

Ministry of Agriculture

Annual Report for 2021-22

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Letters of Transmittal



*The Honourable David Marit
Minister of Agriculture*

July 28, 2022

His Honour, the Honourable Russell Mirasty,
Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan

May it Please Your Honour:

I respectfully submit the Annual Report of the Ministry of Agriculture for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Marit". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David Marit
Minister of Agriculture



*Rick Burton
Deputy Minister of Agriculture*

July 28, 2022

The Honourable David Marit
Minister of Agriculture

Dear Minister:

I have the honour of submitting the Annual Report of the Ministry of Agriculture for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Burton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rick Burton
Deputy Minister of Agriculture

Ministry Overview

The Ministry of Agriculture's mandate is to help industry manage risk and enable a globally competitive, thriving and sustainable agriculture and food sector by supporting farmers, ranchers and agri-businesses. Our mission is to enable a prosperous, market-driven agricultural industry through a supportive legislative framework, policies, programs and services. We fulfill this mission by providing a broad range of agriculture-related programs, insurance and economic development opportunities to grow the industry.

Key programs delivered over the past year include extension to Saskatchewan producers through the ministry's 10 regional offices, including the Agriculture Knowledge Centre. Specialists work directly with farmers and ranchers on everything from technology transfer, to crop and livestock management, to environmental planning. In response to serious drought across much of the province, the ministry also worked with the federal government to deliver the 2021 Canada-Saskatchewan Drought Response Initiative to provide immediate relief to livestock producers. The Ministry of Agriculture's employees are committed to providing excellent service to the farmers, ranchers and agri-businesses of the province. Agriculture is reflected in the history of Saskatchewan and we are proud to continue that tradition through working partnerships with our clients. Ministry employees reflect professional values and a passion for their work, including innovation, teamwork, integrity, service excellence and leadership at all levels.

We delivered a suite of business risk management and strategic programs in partnership with the federal government through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership agreement, providing producers and processors the tools and resources they need to innovate and capitalize on emerging market opportunities.

We also work to increase the public's knowledge of the sustainable farming practices that help drive our economy. We strive to grow primary and value-added agriculture in the province and engage with industry and other governments to secure market access and increase the demand for Saskatchewan food products around the world. We maintain legislation and regulations to ensure public safety, while protecting the environment. We support agricultural research and ensure producers have access to the latest technology that helps them grow. We support the continued expansion of provincial irrigation infrastructure so farmers can capitalize on higher value crops. We manage thousands of acres of agricultural Crown land for the benefit of all Saskatchewan citizens.

This report provides an update on how the ministry progressed on its public commitments noted within the [Plan for 2021-22](#).

Progress in 2021-22

Government Goals



**A Strong
Economy**



**Strong
Communities**



**Strong
Families**

Ministry of Agriculture Goal 1 - 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.

- Created an action plan to identify transportation and labour constraints in the agriculture sector.

Work with government, partners and industry stakeholders to ensure agriculture development processes are clear, predictable and transparent.

- Supported the Water Security Agency (WSA) to develop a Wetland Mitigation Policy, which included an engagement strategy and action plan and began the development of a strategic framework for the Next Policy Framework programming as it relates to the Water Management Strategy.
- Worked with the WSA to implement process improvements that reduced Aquatic Habitat Protection Permit wait times for clients.

Influence federal policies and regulations to create a better business environment.

- Worked with the Ministry of Immigration and Career Training to review provincial labour market and immigration programs to ensure they are applicable to the agricultural sector and assisted on changes to the Temporary Foreign Worker Program.
- Advocated for the needs of Saskatchewan producers for relevant programming and policies when working with federal and other provincial-territorial governments, which included reviewing the federal government's "What We Heard" Report on the Canada Grain Act consultations and providing input into the Canadian Grain Commission Science Strategy.

Deliver programs and services to maximize irrigation capacity in Saskatchewan.

- Continued the administration and delivery of irrigation programs under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, specifically the Irrigation Development Program and Irrigation Efficiency Program.
- A total of 10,043 acres were developed across the province in 2021.

Support Indigenous engagement in the agriculture sector.

- Established the "Building and Strengthening Indigenous Supports" (BASIS) initiative. The BASIS team promotes agricultural programs and services to all 74 First Nations and Métis regions in Saskatchewan, and the team continues to support future growth and opportunities within these communities. This team also supported the 2021 Witsaskewin Indigenous summit, to raise awareness of programs and services offered by the ministry.
- The Agriculture Demonstration of Practices and Technologies (ADOPT) program eligibility was extended to include First Nations communities.

Strategy

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

Key Actions

Leverage industry partnerships, in collaboration with research institutions, to invest in research and to identify priorities for the development of new technology, practices and extension information.

- Industry partners provided approximately \$4.5 million in co-funding support for Agriculture Development Funding (ADF) projects, which resulted in a total government-sector investment of \$17.7 million in research projects that will support a competitive and sustainable sector.

Drive adoption of new technology and practices that support economic growth while protecting the environment and building public trust.

- Led 17 demonstrations and applied research projects, specifically on increasing land productivity and nutrient management.
- In partnership with industry, specifically the eight Agri-ARM sites, hosted 14 field days with over 3,000 producers in attendance.
- Promoted land management practices that maintain or increase land productivity through the delivery of Farm Stewardship programming.

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.

- Increased the collaboration and coordination between the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Trade and Export Development, to advocate for Saskatchewan's agricultural trade and export interests to the Government of Canada when negotiating trade agreements.

Enhance coordination with other ministries, provinces, industry partners and the federal government to identify and address trade issues.

- Saskatchewan co-chaired the Federal-Provincial Agricultural Trade Policy Committee and facilitated a member roundtable to help communicate provincial interests and priorities to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC).
- Saskatchewan joined AAFC's Mexico Industry Working Group to coordinate efforts related to engagement with Mexico.
- Ensured timely provision of information on trade and market access concerns to 25 industry associations.

Leverage partnerships with Canadian provinces, the federal government and key trade partners, to influence trade policy.

- In collaboration with Canadian provinces, U.S. states, and Mexican states, established the first subcommittee of the Tri-National Agricultural Accord in recent history, offering a new avenue for in-depth discussions on agriculture biotechnology and trade.
- Canadian provinces and U.S. states jointly sent a letter to Chief Veterinary Officer networks in the two countries to facilitate relationship-building, in the context of animal disease preparedness efforts related to African swine fever.
- Acted as delegation lead on behalf of Canadian provinces at the 2021-22 annual Tri-National Agricultural Accord summit, which involved co-chairing key meetings with U.S. and Mexican counterparts and leading negotiation of outcomes like the forum's Terms of Reference and the Joint Statements and Communique materials.

Strategy

Expand product and market development opportunities.

Key Actions

Increase industry's trade capacity to support growth.

- Developed six market intelligence/analysis reports for the industry.
- Negotiated a new contract with Saskatchewan Trade and Export Partnership for the final year of the Canadian Agricultural Partnership.

Promote Saskatchewan's interests in key high-growth markets while strengthening trade relationships in established markets.

- Updated marketing materials and translations in Arabic, Mandarin, Japanese and Spanish. Marketing material packages were mailed to 19 domestic stakeholders in Saskatchewan, and digital links to the materials were sent to 31 trade centres in priority markets.
- Supported the Ministry of Trade and Export Development on the continued onboarding of managing directors of new trade offices, who are working on projects to connect international stakeholders with our domestic industry.

Performance Measure Results

Annual Crop Production

Target: Under *Saskatchewan's Growth Plan*, increase crop production to 45 million metric tonnes (MMT) by 2030.

Saskatchewan's crop production for 2021 came in at 21.15 MMT, 53 per cent lower than in the previous year. The reduction is attributed to the dry conditions of 2021, combined with the low soil moisture reserves going into the spring season. While modern crop varieties are resilient, there is still a need for sufficient and timely moisture to maintain yields in our prairie climate. As precipitation returns to normal, we anticipate that crop production will again trend upward.

Annual Livestock Sector Revenue

Target: Under *Saskatchewan's Growth Plan*, increase annual farm livestock cash receipts to \$3 billion by 2030.

Annual livestock cash receipts are estimated to be \$2.6 billion in 2021, which is \$300 million above the 2021 target of \$2.3 billion and \$400 million above the \$2.2 billion in 2020. However, the impact of prolonged drought during the 2021 growing season and high feed prices, coupled with the uncertainty of the upcoming growing season, significantly impacted the livestock industry. To assist producers during this unprecedented time, the ministry:

- Made approximately \$277 million in payments to support the livestock sector through the federal-provincial Drought Response Initiative.
- Made changes to AgriStability to eliminate the reference margin limit, making the program more predictable and equitable across all agriculture sectors, and paid out more than \$12.5 million in additional benefits.
- Temporarily increased the maximum funding a livestock producer could receive from the Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program to \$150,000, including expanding the government portion of the cost-share to 70 per cent for costs above \$50,000.
- Saskatchewan Crop Insurance also made changes to their programs to assist producers.

As precipitation returns to normal, we anticipate that our livestock industry will rebound and grow.

Value of Agri-Food Exports

Target: Under *Saskatchewan's Growth Plan*, the province's agri-food exports is \$20 billion by 2030.

In 2021, Saskatchewan's agriculture and agri-food exports totaled \$17.5 billion, the highest value on record, which represented 21.2 per cent of Canada's total agri-food exports of \$82 billion. High commodity prices were a major contributing factor to the increases seen in some of Saskatchewan's top agriculture commodities. Dry pea exports to China increased by 28 per cent (\$609 million), while durum exports to Algeria increased by 133 per cent (\$325 million). Canola seed and canola products saw exports increase; canola seed exports increased to our top three export markets, including China, Japan and Mexico; and canola oil and canola meal to the United States increased by 72 per cent (\$1.9 billion) and nine per cent (\$491 million) respectively.

Irrigation Development

Target: Under *Saskatchewan's Growth Plan*, expand irrigation in the province, by adding 85,000 new irrigated acres by 2030.

A total of 10,043 acres were developed across the province in 2021, resulting in approximately 390,000 total irrigated acres in Saskatchewan. Planning work has been ongoing on various irrigation projects around the province. In addition, the feasibility study continued for the Lake Diefenbaker Irrigation Projects, with the goal to expand irrigation capacity in the province over several decades.

Irrigation provides a reliable water source for crops to offset the impact of unpredictable weather. Expanding irrigation infrastructure in Saskatchewan will increase primary production and on-farm profitability by supporting the growth of diverse, high-value crops, which in turn provides more opportunities for value-added processing. Government's main priorities for irrigation expansion projects center on affordability, Indigenous engagement, and environmental requirements.

Government Goals

**A Strong
Economy**

**Strong
Communities**

**Strong
Families**

Ministry of Agriculture Goal 2 - Growth in the Value-Added Sector

Strategy

Enhance a competitive business environment and attract investment.

Key Actions

Identify and address sector-level constraints to grow Saskatchewan value-added businesses and attract investment.

- In May 2021, the ministries of Agriculture and Trade and Export Development held engagement sessions with stakeholders to discuss how to advance the Growth Plan priority of doubling value-added agriculture revenue in the province by 2030. The session identified opportunities and constraints to growth.
- Collaborated with the Ministry of Trade and Export Development's international offices and STEP on agriculture and agri-value development opportunities in Saskatchewan.
- Supported the development of working groups to coordinate enhanced service to investors and look at options and tools to enable and encourage industrial site development.

Develop and implement targeted promotional activities to attract investment.

- Supported the Ministry of Trade and Export Development to promote the value-added agriculture sector in target markets. For example, the two ministries worked together on the *Strong. Sustainable. Saskatchewan.* campaign which profiled sustainability and innovation in priority sectors including agri-value. The campaign targeted investors and buyers in the new international office locations and the United States. Results for the advertising directed to agri-value investors and buyers included 660,000 video views on LinkedIn and 7.1 million video views on relevant websites.
- Supported the Ministry of Trade and Export Development to facilitate several major value-added agriculture investments in Saskatchewan. The work of both ministries has helped investing companies to find solutions to project challenges, allowing investments to move ahead.
- Saskatchewan's international offices in Singapore, China, India and Japan provided in-market support to Saskatchewan, leading producers seeking to grow exports of high-quality Saskatchewan agri-products.

Assess gaps in research infrastructure and identify opportunities to enable investment in research or scale-up facilities.

- Prepared a report outlining the value-added processing-related research and infrastructure gaps and provided recommendations to fill these gaps.
- Began reviewing the Strategic Research Program Chair's frameworks, including two value-added processing chairs, to ensure strong alignment with the 2030 Growth Plan.
- Government opened new international offices in Mexico, the United Kingdom, the United Arab Emirates and Vietnam, adding to existing offices in China, India, Japan and Singapore. These offices support Saskatchewan exporters, work with potential investors, work with federal trade commissioners to promote Saskatchewan's value-added and food ingredients sectors and address market access challenges, and support partnerships and collaboration between research institutions and business councils.
- Worked with the Ministry of Trade and Export Development on ministerial missions to advance agriculture and agri-food exports and investment.

Strategy

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

Key Actions

Review the current inventory of Government of Saskatchewan programs and services and identify how to address gaps and misalignment.

- Reviewed the current CAP programming in conjunction with stakeholder consultation and engagement to advance value-added programming for the next policy framework.

In collaboration with other service providers, improve the coordination of pathfinding services for value-added agriculture businesses.

- The Saskatchewan Lean Improvements in Manufacturing (SLIM) program approved 15 new infrastructure upgrade projects for \$5.3 million in funding for adoption of new technologies and processes to enhance productivity.
- Participated on a ministry and Crown corporation working group that will enhance the government's ability to deliver projects in an effective, strategic and agile way, with a focus on achieving efficiencies and savings.
- Held discussions with partners and stakeholders on future areas of service to support the industry.

Support market development for agriculture value-added businesses to access key markets.

- The Product2Market: Value-added program approved 11 market development projects for \$143,525 in funding to increase the exposure of Saskatchewan agriculture products to new or existing markets.
- Assessed the provincial meat inspection system through domestic comparability assessment tool developed by Canadian Food Inspection Agency for provincial-territorial governments to assess their food safety systems against the federal system.

Performance Measure Results

Annual Value-Added Revenue

Target: Under *Saskatchewan's Growth Plan*, grow Saskatchewan's value-added sector to \$10 billion in revenue by 2030.

Saskatchewan's value-added revenue for 2020-21 is estimated at \$6.8 billion, an increase of approximately \$98 million from 2019-20.

Saskatchewan's food manufacturing sector represents approximately 95 per cent of the province's total value-added revenue. Furthermore, approximately 70 per cent of the total food manufacturing revenue is attributed to the grain and oilseed processing sector.

Canola Processing in Saskatchewan

Target: Under *Saskatchewan's Growth Plan*, crush 75 per cent of the canola produced in Saskatchewan by 2030.

Since March 2021, five significant canola processing projects have been announced in Saskatchewan, to be completed over the next three to five years. These new projects will add 6.8 million tonnes of crush capacity with a capital expenditure of \$4 billion to the provincial economy. The employment impacts of the five projects are estimated at 550 direct permanent jobs and 5,200 jobs during construction. Once all these operations are at capacity, the revenue from the oil and meal is estimated to be \$5.6 billion. When all new projects are complete, combined with existing operating facilities, Saskatchewan's estimated processing capacity will reach 10.7 million metric tonnes or approximately 70 per cent of the 2030 Growth Plan canola production forecast of 15.2 million metric tonnes.

Saskatchewan Pulse Crop Processing

Target: Under *Saskatchewan's Growth Plan*, 50 per cent of Saskatchewan pulse crops are processed in the province by 2030.

Saskatchewan processes approximately 30 per cent of the pulses produced in the province into various flours, protein concentrates and split commodities.

In the latter part of 2021, Ingredion completed the expansion of their manufacturing facility in Vanscoy to offer new production capacity for pulse flours and concentrates. The increased capacity, along with new proprietary processes, will allow them to produce a broad range of plant proteins for use in more food and pet food products. A new faba bean processing facility in Melfort is being developed and is expected to complete construction in the summer of 2022. These operations will support continued movement towards the Growth Plan target.

Saskatchewan Meat and Animal Feed Processing

Target: Under *Saskatchewan's Growth Plan*, double meat processing and animal feed revenue from \$550 million to more than \$1 billion by 2030.

The livestock sector provides a critical local market for lower-quality crops and by-products from processing activity.

Saskatchewan needs to strengthen and grow its livestock sector to drive demand for animal feed manufacturing and increase the production of high-protein pet food to meet the increased demand for this product. North 49 Foods started constructing a sow processing facility at the former XL Beef Plant in Moose Jaw. The plant will be commissioned in the winter of 2022/23.

Meat processing revenue for the fiscal year ending 2021 was \$656 million while animal feed revenue was \$354 million.

There are several other meat processing projects at various stages of development, with some projects being led by Indigenous groups.

Government Goals



**A Strong
Economy**



**Strong
Communities**



**Strong
Families**

Ministry of Agriculture Goal 3 - Improve the Agriculture Sector's Long-Term Resiliency

Strategy

Improve sector preparedness for natural and economic shocks.

Key Actions

Develop and promote biosecurity plans for crop and livestock pests that focus on surveillance, response and mitigation efforts.

- In collaboration with the Ministry of Government Relations and Crown Corporations (SaskEnergy, SaskPower, and SaskTel), completed a desktop pilot project to estimate the cost of implementing biosecurity practices and using clubroot as a model to develop a risk matrix.
- Collaborated with federal/provincial/territorial partners on biosecurity, surveillance, response and mitigation efforts; for example, participated in the Canadian Plant Health Council and Animal Health Canada.
- Established funding agreements with western provinces to participate in the Western Canadian Animal Health Surveillance Network.

Strengthen initiatives on livestock emergency preparedness and response.

- Worked with SaskPork on developing a swine market disruption plan, along with other provincial governments, AAFC and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency on developing and implementing an action plan for African swine fever.

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.

- Worked with AAFC and the other provinces to analyze BRM program performance, emphasizing improving AgriStability and examining the cost of AgrilInsurance by sector. The work is now being used to negotiate changes to the multilateral framework agreement language and implement short-term changes to improve AgriStability's timeliness.

Work with the Ministry of Environment to implement a provincial carbon offset system to respond to climate change that aligns with the agriculture sector's priorities.

- The ministry continues to work with the Ministry of Environment to develop an offset strategy to meet the needs of the agriculture sector.

Undertake consultations and identify priorities for the next federal/provincial policy framework agreement.

- Held multiple rounds of industry consultations to prepare for the Next Policy Framework. The inputs gathered were reflected in the development of a Federal/Provincial/Territorial Policy Statement and the alignment of negotiation strategies with industry priorities.

Review Ministry of Agriculture's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Leveraged lessons learned from ad-hoc initiatives implemented during the pandemic to develop a protocol for implementing emergency response initiatives to be incorporated into the ministry emergency plan.

Support industry in preparing for sustainable sourcing requirements in the marketplace.

- Published a series of Sask AG Now articles that discussed the priority principles of regenerative agriculture and provided relevant, scientific information to Saskatchewan producers.

Strategy

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

Key Actions

Focus extension efforts on encouraging Saskatchewan producers to adopt 4R practices (“right source, right rate, right place, right time”) for nutrient stewardship.

- Crop Diagnostic School hosted a station on “Soil Phosphorus Fertility and Compaction” with 643 registrants.
- Provided the Agronomy Research Update presentation on drought impacts on fertility management which had 696 attendees.
- Distributed three Crop Protection News articles: Anhydrous ammonia application in dry conditions; soil testing; impact of nutrient carryover in 2022 crop.
- Sask AG Now article developed on Application alternatives for soil fertility.
- Hosted a “Seed-Placed Fertilizer” webinar.

Develop a multi-species approach for management of critical habitat to benefit species at risk.

- A research project is underway to assist the ministry in understanding how producers are managing leases on Crown land designated as critical habitat.

Support strategies that minimize agricultural impact on water quality, water quantity and habitat loss.

- Worked with the WSA on an application to the federal government’s Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund. The project would look at inventorying existing programs related to wetland loss and climate change and piloting an integrated package of nature-based solutions.

Design and implement policies and programs to achieve the goal of maintaining permanent cover (native prairie, pasture and hay land).

- Took steps to assess policies that could influence the maintenance of permanent cover in the province.

Develop a plan to manage all invasive species within the agriculture sector that can be leveraged within the larger invasive species plan being created across government.

- Developed a Feral Pig Strategy in collaboration with Saskatchewan Crop Insurance, Crown Investment Corporation and Ministry of Environment, and contributed to the development of Canada’s Wild Pig Strategy through the Canadian Council of Invasive Species.
- Announced that funding to control feral pigs would double.
- Announced that commercial wild boar producers would require a licence and that no licences would be issued to new entrants.
- Initiated the process to declare feral pigs as a pest under *The Pest Control Act*.
- Developed a One Government Weeds Initiative report and a Ministry Invasive Weeds Action Plan.
- Collaborated with the Ministry of Environment on the Invasive Species Framework.
- Collaborated with other provinces through the Western Forum on Pest Management, the Prairie Pest Monitoring Network, and the launch of the new Prairie Crop Disease Monitoring Network.

Initiate a proactive, comprehensive and consistent sampling approach for monitoring pesticides in the environment, in collaboration with Water Security Agency.

- Supported the Water Security Agency Base Line Environmental Monitoring of Lower Order Saskatchewan Streams program with inputs on selecting target compounds of interest to monitor based on relative importance in crop protection.
- Engaged with the Pest Management Regulatory Agency on consultations for a national water monitoring initiative.

Performance Measure Results

Natural Land

Target: Maintain the total area of natural land at the 2016 level of 19.93 million acres.

Maintaining the total area of Saskatchewan’s natural land (i.e., native prairie, pastures and hay) sequesters carbon, retains soil moisture and increases resiliency against flood and drought events. The data is derived from the census which takes place every five years; the ministry will therefore assess the measure when the 2021 census data is released.

Sequestration of Organic Matter

Target: Maintain the current five-year average of 5.6 million tonnes of soil organic matter accumulation per year.

The ministry continues to promote agricultural practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions such as zero-tillage seeding. Based on information from the 2021 National Inventory Report (NIR), the amount of soil organic matter accumulated in 2019 was 4.13 million tonnes (there is a two-year lag in the NIR report).

Economic Resiliency

Target: No greater than a 50 per cent decrease in realized net farm income from the previous five-year average.

The 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 2021 realized net farm income for Saskatchewan was just over \$5.5 billion, representing an increase of nearly 106 per cent from the five-year average.

Crop Diversification

Target: No one crop type (cereals, oilseeds, pulses/soybeans and summer fallow) to rise above 50 per cent of the cultivated area in Saskatchewan.

The diversification of crop species contributes to economic resiliency and positive environmental outcomes, such as enhanced soil health and better management of pests and diseases. In 2021, there were 38.1 million seeded acres. The crop with the largest share was cereals, which made up 46.9 per cent of all the crop types seeded.

Government Goals



**A Strong
Economy**



**Strong
Communities**



**Strong
Families**

Ministry of Agriculture Goal 4 - Building and Maintaining Public Trust in the Agriculture Sector

Strategy

Encourage and support industry to adopt best practices.

Key Actions

Invest in research that helps determine the impact that production practices have on public trust.

- Undertook research projects that included Alternative Strategies for Kochia Control (herbicide resistance/IPM), Top Dressing Fertilizer on Snow (4R/Climate Change) and Provincial Brush Control Demo (Crown land management).
- Developed a Strategic Research Initiative to understand how management practices influence carbon sequestration in perennial forage and pastures.

Narrow the gap between research and extension by translating findings into beneficial management practices for producers and agribusinesses.

- Organized or co-organized 31 extension events which attracted nearly 8,500 participants.
- Agri-environmental specialists assisted producers with applications and technical work on 313 applications to the Farm Stewardship Program.

Deliver and evaluate programming that encourages adopting best practices across the industry.

- Created farm safety videos on livestock handling and water safety to educate producers about safe practices on the farm.
- Formed a partnership with the Agriculture Health and Safety Network to develop a farm safety pilot project to evaluate the effectiveness of a farm safety plan.
- Designed and delivered training on food safety and animal welfare to Saskatchewan abattoirs and processing plants through the Food Centre.

Strategy

Protect food safety, animal health and the environment.

Key Actions

Influence sound regulations and monitor compliance, in partnership with industry and the federal government.

- Partnered with industry stakeholders to expand the livestock industry's ability to recognize and respond to animals in distress.
- Coordinated an approach to monitor and respond to Chronic Wasting Disease.

Increase understanding of recognized assurance systems.

- Continued to emphasize the importance of understanding assurance systems and determined a communication strategy is necessary to help facilitate this work moving forward.

Strategy

Partner to build awareness about modern agriculture.

Key Actions

Empower stakeholders to connect with consumers and youth.

- Gathered feedback through facilitated discussions with industry amplifier groups on how to communicate with consumers in a meaningful way.
- Faces of Farming video segments developed to profile different Saskatchewan producers from various backgrounds, educating consumers about the diversity and value of agriculture and building public trust.

Share stories to build confidence in Canada's robust regulatory framework and assurance systems.

- Led a working group, in collaboration with U.S. and Mexican states, to build an understanding of the safety of our agriculture output and the role of agriculture biotechnologies in addressing global food security and climate challenges.
- Supported discussions during biannual industry communicators meeting on the importance of understanding and communicating about Canada's agriculture assurance systems.

Enhance communications to stakeholders on production practices with the greatest impact on public trust.

- Created short videos highlighting the agronomic and economic benefit of 4R nutrient stewardship, as well as testimonial articles and videos about how Canadian Agricultural Partnership programming benefits clients' operations and supports a sustainable agriculture industry.

Performance Measure Results

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

Target: At least 85 per cent of respondents to the Public Trust Survey indicate that they have a positive perception of Saskatchewan agriculture.

The ministry's goal is to maintain public trust in agriculture, measured by the percentage of Saskatchewan residents who have a positive perception of agriculture. The May 2021 survey results continue to indicate Saskatchewan residents have a positive perception of Saskatchewan Agriculture, showing 89 per cent of respondents either "agree" or "strongly agree" with the statement, *I have a positive perception of Saskatchewan agriculture* and 91 per cent of respondents agree that food produced in Saskatchewan is safe.

2021-22 Financial Summary

2021-22 FINANCIAL SCHEDULES

Ministry of Agriculture Schedule of Revenue and Expenditures	(in thousands of dollars)				Notes
	2020-21 Actual	2021-22 Estimates	2021-22 Actual	Variance over (under)	
Revenue					
Land Revenue:					
Crown Land Sales	\$ 11,449	9,610	17,397	7,787	1
Rent and Penalty on Land Leases	47,400	45,006	38,900	(6,106)	2
Land Licenses and Permits	661	270	-	(270)	3
Interest	-	15	-	(15)	
Receipts from Federal Government	64,563	72,499	67,158	(5,341)	4
Privileges, Licenses and Permits	341	228	325	97	5
Sales, Services and Service Fees	551	421	822	401	6
Interest Revenue	279	5	421	416	7
Other Revenue	167	46	118	72	8
Refund of Previous Year Expenditures	2,268	250	2,235	1,985	9
Total Revenue	\$ 127,679	128,350	127,376	(974)	
Expenditure					
Central Management and Services					
	\$ 9,677	11,848	10,198	(1,650)	1
Industry Assistance					
	\$ 2,752	3,889	3,068	(821)	2
Land Management					
Land Management Services	\$ 5,199	4,404	4,433	29	
Land Revenue Bad Debt Allowances	161	100	3,622	3,522	3
Subtotal	\$ 5,360	4,504	8,055	3,551	
Policy and Planning					
Policy and Planning	\$ 3,320	3,990	3,297	(693)	4
Trade and Value-added	1,515	1,942	1,480	(462)	5
Subtotal	\$ 4,835	5,932	4,777	(1,155)	
Research and Technology					
Project Coordination	\$ 1,988	1,178	1,975	797	6
Research Programming	30,335	31,800	30,859	(941)	6
Subtotal	\$ 32,323	32,978	32,834	(144)	

(in thousands of dollars)					
Ministry of Agriculture Schedule of Revenue and Expenditures	2020-21 Actual	2021-22 Estimates	2021-22 Actual	Variance over (under)	Notes
Regional Services					
Regional Services	\$ 23,984	35,597	29,168	(6,429)	7
Programs					
Programs	\$ 20,579	24,955	23,297	(1,658)	8
Business Risk Management					
Crop Insurance Program Delivery	\$ 28,334	36,188	37,678	1,490	9
Crop Insurance Premiums	144,702	150,141	179,257	29,116	10
AgriStability Program Delivery	18,402	17,644	15,989	(1,655)	11
AgriStability	23,484	25,300	29,862	4,562	12
AgriInvest	38,275	35,700	42,689	6,989	13
AgriRecovery	-	-	111,575	111,575	14
Subtotal	\$ 253,197	264,973	417,050	152,077	
Budget Appropriation	\$ 352,707	384,676	528,447	143,771	
Supplementary Estimates/Special Warrant	-	152,813	-	(152,813)	
Total Revised Appropriation	\$ 352,707	537,489	528,447	(9,042)	
Capital Asset Acquisitions	\$ (540)	-	(224)	(224)	15
Amortization of Capital Assets	\$ 2,279	2,297	2,303	6	
Other	\$ 35	-	(14)	(14)	
Total Revised Estimates and Expenses	\$ 354,481	539,786	530,512	(9,274)	
FTE Staff Complement	305.5		317.3		1
(FTE – Full Time Equivalent)					

Explanation of Major Variances:

Explanations of Variances which exceed \$50,000 between Estimates and Actuals

Revenue

1. Increase in net land sales.
2. Decrease in lease revenue from the footprint reduction to Petroleum and Natural Gas surface leases.
3. Revenue from land licenses and permits reported under Rent and Penalty on Land Leases.
4. Decreased revenue from the federal government due to the Canadian Agricultural Partnership funding going directly into the Saskatchewan Agricultural Stabilization Fund offset by increased revenue for Crop Insurance administration costs.
5. Increased pesticide licensing fee revenue.
6. Increased land sale fees and other miscellaneous revenue.
7. Increase due to higher than expected interest revenue.
8. Increase in casual revenue.
9. Increase in the refund of prior years' expenses due to the reversal of prior year payables to fund AgrilInvest program payments.

Expenditure

1. Savings in accommodations and other operating expenses.
2. Decreased payouts under Miscellaneous Grants and reallocation of Canadian Agricultural Partnership spending to other areas under the program.
3. Increased bad debt expense due to a decline in receivable experience.
4. Decreased due to operational savings.
5. Decreased due to operational savings.
6. Decreased due to operational savings.
7. Decreased due to operational savings and reallocation of Canadian Agricultural Partnership spending under the program.
8. Decreased due to operational savings and reduction in Canadian Agricultural Partnership spending due to the federal share of payments coming directly out of Saskatchewan Agricultural Stabilization Fund partially offset by funding for future irrigation program payments.
9. Increased Crop Insurance program delivery costs paid to Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation due to their Enterprise Resource Planning project offset by operational savings.
10. Increased Crop Insurance premiums due to an increase in insured acres as well as increased prices and increased premiums due to higher Wildlife Damage Compensation Program funding resulting from higher crop prices.
11. Decreased AgriStability program delivery costs.
12. Increased provincial contributions required to fully fund the AgriStability 2021 program year costs from the original federal government's forecast.
13. Increased provincial contributions required to fully fund the AgrilInvest 2021 program year costs from the original federal government's forecast.
14. Increase in AgriRecovery Program payments due to the Drought Response Initiative, under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership agreement with the federal government. Program payments were in support of drought affected cattle producers to help maintain breeding stock.
15. Capital expenditures for leasehold improvements.

FTE Staff Complement

1. Ministry of Agriculture's 2021-22 FTE actual utilization was 317.3.

Additional financial information can be found in the Government of Saskatchewan Public Accounts located at <https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/#/categories/893>.