

Annual Report

2023-24

Ministry of Agriculture

Letters of Transmittal



The Honourable David Marit
Minister of Agriculture

Office of the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan

I respectfully submit the Annual Report for the Ministry of Agriculture for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Marit".

David Marit
Minister of Agriculture



Rick Burton
Deputy Minister of
Agriculture

The Honourable David Marit
Minister of Agriculture

Dear Minister:

I have the honour of submitting the Annual Report for the Ministry of Agriculture for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Burton".

Rick Burton
Deputy Minister of Agriculture

Ministry Overview

This annual report is for the Ministry of Agriculture and presents results for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2024. It provides results of publicly committed strategies, key actions and performance measures identified in the Ministry of Agriculture [Plan for 2023-24](#). It also reflects progress toward commitments from government for 2022-23, the *Saskatchewan Growth Plan* and speeches from the throne.

Mandate Statement

The Ministry of Agriculture helps industry manage risk and enable 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.

About Us

We fulfil this mission by providing a broad range of agriculture-related programs, insurance and economic development opportunities to grow the industry. The Ministry of Agriculture's 2023-24 full-time equivalent actual utilization was 332.0.

Extension services, available to Saskatchewan producers through the ministry's 10 regional offices, including the Agriculture Knowledge Centre, provided valuable resources to producers again this year. The ministry extension team responded to many inquiries and provided technical and program-related information on topics ranging from technology transfer, crop and livestock management, environmental planning, and issues impacting their operations such as drought and labour challenges.

In 2023-24, the ministry launched an enhanced suite of strategic and business risk management programs in partnership with the federal government through a new five-year Canadian Agricultural Partnership agreement to support the province's agricultural sector. In their first year, these programs saw significant uptake.

Increasing the public's knowledge of the sustainable farming practices that help drive our economy remains a priority. We support growth in both 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.

Progress on 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 increasing crop production and 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 facilitate opportunities for growth in the primary agriculture sector.
 - The ministry conducted research and analysis of the agricultural Crown land grazing rental formula and developed options to simplify the formula and reduce yearly rental rate variability. These options will be discussed with industry to gather feedback and input.
 - The ministry created cattle producer peer groups and met every second month to discuss best practices and opportunities for increased sector profitability.
 - The ministry successfully collaborated with industry through extension events, producer peer to peer learning groups, demonstration projects and other avenues like trade-shows and social media to educate producers on how new and emerging technologies can be applied to livestock operations to address current challenges and improve profitability.
 - Launched in April 2023, the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable-CAP) programs have seen strong demand from Saskatchewan producers. The ministry continues to monitor the programs and make necessary adjustments to ensure they effectively support the province's agricultural sector.
 - The Agriculture Knowledge Centre and regional offices responded to over 12,000 inquiries and specialists provided 214 technical, informational and program-related presentations at extension events, industry meetings and post-secondary schools.
 - The ministry collaboratively funded the completion of a veterinary workforce study with Ministry of Advanced Education and the Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association to inform current gaps and opportunities to strengthen delivery of veterinary services in the province.
- Influence federal policies and regulations to reflect Saskatchewan priorities and support economic growth in the agriculture sector.
 - Saskatchewan hosted the annual meeting of the Federal, Provincial, and Territorial (FPT) Pesticides and Pest Management Committee, with a focus on evidence-based decision making and maintaining public trust in agriculture. The ministry continued to engage with the federal government, provinces - in particular Alberta and Manitoba - and various industry groups on pest management regulatory issues.

- The ministry developed messaging regarding the Pest Management Regulatory Agency's decision on lambda-cyhalothrin, and its announcement regarding Maximum Residue Limits and cosmetic pesticide bans on federal land and shared them with industry groups to reduce pesticide risk.
- The ministry continues to collaborate with CFIA, Alberta and the Lloydminster Chamber of Commerce advancing steps to address food trade issues within the city of Lloydminster. This includes working with CFIA to bring forward a proposed regulatory amendment to address these barriers to food trade which is currently in the consultation phase.
- Increase Indigenous participation in the agriculture sector.
 - The ministry, through Agri-ARMs sites, connected with indigenous communities to extend agricultural knowledge transfer. In collaboration with the Indian Head Agriculture Research Foundation, a needs assessment was conducted to better understand the extension needs of Pasqua First Nation, and there is a plan to develop a targeted field day addressing their specific agricultural interests.
 - Promoted programs and services to Indigenous clients using a variety of extension tools, including recorded presentations and information sheets summarizing key program details.
- Support irrigation development and expansion.
 - The ministry collaborated with the Ministry of Environment and Water Security Agency to finalize project requirements, identify potential opportunities and achieve consensus on moving forward with the Westside Irrigation Rehabilitation Project, part of the Lake Diefenbaker Irrigation Projects.
 - The provincial government announced more than \$19 million in investment to ensure the continued success of irrigation districts, sustain irrigation infrastructure and support future development opportunities.
 - To gain insights on common bacterial blight in dry beans, the ministry consulted with Alberta researchers and Manitoba extension specialists. The ministry published an article in the irrigator newsletter to share the knowledge with producers.

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.
 - The ministry met with the Strategic Research Program (SRP) Chairs and discussed the capacities and capabilities of Agri-ARM sites to enhance collaboration between the SRP Chairs and Agri-ARM sites to promote knowledge translation of research findings.

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.

- Minister Marit led a trade mission to Mexico in September 2023, to advance trade with key canola, wheat and other commodity stakeholders.
- The ministry partnered with the Government of Saskatchewan International Offices and industry on multiple projects internationally, including in the United Arab Emirates, Japan, Vietnam, Europe and Mexico
- Minister Marit hosted senior provincial and state agriculture representatives from across Canada, the United States, and Mexico in Saskatoon for the 2023 Tri-National Agricultural Accord. This was an opportunity to discuss agricultural trade issues with two of the province’s largest trading partners.
- Promote the Strong. Sustainable. Saskatchewan. brand for the agriculture sector.
 - The ministry collaborated with the Ministry of Trade and Export Development to showcase Saskatchewan’s sustainability efforts at COP28 in Dubai. This collaboration included hosting activities and business presentations that highlighted the province’s commitment to prioritizing environmental responsibility and agricultural production.
 - The ministry continued to promote Saskatchewan’s strong agricultural sustainability story at home and abroad. Key to our success story is new research, commissioned by the Global Institute for Food Security and executed by PRISM Lab, which shows that Saskatchewan crop production has the lowest carbon footprint amongst all major competitors, contributing to Saskatchewan agriculture being one of, if not the most, sustainable crop producer in the world.

Performance Measure Results:

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

Key agriculture goals in Saskatchewan’s 2030 Growth Plan include:

Increase crop production to 45 million metric tonnes,

- In 2023, Saskatchewan’s total crop production decreased to 31.7 million tonnes.
- In 2023, canola, chickpeas, mustard and wheat increased in seeded crop area, in acres, by 8.8 per cent, 34.2 per cent, 15.0 per cent and 7.0 per cent respectively. There were approximately 12.4 million acres of canola planted in Saskatchewan.

Increase annual livestock cash receipts to \$3 billion,

- The Growth Plan goal of increasing annual livestock cash receipts to \$3 billion has already been surpassed with \$3.54 billion in 2023.

Grow agri-food exports to \$20 billion and,

- The Growth Plan goal of increasing the value of agri-food exports to \$20 billion was surpassed years ahead of schedule, with \$20.2 billion in 2023.

Expand irrigation in the province by adding 85,000 new irrigated acres.

- To achieve this target 8,500 acres per year must be added to current irrigated acres. Through 2023, 58,268 irrigation acres were developed (24,015 acres in 2023), which is a four-year average of 14,567 acres per year. Expanding irrigation in Saskatchewan is well on track.

Progress on 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. 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.
 - Programs such as the Saskatchewan Lean Improvements in Manufacturing program and the Product Development Program under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership, will help value-added operations improve their productive capacity, profitability and support the development of new products into the marketplace.
- Support the development of resources that showcase Saskatchewan's competitive advantages.
 - The ministry finalized plans for a series of media publications highlighting the sustainability efforts of Saskatchewan's value-added sector, such as "Faces of Farming", a feature on pulse/grain processors.
 - The ministry actively supported producer-led promotional campaigns. This includes the Sask Canola Hello Canola marketing initiative, with similar plans underway for the Sask Flax campaign.
- Promote research and commercialization funding for the value-added sector.
 - The ministry, along with Ag-West Bio, organized the inaugural Meet Your Match, featuring industry and researchers involved in value-added processing research. The event provided an opportunity for Saskatchewan value-added processors to meet and connect with the researchers working in relevant areas and to understand how the research community can support industry to address their research and development needs.

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.
 - The ministry worked collaboratively with Saskatchewan Trade and Export

Partnership and the Government of Saskatchewan Japan Trade Investment Office to support seven exporters undertake their first missions to Japan since 2020.

- o During the Japan mission, the Saskatchewan delegation highlighted the province's value-added agricultural products with the potential to attract buyers in the Japanese market. To further support these efforts, the ministry also developed a comprehensive exporter catalogue that specifically profiled companies interested in the Japanese market.

Performance Measure Results:

Value-added revenue

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

- In 2022-23, value-added revenue is estimated at \$7.5 billion, and its on track to meet the 2030 target.

Saskatchewan's 2030 Growth Plan has set an ambitious target to Increase the processing of primary production. The province aims to crush 75 per cent of the canola produced in Saskatchewan in the province by 2030.

- An estimated 42 per cent of canola produced in Saskatchewan was crushed in the province in 2023-24.

Processing 50 per cent of Saskatchewan pulse crops by 2030

- An estimated 32 per cent of pulse crops were processed in-province in 2023-24.

Doubling meat processing revenue to \$1 billion by 2030, which includes animal feed processing.

- The Growth Plan goal of doubling meat and animal feed processing to \$1 billion has already been surpassed in 2022 with \$1.17 billion.

Progress on 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 continued to anticipate and prepare for emerging risks and opportunities for the sector. The ministry also helps build public trust by working with industry to do the right thing, providing effective assurance systems and helping raise awareness about modern agriculture 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.
 - To improve tracking of Verticillium Stripe in canola, the ministry aligned its survey protocols with the University of Manitoba's monitoring program. The ministry used the general canola disease survey data and developed a new distribution map for Verticillium Stripe across the province. The map is available to the public/producer and it is a valuable tool for understanding the spread of the disease.
 - The ministry actively engaged on developing plans for the Saskatchewan Lay Vaccinator Programming Initiative pilot program, for rabies, in communities, particularly Indigenous communities identified as needing improved access to vaccination services.
 - The ministry collaborated with the FPT Chief Veterinary Officer's Rabies working group subcommittee to develop a National Lay Vaccinator Guidance document.
 - During inspections of intensive livestock operations, the ministry educated producers about proper mortality management practices to minimize scavenging and prevent disease spread.
- Strengthen emergency preparedness initiatives.
 - Following the passage of the Plant Health Act, the ministry actively consulted on developing the Plant Health Regulations to support the creation of a plant health emergency policy and process.
 - The ministry, in collaboration with Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC), purchased additional trapping and surveillance equipment for aerial surveys. Collaborative efforts are ongoing at both federal and provincial levels to develop a Canadian sighting/removal map for feral pigs.
 - The ministry is engaged with and collaborated with the pork sector on African Swine Fever (ASF) preparedness, including meeting with value chain partners and SaskPork.

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.
 - The ministry partnered with the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC) to explore beneficial management practices (BMPs), such as intercropping, that minimize production risks while enhancing environmental sustainability.
- Assess the sector implications of domestic and global disruptions.
 - To address workforce challenges, the ministry conducted a comprehensive study to analyze current gaps and potential opportunities within Saskatchewan's agricultural workforce.
- Support industry to prepare for agri-environmental risk assessments.
 - Saskatchewan producers can now participate in Sustainable CAP programs requiring an agri-environmental risk assessment (AERA) with the launch of the ministry's AERA. The Saskatchewan AERA is currently used as a requirement for access to several programs under Sustainable CAP, including the Resilient Agricultural Landscapes Program; Irrigation Efficiency Program; Saskatchewan Lean Improvements in Manufacturing Program; and, Livestock Facility Emission Program – Hog Stream.
 - Through successful negotiations, the federal government has also accepted the Saskatchewan AERA as a compliance mechanism for federal AgriInvest requirements beginning in 2025.
 - Additionally, the ministry has actively informed producers about the dual benefits of sustainable sourcing practices – environmental improvement and enhanced market access.
- Develop a plan for managing transportation and rail challenges.
 - The ministry prioritized strengthening the Grain Handling and Transportation System by developing an action plan focused on the system's reliability resilience, and competitiveness.

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.
 - Promoted Resilient Agricultural Landscapes Program as a tool to encourage the implementation of best management practices, to assist producers with mitigating environmental risks while maintaining the profitability and sustainability of their operations.
- Ensure continued protection of critical habitat on Crown land.
 - To streamline and allow for targeted species at risk notifications for agricultural Crown lessees, the Ministries of Agriculture and Environment worked together to add species-specific critical habitat reservations to agricultural Crown lands within the eCLMS system.

- Design and implement policies and programs to maintain natural landscapes.
 - The ministry conducted 300-400 lease renewals and inspections on agricultural Crown land while concurrently monitoring at-risk species and critical habitat reservations. Additionally, it conducted ecological reviews to identify and retain ecologically significant lands.
 - Rangeland Health Assessments for seven pasture associations covering over 110,000 acres, were completed and the report information was presented to the pasture associations along with information on the Crown Land Pasture Association Invasive Weed Program and other ministry Sustainable CAP programming.
- Increase adoption of nutrient stewardship practices that protect the environment and enhance productivity/resiliency.
 - Developed and implemented nutrient stewardship extension information, highlighting crop production practices that improve efficiency, while optimizing production and economic sustainability.
- Control the spread of invasive weeds on private and Crown agricultural land.
 - The Crown Land Pasture Association Invasive Weed Program was implemented with twelve claims approved, and payments made to associations.

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.
 - The ministry advocated for a uniform animal welfare standard for trading partners at the Tri-National Accord conference held in Saskatoon in August 2023.
 - To advocate for Saskatchewan's excellent reputation on animal welfare and to inform Saskatchewan's trade negotiations, the ministry analyzed the potential impact of animal welfare legislation from the EU, UK and the US on Saskatchewan. A report and concise briefing notes were provided to government representatives for use at various trade forums.
 - To understand public trust in agriculture, the ministry engaged through focus groups with urban women to explore their concerns with modern practices. The ministry also collaborated with agriculture communication experts to identify key trust risks. The outcomes from these approaches will inform future actions and industry initiatives.
- Proactively communicate information about regulatory and monitoring activities to the public.
 - The ministry developed key messages regarding the 2023 water monitoring plans and collaborated with the Water Security Agency (WSA) and the federal government on a national water monitoring pilot project.
- Support the industry to connect with consumers and youth to build awareness about modern agriculture.
 - The ministry created a campaign for the Agriculture Student Scholarship Program using new social media advertising approaches. The campaign increased the profile of the program and led to an increase in submissions for the scholarship.

- The ministry piloted social media polling and is taking lessons learned from this endeavour to attempt to further engage with our audiences moving forward.
- Support the industry to improve sector transparency.
 - The ministry approved funding to support Farm & Food Care Saskatchewan's Open Farm Days project. Open Farm Days are scheduled to occur in Saskatchewan on August 10 and 11, 2024.
 - The ministry developed a transparent communications guide and facilitated discussions on transparency in agriculture with agriculture communicators. This resource empowers communicators to connect with consumers and foster greater transparency.

Performance Measure Results:

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;

- In 2022, no one crop type rose above 50 per cent of the cultivated area in Saskatchewan. Cereal crops and oilseeds continued to make up the biggest proportion of crops seeded in the province, at 48.6 per cent and 32.7 per cent respectively.

Maintaining the area of natural land at the 2016 level of just over 19.9 million acres;

- With the release of new census data in May 2022, it was reported that the total area of agricultural land under permanent cover has decreased slightly since 2016. As of 2022, 19.5 million acres of land are still under permanent cover in the province. This was anticipated due to several factors such as prolonged drought, record-high crop prices, and a declining cattle herd size in the province.

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 farmland as a means to improve fertilizer efficiency and reduce emissions; and,

- In 2022, 10.9 per cent of cultivated land in the province was under 4R designation, showing a continued increase in this measure year-over-year.

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

- This target has again been maintained, as reported in the 2023 report. There is a data lag of one year, so the 2023 Resilience Report included numbers from 2021. Therefore, in 2021 realized net farm income showed an increase of 36 per cent compared to 2020 and a 107 per cent rise compared to Saskatchewan's previous five-year average of realized net farm income. This was mainly due to high commodity prices and government support in response to drought.

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.

- 84 per cent of Saskatchewan residents have a positive perception of Saskatchewan agriculture according to the 2024 Public Trust Survey.

Financial Summary

Expense Summary

In 2023-24, the Ministry of Agriculture had expenses of \$648.1 million, which is a decrease of \$50.3 million from the revised expense budget of \$698.4 million. The revised expense budget includes supplementary estimates of \$150.2 million.

The following table outlines information on actual and budgeted expenditures by subvote. Explanations are provided for all variances between budget and actuals that are \$50,000 or greater.

(in thousands of dollars)					
Ministry of Agriculture Expense Actuals	2022-23 Actuals	2023-24 Budget	2023-24 Actuals	2023-24 Variance	Notes
Central Management and Services	\$ 10,849	13,470	11,904	(1,566)	1
Industry Assistance	\$ 2,516	4,451	4,870	419	2
Land Management					
Land Management Services	\$ 4,225	5,614	4,301	(1,313)	3
Land Revenue Bad Debt Allowances	-	100	-	(100)	4
Remediation of Contaminated Sites	150	-	-	-	
Subtotal	\$ 4,375	5,714	4,301	(1,413)	
Policy, Trade and Value-Added					
Policy and Planning	\$ 3,354	4,090	3,315	(775)	5
Trade and Value-added	1,588	1,942	1,713	(229)	6
Subtotal	\$ 4,942	6,032	5,028	(1,004)	
Research and Technology					
Project Coordination	\$ 2,009	1,178	1,083	(95)	7
Research Programming	32,960	37,000	34,767	(2,233)	7
Subtotal	\$ 34,969	38,178	35,850	(2,328)	
Regional Services	\$ 29,502	33,741	28,852	(4,889)	8
Programs	\$ 23,484	36,634	35,175	(1,459)	9
Business Risk Management					
Crop Insurance Program Delivery	\$ 36,221	36,262	36,218	(44)	
Crop Insurance Premiums	281,505	294,000	285,486	(8,514)	10
AgriStability Program Delivery	17,701	18,471	18,561	90	11
AgriStability	24,353	11,300	98,456	87,156	12
AgriInvest	42,956	48,000	45,221	(2,779)	13

(in thousands of dollars)					
Ministry of Agriculture Expense Actuals	2022-23 Actuals	2023-24 Budget	2023-24 Actuals	2023-24 Variance	Notes
AgriRecovery	-	-	36,944	36,944	14
Subtotal	\$ 402,736	408,033	520,886	112,853	
Total Appropriation	\$ 513,373	546,253	646,866	100,613	
Supplementary Estimates	-	150,221	-	(150,221)	
Total Revised Appropriation	\$ 513,373	696,474	646,866	(49,608)	
Capital Asset Acquisitions	\$ (207)	(300)	(988)	(688)	15
Amortization of Capital Assets	\$ 2,317	2,283	2,274	(9)	
Remediation of Contaminated Sites	\$ (150)	-	-	-	
Other	\$ (12)	-	(7)	(7)	
Total Expense	\$ 515,321	698,457	648,145	(50,312)	
FTE Staff Complement	320.6		332.0		1
(FTE – Full Time Equivalent)					

Notes:

1. Savings in accommodations and other operating expenses.
2. Increased payments due to a reallocation of Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership spending, partially offset by decreased payouts under Miscellaneous Grants.
3. Decreased due to operational savings.
4. No change in bad debt expense due to the receivable experience.
5. Decreased due to operational savings.
6. Decreased due to operational savings.
7. Decreased due to operational savings and reallocation of Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership spending to other areas under the program.
8. Decreased due to operational savings and reallocation of Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership spending to other areas under the program, partially offset by increased critical infrastructure project funding and increased funding for animal protection services.
9. Decreased due to operational savings and reduction in Sustainable 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.
10. Decreased Crop Insurance Premiums due to lower-than-expected premium rates and crop mix, partially offset by increased Wildlife Damage Compensation program claims primarily due to higher commodity prices.

11. Increased AgriStability program delivery costs.
12. Increased provincial contributions required to fully fund the AgriStability 2023 program year costs from the original federal government's forecast.
13. Decreased provincial contributions required to fully fund the AgriInvest 2023 program year costs from the original federal government's forecast.
14. Increase in AgriRecovery Program payments due to the Canada-Saskatchewan Feed Program under a contribution agreement with the federal government. Program payments were in support of extraordinary costs related to feed and freight for producers in drought regions. AgriRecovery Program payments also increased due to the Canada-Saskatchewan Beekeepers Extraordinary Expense Program also under a contribution agreement with the federal government. These program payments were in support of producers who experienced extraordinary loss of colonies through the winter of 2021-22.
15. Capital expenditures for leasehold improvements, system development, vehicles and office furniture and equipment.

FTE Staff Complement

16. Ministry of Agriculture's 2023-24 FTE Actual utilization was 332.0.

Revenue Summary

In 2023-24, the Ministry of Agriculture reported total revenue of \$137.6 million, an increase of \$2.7 million from the original budget of \$134.9 million. The following table outlines information on actual and budgeted revenues. Explanations are provided for all variances that are \$50,000 or greater.

(in thousands of dollars)				
Ministry of Agriculture Revenue	2023-24 Budget	2023-24 Actuals	2023-24 Variance	Notes
Revenue				
Crown Land Sales	\$ 14,000	11,595	(2,405)	1
Rent and Penalty on Land Leases	35,900	37,166	1,266	2
Receipts from Federal Government	83,860	79,660	(4,200)	3
Privileges, Licenses and Permits	228	334	106	4
Sales, Services and Service Fees	337	914	577	5
Interest Revenue	290	969	679	6
Other Revenue	46	55	9	
Refund of Previous Year Expenditures	250	6,937	6,687	7
Total Revenue	\$ 134,911	137,630	2,719	

Notes:

1. Decrease in net land sales due to pause in land auctions.
2. Increase in lease revenue.
3. Decreased revenue from the federal government due to the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership funding going directly into the Saskatchewan Agricultural Stabilization Fund. This is partially offset by an increase in transfers for program delivery.
4. Increased pesticide licensing fee revenue.
5. Increased land sale fees and other miscellaneous revenue.
6. Increase due to higher-than-expected interest revenue.
7. Increase in the refund of prior years' expenses due to the reversal of prior year payables needed to fund AgriInvest program payments.

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

