



Saskatchewan's food ingredients industry is world-renowned as an innovative manufacturing cluster of high-quality, safe, sustainable agricultural products, including ingredients for a variety of healthy foods such as plant-based alternatives, cereals, beverages, baked goods, snacks and bars.

The strength and diversity of Saskatchewan's production base is ideal for many ingredient processors. Major crops include cereals (hard red milling wheats and durum wheat, oats, barley and rye), oilseeds (canola, flax and hemp), pulses (dry peas, chickpeas, lentils and fava beans), specialty crops (various mustards, camelina, fenugreek, coriander, quinoa, ancient grains, canary seed and wild rice) as well as fruit crops (saskatoon berries, haskap and sour (tart) cherries).

Saskatchewan agri-food exports were valued at \$18.5 billion in 2022, representing 20% of total Canadian agri-food exports.

Saskatchewan agri-food exports were valued at \$20.2 billion in 2023, representing 20.4% of total Canadian agri-food exports.

## Functional Food Ingredients

- Beta-glucans from oats and barley
- Flaxseed lignans and omega oils
- Abundant in sterols, Camelina oil
- Fenugreek (and guar gum-like fraction)
- Hempseed products – omega 3 & 6, protein
- Pea, chickpea, fava bean and lentil - (GF, starch, fibre, protein)
- Micronized pulses and (malted and toasted) grains
- Culinary and medicinal herbs
- Mustard seed (yellow, oriental, and brown)
- Specialty 'super fruits' (saskatoon berries, sour cherries, haskap berries and seabuckthorn berries)

## Cereals

Saskatchewan is the world's number one exporter of oats with 20% of world oat exports. Oat processors experiencing growth with oat beverages, milk replacement products and plant-based foods need look no further than Saskatchewan.

Wheat and pasta is big business for Saskatchewan. Long known as the 'bread basket' of the west, the province is also famous for producing 80% of Canada's durum wheat. The province is the world's leading exporter of durum wheat, exporting 3.5 million metric tonnes to 33 different countries.

Saskatchewan produces some of the world's finest barley and malt barley, accounting for more than half of Canada's barley-related exports. Saskatchewan is also a leading exporter of rye.

## Oilseeds

In 2023, Saskatchewan has been one of the world's top exporters of:

- canola seed (3.7 million metric tonnes)
- canola meal (2.2 million metric tonnes)
- canola oil (1.6 million metric tonnes)

There are additional canola processing facilities planned for construction in Saskatchewan, which will significantly increase canola crush capacity.

# Food Ingredients Industry

Canola has traditionally been used to make healthy oil and in animal feeds. However, the crop is now finding new food ingredient uses of isolated proteins in meat analogs and aquafeed, as well as other plant-based food and beverages.

Saskatchewan is also a world leader in flaxseed. The province represents 84% and 19% of Canada's and the world's flaxseed exports, respectively.

Saskatchewan is Canada's leading producer of mustard seed. Saskatchewan's mustard production accounts for 76% of Canada's annual production, Saskatchewan produces yellow, oriental, and brown types of mustards as well as camelina.

## Pulses

Sustainably produced pulse crops are in high demand in food ingredient and protein markets. Saskatchewan is a global leader in the production of lentils, dry peas, and chickpeas. Today, 91% of lentils (1.5 million metric tonnes), 49% of dry peas (1.3 million metric tonnes) and 87% of chickpeas (123,700 metric tonnes) produced in Canada are grown in Saskatchewan. Pulse protein concentrate and isolate markets are growing along with the demand for plant-based food and the markets for meat and dairy replacements. Pulse fractions for fibre and gluten-free flours with low-glycemic index also continue to see market traction.

Pulse starch also offers interesting opportunities for fermentation products.

## Fruit

The Saskatchewan fruit industry is small but mighty and bursting with potential. Saskatchewan has several 'super fruit' options for ingredient processors making syrups, juice or whole (fresh or frozen) as or dried fruits. These fruits are also great as colourants and flavourings, especially in plant based foods.

Saskatoon berries are packed full of antioxidants, and is a source of eight essential vitamins and minerals. Saskatchewan has 28% of Canada's orchards reporting saskatoon berries, and 34% of Canada's total acreage. Saskatchewan's acreage for commercial saskatoon berries is about 1,100 acres.

Sour (tart) cherries are growing in Saskatchewan. These cherries, locally bred have dark red flesh and contain dark red juice. Saskatchewan has about 17% of orchards (210 acres) reporting sour cherries.

Haskap or 'honey berry' (also known as a "fountain of youth" fruit) is grown on about 250 acres in Saskatchewan. Haskap has a blue berry like flavor with extremely high ORAC values compared to most fruits, specifically they have high levels of natural anthocyanins, polyphenols and bioflavonoid compounds. The 'dissolving' soft skin of the berries makes it excellent in ice cream and desert applications.

## Lake Diefenbaker Irrigation Projects

Saskatchewan is positioned to add further value to its agriculture sector by using our resources to build the infrastructure needed for large-scale irrigation production. In 2020, the Government of Saskatchewan announced the Lake Diefenbaker Irrigation Expansion Project. This 10-year, \$4 billion initiative is expected to create 200,000 hectares of new irrigable land, providing Saskatchewan with the opportunity to create a sustainable and secure food supply chain for Canada.

Expanding irrigation in the province will support the growth of diverse, high-value crops including fruits and vegetables. This will increase on-farm profitability, value-added processing opportunities, business attraction and employment.

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