

Business Plan

2022-23

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

Saskatchewan! 

Statement from the Minister



***The Honourable David Maritz
Minister of Agriculture***

I am pleased to present the Ministry of Agriculture 2022-23 Business Plan. Our agriculture industry is diverse, dynamic and incredibly resilient.

Last year, livestock producers were challenged to access adequate feed and water to maintain their herds due to widespread drought. We worked closely with industry and our federal and provincial counterparts to find solutions.

Our response included the Canada-Saskatchewan Drought Response Initiative to help producers maintain the breeding herd, amendments to Saskatchewan Crop Insurance so producers could more easily salvage their crops as a feed source for livestock, and enhancements to the Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program.

These programs helped livestock and crop producers through extremely dry conditions and protected our economy from further harm. Budget 2022-23 is focused on further strengthening and protecting Saskatchewan, by investing in priority programs and services in health care, education, social services, the protection of people and property, and agriculture.

The 2022-23 Agriculture budget demonstrates a strong commitment to sector growth, risk management and agricultural research. The ministry will help supply the industry the tools needed to move through current challenges, such as continued dry conditions, while positioning producers for long-term growth. There is strong support for the suite of agriculture business risk management programming offered under the federal-provincial Canadian Agricultural Partnership, including a Crop Insurance Program that offers record average coverage of \$405 an acre. The ministry will also continue to invest in Canadian Agricultural Partnership strategic programming. Building for the future, this year's budget includes record funding for agricultural research and additional support for irrigation. Our ministry is also providing increased support for animal welfare enforcement.

We look forward to working with industry as we seek to capture the great opportunities the agriculture sector offers.

2022-23 Budget Highlights

1	\$338.5 million to fully fund a suite of Business Risk Management programs, including Crop Insurance, AgriStability, AgriInvest and Livestock Price Insurance.
2	\$71.2 million for strategic programs under the federal-provincial Canadian Agricultural Partnership in six key areas of focus, including: science research and innovation; environmental sustainability and climate change; risk management and assurance systems; value-added agriculture and agri-food processing; public trust; and, markets and trade.
3	\$2.5 million of additional provincial support is being provided for irrigation development to help producers develop irrigation infrastructure projects.
4	\$1.6 million to Animal Protection Services of Saskatchewan for sustainable animal welfare enforcement in the province, an increase of \$800,000.
5	\$33.8 million for agricultural research, including \$2 million in new funding for the Global Institute for Food Security to define, accelerate and communicate the agriculture sector's contributions to improved environmental outcomes.

Response to Government Direction

Saskatchewan is back on track. The Government of Saskatchewan is protecting and strengthening our province, carefully managing spending while investing in priority programs and services and into a strong and growing economy. Government is helping build a better Saskatchewan, investing in needed infrastructure – hospitals, schools, highways and municipal and crown capital projects.

Saskatchewan's financial picture is improving, with a fiscal plan to return the budget to balance. The resurgent economy helps ensure the services, programs and infrastructure Saskatchewan people value are sustainable today and into the future. Saskatchewan is back on track.

Saskatchewan's Vision

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

>> Government Goals

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 2022-23 annual reports.

Mandate

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

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

Goal 1: Growth in the primary agriculture sector

Primary production is the foundation of economic growth in the sector and is the focus of several Growth Plan goals. Saskatchewan will continue to invest in a strong primary production system by growing crop production in the province and increasing livestock cash receipts. Growth will come through increased research and development in new crop technologies, improved livestock genetics, increased adoption of modern farming techniques, expansion in irrigation and new crop varieties. Growth in agri-food exports will be a result of increasing primary production in the province, supported by work to diversify markets and capitalize on new market opportunities.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Enhance the business environment to attract investment and support growth.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Identify and address barriers to growth in the primary agriculture sector.
- Influence federal policies and regulations to reflect Saskatchewan priorities and support economic growth in the sector.
- Support Indigenous engagement in the agriculture sector.
- Support irrigation expansion by providing technical expertise, policy direction, programs and services.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

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

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Develop extension materials and deliver extension services that result in improved productivity and sector competitiveness.
- Identify key research priorities to address industry opportunities and challenges.
- Promote management practices that increase productivity and profitability on rangeland.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Create trade opportunities.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Pursue and support a pan-Canadian approach to market access issues.
- Expand product and market development opportunities.

Performance Measures: *What success looks like*

The targets for growing primary agriculture include increasing crop production to 45 million metric tonnes, increasing annual livestock cash receipts to \$3 billion, growing agri-food exports to \$20 billion and expanding irrigation in the province by adding 85,000 new irrigated acres.

Goal 2: Growth in the value-added sector

Value-added production is one of the most important economic drivers for the growth of Saskatchewan's economy over the next decade, as noted in Saskatchewan's Growth Plan. Saskatchewan has experienced one of the fastest growing value-added industries in Canada, with rapid growth from \$3.5 billion in revenue in 2012 to \$6.8 billion in 2020. Turning raw products into ingredients and increasing processing of primary production within Saskatchewan will increase value-added agriculture revenue. A larger crop in Saskatchewan will support the increased value-added processing sector.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Enhance a competitive business environment and attract investment.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Identify and address constraints and opportunities in the value-added sector.
- Support the development of a strong marketing strategy that showcases Saskatchewan's competitive advantages.
- Assess gaps in research infrastructure and identify opportunities to enable investment.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

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

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Design a strategic policy framework for future value-added agricultural programming that supports growth in value-added agriculture revenue.
- Develop and deliver a suite of programs and services to support growth in the value-added sector.
- Undertake missions and projects that support the export growth of Saskatchewan commodities and value-added goods.

Performance Measures: *What success looks like*

Saskatchewan's 2030 Growth Plan has set an ambitious target to grow Saskatchewan's value-added sector to \$10 billion in revenue. Canola processing currently represents the largest portion of revenue from Saskatchewan's value-added sector. The target to crush 75 per cent of the canola produced in Saskatchewan by 2030 is on track due to five new or expanded canola crush facilities being announced in the province in 2021 and early 2022. Other 2030 goals in Saskatchewan's Growth Plan include processing 50 per cent of Saskatchewan pulse crops and doubling meat processing and animal feed revenue to \$1 billion.

Goal 3: Improve the agriculture sector's long-term resiliency

To continue to have a resilient agriculture industry, all three pillars of sustainability are important: economic, environmental and social. To ensure producers can sustainably produce food into the future, Saskatchewan must continue to anticipate and prepare for emerging risks and opportunities for the sector. A sustainable and resilient agriculture industry is important for the success of the sector and the wider provincial economy.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Improve sector preparedness for natural and economic shocks.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Targeted work and promotion of crops and livestock biosecurity, surveillance, response and mitigation efforts.
- Strengthen initiatives on emergency preparedness and response.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

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

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Targeted work on Business Risk Management programming to ensure it remains effective and meets the needs of industry and government.
- Undertake consultations and identify priorities for the next policy framework.
- Support industry in preparing for sustainable sourcing requirements in the marketplace.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

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

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Enhance protection of critical habitat on Crown land.
- Design and implement policies to achieve the goal of maintaining native prairie.
- Develop a plan to manage invasive species.
- Increase adoption of nutrient stewardship practices that protect the environment and enhance productivity/resiliency.

Performance Measures: *What success looks like*

Prairie Resilience, A Made in Saskatchewan Climate Change Strategy, includes several agriculture-related measures and targets intended to strengthen Saskatchewan's ability to thrive within a changing climate. For agriculture, this includes ensuring crop diversification, specifically that no one crop type will rise above 50 per cent of the cultivated area in Saskatchewan; maintaining the area of natural land at the 2016 level of just over 19.9 million acres; the sequestration of organic matter; and, targeting realized net farm income to not decrease by 50 per cent from the previous five-year average.

Goal 4: Public trust in the agriculture sector

The Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture helps build public trust by working with industry to do the right thing, providing effective assurance systems, and helping raise awareness about modern agricultural production. Ensuring the public understands and appreciates the role agriculture plays in Saskatchewan and how it contributes to our quality of life helps ensure the industry maintains consumer confidence and access to the tools and technology needed for producers' continued success.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Encourage and support industry to adopt best practices.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Understand the public trust concerns related to modern agriculture.
- Deliver programs and services that encourage the industry to adopt best practices.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Promote food safety, animal health and agricultural environmental practices.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Work with industry stakeholders to identify present and emerging public trust concerns in Canadian and international markets.
- Provide the public with timely and accurate information about regulatory and monitoring activities.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Partner to build awareness about modern agriculture.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

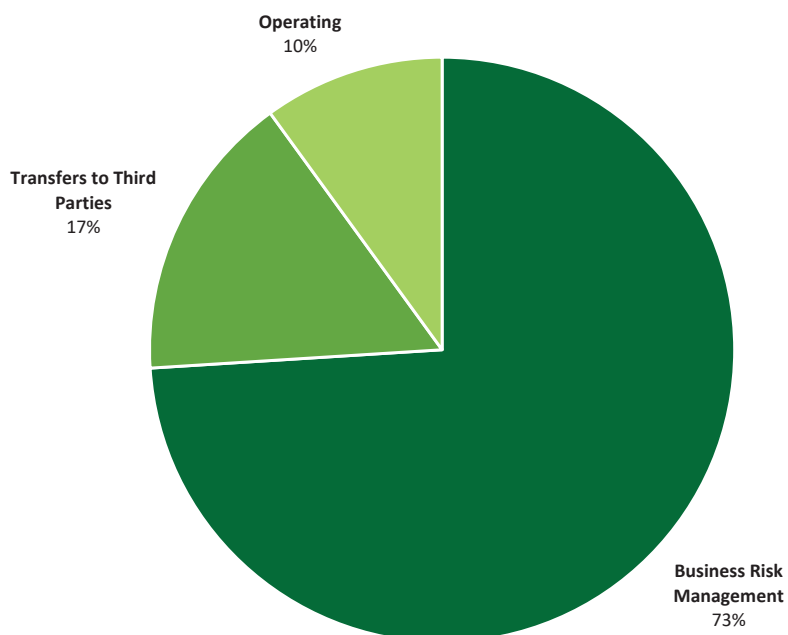
- Support the industry to connect with consumers and youth.
- Partner with stakeholders to tell the story of the benefits of modern agriculture practices.

Performance Measures: *What success looks like*

The ministry aims to maintain a positive score of at least 85 per cent in its annual public trust survey, in which Saskatchewan residents are asked if they have a positive perception of Saskatchewan agriculture.

Financial Summary

Ministry of Agriculture 2022-23 Estimates (\$ 462.4 million)	(In thousands of dollars)
Central Management and Services	\$12,025
Industry Assistance	\$3,889
Land Management	\$4,689
Policy, Trade and Value Added	\$6,032
Research and Technology	\$34,978
Regional Services	\$35,307
Programs	\$24,838
Business Risk Management	\$338,487
Ministry Operations Appropriation	\$460,245
Remediation of Contaminated Sites	(\$150)
Non-Appropriated Expense Adjustment	\$2,319
Total Expense	\$462,414



Link to More Information

[Ministry of Agriculture](#)
[Government of Saskatchewan Budget, Planning and Reporting](#)