important pests.

Strategy

Support the sector in managing business risks and capitalizing on opportunities.

Key Actions

- Influence federal government and other provinces to enhance Business Risk Management (BRM) programming to ensure it remains effective and meets the needs of industry.
- Work with Ministry of Environment to develop a provincial offset system under the provincial climate change strategy, Prairie Resilience.
- Begin consultations and identify priorities for the next federal/provincial agreement; "Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) 2.0."

Strategy

Increase resilience of the natural landscape to support a healthy environment.

Key Actions

- Focus extension efforts on Saskatchewan producers being recognized for nutrient stewardship by obtaining 4R designation ("right source, right rate, right place, right time").
- Develop a multi-species approach for management of critical habitat to benefit species at risk.
- Support the Water Security Agency as they implement the Agricultural Water Management Strategy.
- Align policies and programs to achieve the goal of maintaining permanent cover (native prairie, pasture and hay land).
- Collaborate with other ministries and agencies to develop a plan to manage invasive species.



Performance Measures

In 2017, the Government of Saskatchewan released, “*Prairie Resilience: A Made in Saskatchewan Climate Change Strategy.*” Part of this strategy includes new, agriculture related measures and targets intended to strengthen Saskatchewan’s ability to adapt, and even thrive within a changing climate.

Natural Land

Maintaining the total area of natural land (native prairie, pastures and hay) sequesters carbon, retains soil moisture and increases resiliency to offset flood and drought events. The ministry targets maintaining the total area of natural land at the 2016 level of 19.93 million acres.

Sequestration of Organic Matter

The release of greenhouse gas emissions can also be reduced through agricultural practices such as zero-tillage seeding that sequester the amount of organic matter in cultivated land. The target for this measure is the current five-year average of 5.6 million tonnes per year.

Nutrient Stewardship

The 4R’s of nutrient stewardship are the “right source, right rate, right time and right place” and 4R Nutrient Stewardship Plans provide a framework to achieve cropping goals and improve environmental outcomes through the precise application of agricultural fertilizers. The target for total farmland managed using a 4R Nutrient Stewardship Plan is 25 per cent, or nine million acres by 2025.

Economic Resiliency

A key economic resiliency measure is the volatility in net farm income over time, as it represents the ability of farmers to maintain production and profit regardless of the impacts of climate change. The ministry is targeting no greater than 50 per cent decrease in realized net farm income from the previous five-year average.

Crop Diversification

Finally, the diversification of crop species contributes to economic resiliency and positive environmental outcomes such as enhanced soil health and the management of pest and diseases. The target is for no one crop type (cereals, oilseeds, pulses/soybeans and summer fallow) to rise above 50 per cent of the cultivated area in Saskatchewan.

Government Goals



A Strong Economy



Strong Communities



Strong Families

Ministry Goal

Public trust in the agriculture sector.

Strategy

Encourage and support industry to adopt best practices.

Key Actions

- Invest in research that helps determine the environmental impact of production practices that influence public trust.
- Narrow the gap between research and extension by translating findings into best management practices for producers.
- Deliver and evaluate programming that encourages the adoption of best practices across the industry.



Strategy

Protect food safety, animal health and the environment.

Key Actions

- Initiate the public reporting of the health status of transitioned and co-op pastures.
- Influence sound regulations and monitor compliance in partnership with industry and the federal government.
- Increase understanding of recognized assurance systems.

Strategy

Partner to build awareness about modern agriculture.

Key Actions

- Empower stakeholders to connect with consumers and youth.
- Share stories to build confidence in Canada's robust regulatory framework and assurance systems.
- Analyze public perception to inform future actions.
- Enhance communications to stakeholders on regulations with the greatest impact on public trust.

Performance Measures

Public Understanding of Agriculture as Measured by the Percentage of Saskatchewan Residents with a Positive Perception of Agriculture

The ministry's goal is to maintain public trust in agriculture, with at least 85 per cent of Saskatchewan residents having a positive perception of agriculture. According to results from our Public Trust Survey, 85 per cent of Saskatchewan residents had a positive perception of agriculture in 2019. According to the Canadian Centre for Food Integrity, Canadian's perception of agriculture is only 60 per cent positive. These perceptions have the potential to limit the continued access farmers, ranchers and agribusinesses need to the tools, technologies and markets that ensure their competitiveness and sustainability. There is an abundance of information available to consumers about food production, but when it comes to modern agriculture, it can be difficult for the public to get the full story.

In 2019, the ministry developed a comprehensive Public Trust Strategy to define the ministry's role in building trust. The ministry will continue to provide leadership and foster accountability to build public trust in agriculture by encouraging industry to do the right thing, ensuring an effective assurance system and partnering to build awareness and engagement. The ministry is committed to working collaboratively with industry to maintain the trust of the public by practicing transparency and seeking continuous improvement.

Highlights

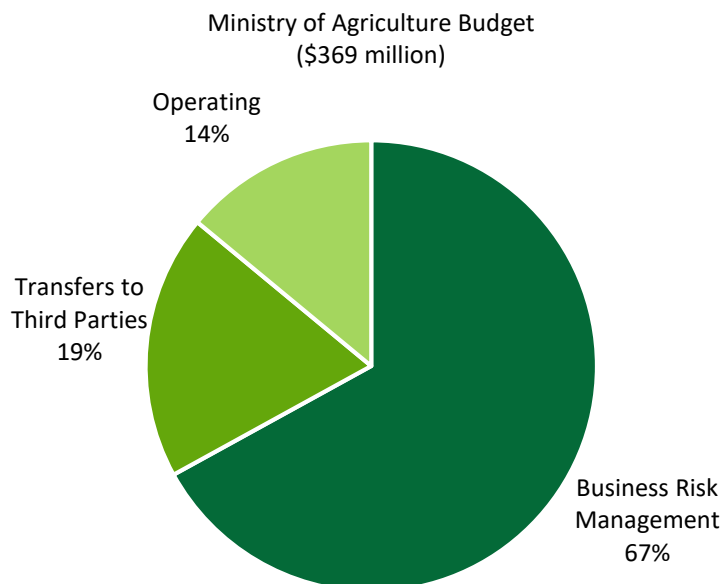
2020-21 Budget Highlights:

- \$71.2 million for strategic programs under the five-year, federal-provincial Canadian Agricultural Partnership agreement for the areas of:
 - Science, Research and Innovation;
 - Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change;
 - Risk Management;
 - Value-Added Agriculture and Agri-Food Processing;
 - Public Trust; and
 - Markets and Trade.
- \$244.3 million to fully fund business risk management programs, including:
 - Crop Insurance;
 - AgriStability;
 - AgriInvest; and
 - Western Livestock Price Insurance.
- \$5.0 million to advance further work and planning for irrigation in Saskatchewan, including further analysis on two large scale projects to maximize irrigation from Lake Diefenbaker:
 - Westside Irrigation Project (potential for 370,000 acres of irrigation);
 - Qu'Appelle South Irrigation District (potential for 110,000 acres of irrigation).

Financial Summary

Ministry of Agriculture 2020-21 Estimates (\$369 million)		(in thousands of dollars)
Central Management and Services		\$11,767
Industry Assistance		\$3,889
Land Management		\$4,913
Policy, Trade and Value Added		\$5,846
Research and Technology		\$32,958
Regional Services		\$37,026
Programs		\$25,511
Business Risk Management		\$244,330
Ministry Operations Appropriation		\$366,240
Non-Appropriated Expense Adjustment		\$2,667
Total Expense		\$368,907

For more information, see the Budget Estimates at: <http://www.saskatchewan.ca/budget>



For More Information

Please visit the ministry's website at <http://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/government-structure/ministries/agriculture>