

Business Plan

2025-26

Ministry of Agriculture

Saskatchewan! 

Statement from the Minister



*The Honourable Daryl Harrison
Minister of Agriculture, Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation and
Water Security Agency*

I am honoured to present the Ministry of Agriculture's 2025-26 Business Plan, which highlights our commitment to supporting one of Saskatchewan's most vital economic sectors. Our government will continue to deliver programs and services that foster a resilient agricultural industry, ensuring its sustainability and future growth.

Over the past year, we have made significant strides in enhancing the sector. The introduction of a weather-based insurance program for intercrops and mixed forage, in partnership with the federal government, has been a notable success. In partnership with Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation, the ministry has expanded our network of weather stations and invested in satellite imagery and soil moisture data to provide producers with the in-depth information they need. We also supported livestock producers experiencing prolonged dry conditions by freezing Crown land grazing rates for 2024 at 2022 levels.

In the coming year, Saskatchewan will continue to strengthen our relationships with our international trade partners. We will promote the benefits of two-way agricultural trade, working to ensure that our producers have fair and competitive access to international markets. In 2024, Saskatchewan's agriculture and food exports totaled \$18.5 billion, highlighting the importance of maintaining and expanding these trade relationships.

Innovation is essential for adapting to a changing global climate. Saskatchewan invests more than \$37 million annually in agricultural research. Recent studies have shown that Saskatchewan has the lowest net carbon footprint among major competitors for selected crops, including canola, wheat, lentils and dry field peas. This reinforces our commitment to sustainable agricultural practices and our leadership in agricultural technology.

With innovative producers, a growing value-added sector, and strong agricultural exports, we are leading the way in sustainable and competitive agriculture. We look forward to working with the sector in 2025-26 to deliver on our achievements and drive further progress.

2025-26 Budget Highlights

1	Building resilience through improved business risk management programming: \$483.8 million in Crop Insurance Premiums and Wildlife Damage Compensation Program payments. Crop Insurance Program continues a status-quo program with updated prices, yields and premium rates. Wildlife Damage Prevention program enhancement to cover increased costs related to constructing preventative fencing measures.
2	Continue supporting producers dealing with prolonged dry conditions and ensuring continued good stewardship of Crown land: Updating the Crown land grazing formula will provide stability and will reflect current production practice and expenditures. This will allow predictability and reduce rent variability by leveling out sharp price increases or decreases for lessees.
3	Continued investment of \$89.4 million for strategic programs to support a strong Saskatchewan agri-food sector: Funding priorities include agricultural research and innovation, markets and trade, growth and competitiveness, agricultural sustainability and resiliency and public trust, as Saskatchewan continues to be a leading agri-food exporter with a growing value-added sector.
4	Continued investment in research and science: \$37 million for agricultural research, including funding for institutions that conduct 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

"...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 2025-26 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 be driven by more 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 follow from increasing primary production in the province, supported by efforts 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’s priorities and support economic growth in the agriculture sector.
- Support increased 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’s trade interests and mitigate threats.
- Promote Saskatchewan’s agriculture sustainability story.

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 annual crop production to 45 million metric tonnes, increasing annual livestock cash receipts to \$3 billion, growing agri-food exports to \$20 billion annually 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 drivers in the growth of Saskatchewan's economy over the next decade, as noted in Saskatchewan's Growth Plan. Turning raw products into ingredients and enhancing the processing of primary products within Saskatchewan will increase value-added agricultural revenue. 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 \$7.9 billion in 2023-24. A higher crop yield in the province will also support the growth of the 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 in 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*

- Engagement in key markets and international trade offices to promote value-added products and business.

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. Key agriculture goals in Saskatchewan's 2030 Growth Plan include crushing 75 per cent of the canola produced in Saskatchewan, processing 50 per cent of Saskatchewan pulse crops and doubling meat processing revenue to more than \$1 billion including 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 sector. To ensure producers can sustainably produce food into the future, Saskatchewan must continue to anticipate and prepare for emerging risks and opportunities that may impact the agriculture sector. The Ministry of Agriculture further supports public trust by collaborating with industry to act responsibly, providing effective assurance systems and educating the public 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 programming to ensure it remains effective and meets the needs of industry and government.
- Assess the sector implications of domestic and global disruptions.

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*

- Monitor and respond to climate change priorities for Saskatchewan agriculture.
- 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.
- Ensuring realized net farm income does not decrease by 50 per cent from the previous five-year average.

Prioritize public trust and manage risk

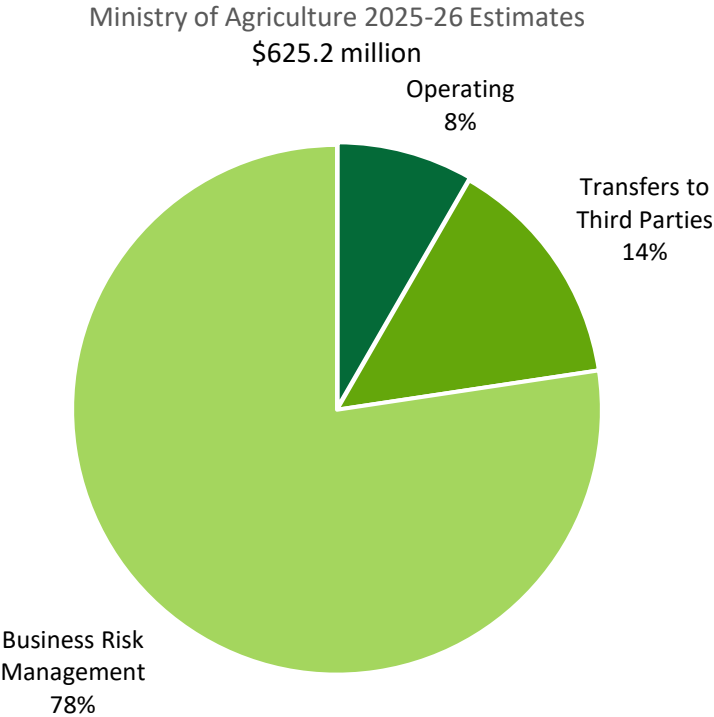
The ministry aims to maintain a positive score of at least 85 per cent in its annual public trust survey, in which Saskatchewan residents are asked if they have a positive perception of Saskatchewan agriculture.

2025-26 Improvement and Innovation Highlights

1	Productivity: The Ministry will develop, promote and support the adoption of innovative agricultural solutions to improve productivity at the farm level.
2	Profitability: The ministry will work along the entire value chain offering programs and services to drive higher profitability by adding value to our primary commodities.
3	Sustainability: The ministry will promote sustainable production practices and work to communicate Saskatchewan's leadership in sustainable agriculture with consumer and export markets.

Financial Summary

Ministry of Agriculture 2025-26 Estimates (\$ 625.2 million)	(in thousands of dollars)
Central Management and Services	\$12,889
Industry Assistance	\$4,726
Land Management	\$5,990
Policy, Trade and Value Added	\$6,357
Research and Technology	\$38,277
Regional Services	\$34,875
Programs	\$36,211
Business Risk Management	\$483,800
Total Appropriation	\$623,125
Capital Asset Acquisitions	\$0
Non-Appropriated Expense Adjustment	\$2,135
Total Expense	\$625,260



Links to More Information

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