

# Business Plan

2023-24

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

*Saskatchewan!* 

# Statement from the Minister



*The Honourable David Marit  
Minister of Agriculture*

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I am pleased to present the Ministry of Agriculture 2023-24 Business Plan. This year, our government looks forward to a new suite of programs as part of the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a federal-provincial framework that will be in place from April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2028. We engaged extensively with industry groups and collaborated with the federal government to ensure we continue to support the long-term growth, competitiveness and sustainability of Saskatchewan's agriculture sector through this framework.

This year's budget will provide programming aligned with industry needs and with our government's Growth Plan goals. Many of this year's strategic programs will be carried over from the previous five-year Canadian Agricultural Partnership because we know they work for Saskatchewan farmers, ranchers and agri-businesses. We have also made several key enhancements. This includes a greater focus on sustainable water development, with an increased funding cap in the Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program (FRWIP) and more per acre funding in irrigation programming, record funding for agricultural research and three program streams under the Saskatchewan Lean Improvements in Manufacturing (SLIM) program. The ministry's dedicated team of agriculture specialists across the province help producers and agri-businesses capitalize on the program opportunities throughout the year.

The 2023-24 Agriculture budget also includes a strong suite of federal-provincial agricultural business risk management programs under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership, including a robust Crop Insurance program.

With this year's budget, the industry is well-positioned to not only take on the challenges inherent to agriculture, such as weather and market risks, but also to build for future success. The world needs what we produce, and Saskatchewan's farmers, ranchers and agri-businesses are ready to deliver. We look forward to working together to remain competitive, innovative and resilient.



# 2023-24 Budget Highlights

<b>1</b>	\$408.0 million to fully fund a suite of Business Risk Management programs, including Crop Insurance, AgriStability, AgriInvest and Livestock Price Insurance.
<b>2</b>	\$89.8 million for strategic programs under the federal-provincial Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership in five priority areas, including: science, research and innovation; climate change and environment; building sector capacity, growth and competitiveness; market development and trade; and, resiliency and public trust.
<b>3</b>	\$1.0 million to target invasive weed control on agricultural Crown land pastures.
<b>4</b>	\$1.9 million to Animal Protection Services of Saskatchewan for sustainable animal welfare enforcement in the province.
<b>5</b>	\$38.2 million for agricultural research, including funding for institutions that do state-of-the-art research in Saskatchewan, project funding and programs that promote the implementation of new technologies.

# Government Vision and Goals

## Saskatchewan's Vision

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**"...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."**

>> 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 2023-24 annual reports.

## Ministry of Agriculture Overview

### Mandate

The ministry helps the agriculture industry manage risk and enable 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: Grow 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 continues 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 use of 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 facilitate opportunities for growth in the primary agriculture sector.
- Influence federal policies and regulations to reflect Saskatchewan priorities and support economic growth in the agriculture sector.
- Increase Indigenous participation in the agriculture sector.
- Support irrigation development and expansion.

**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*

- 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*

- Identify and collaborate with key partners domestically and internationally to advance Saskatchewan trade interests.
- Promote the *Strong. Sustainable. Saskatchewan.* brand for the agriculture sector.

**Performance Measures:** *What success looks like*

### **Crop production, livestock cash receipts, agri-food exports and irrigation development**

Key agriculture goals in Saskatchewan's 2030 Growth Plan 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: Grow 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 the 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 resources that showcase Saskatchewan's competitive advantages.
- Promote research and commercialization funding for the value-added sector.

**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*

- Engage with trade offices to support opportunities for value-added products and businesses.

**Performance Measures:** *What success looks like*

### **Value-added revenue**

Saskatchewan's 2030 Growth Plan has set an ambitious target to grow Saskatchewan's value-added sector to \$10 billion in revenue.

### **Increase the processing of primary production in Saskatchewan**

Canola processing currently represents the largest portion of revenue from Saskatchewan's value-added sector. The target is crushing 75 per cent of the canola produced in Saskatchewan by 2030, processing 50 per cent of Saskatchewan pulse crops by 2030 and doubling meat processing revenue to \$1 billion by 2030, which includes animal feed processing.

### Goal 3: Improve the agriculture sector's long-term resiliency and public trust

Economic, environmental and social sustainability are important pillars of a resilient agriculture industry. 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. Also, the 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*

Improve sector preparedness for natural and economic shocks.

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

- Develop and promote best practices for crop and livestock biosecurity, including surveillance, response and mitigation.
- Strengthen emergency preparedness initiatives.

**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 (BRM) programming to ensure it remains effective and meets the needs of industry and government.
- Assess the sector implications of domestic and global disruptions.
- Support industry to prepare for agri-environmental risk assessments.
- Develop a plan for managing transportation and rail challenges.

**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*

- Address climate change priorities for Saskatchewan agriculture.
- Ensure continued protection of critical habitat on Crown land.
- Design and implement policies and programs to maintain natural landscapes.
- Increase adoption of nutrient stewardship practices that protect the environment and enhance productivity/resiliency.
- Control the spread of invasive weeds on private and Crown agricultural land.

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

Build public trust in the agriculture sector.

**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.
- Proactively communicate information about regulatory and monitoring activities to the public.
- Support the industry to connect with consumers and youth to build awareness about modern agriculture.
- Support the industry to improve sector transparency.

**Performance Measures:** *What success looks like*

**Meet climate change targets while the industry remains competitive and productive**

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; encourage the adoption of 4R Nutrient Stewardship practices (right source, right rate, right time and right place) on at least 25 per cent of the total farm land as a means to improve fertilizer efficiency and reduce emissions; and, targeting realized net farm income to not decrease by 50 per cent from the previous five-year average and equally improve fertilizer efficiency and reduce fertilizer emissions by 2030.

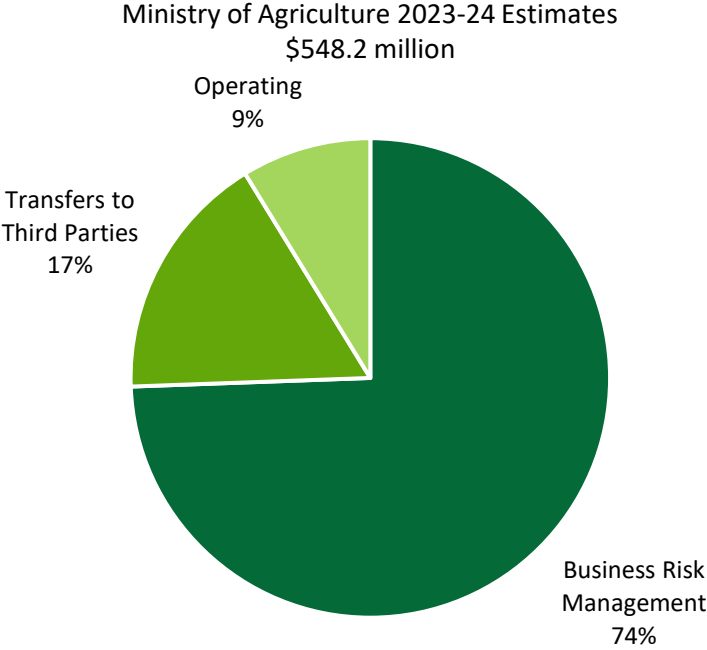
**Prioritize public trust and manage risks**

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. This score has been as high as 91 per cent in recent years.



# Financial Summary

Ministry of Agriculture 2023-24 Estimates (\$548.2 million)	(in thousands of dollars)
Central Management and Services	\$13,470
Industry Assistance	\$4,451
Land Management	\$5,714
Policy, Trade and Value Added	\$6,032
Research and Technology	\$38,178
Regional Services	\$33,741
Programs	\$36,634
Business Risk Management	\$408,033
<b>Total Appropriation</b>	<b>\$546,253</b>
Capital Asset Acquisitions	\$(300)
Non-Appropriated Expense Adjustment	\$2,283
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$548,236</b>



**Links to More Information**

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