

# Agriview



**Growing  
agriculture in  
Saskatchewan**

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# Minister's Message



  
Lyle Stewart

Welcome to the May edition of Agriview.

The 2017-18 Provincial Budget was introduced on March 22 by the Honourable Kevin Doherty, Minister of Finance. The budget is focused on Meeting the Challenge, which includes finding the right balance between addressing the deficit and ensuring that Saskatchewan people continue to have the programs, services and infrastructure that they need. The Ministry of Agriculture's budget is \$388.6 million, and continues to support Saskatchewan farmers and ranchers in driving sustainable growth in the sector. The budget includes \$264.1 million to fully fund business risk management programs, including Crop Insurance, AgriStability and AgriInvest, an increase of almost four per cent.

The 2017-18 budget also includes the decision to end the Saskatchewan Pastures Program (SPP). It was not a decision made lightly; however, our industry has evolved, as have the needs of producers. Managing private cattle is no longer a core business function of the government. This year will be the last SPP-managed grazing season for some of the 50 pastures, with the schedule for the first pasture transitions expected in early summer. The government is seeking input from pasture patrons, the wider agricultural industry, environmental groups, First Nations and Métis communities and others. There is an online survey available at [www.saskatchewan.ca/pastures](http://www.saskatchewan.ca/pastures) until May 8. Thank you to everyone who has already taken time to look at the information online and complete the survey, as your feedback will help determine the next steps.

Meeting the Challenge also includes a move to modernize and expand the tax system. The PST base is being expanded to include insurance premiums charged on or after July 1, a change that includes Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation producer premiums. The fuel tax exemption for bulk gasoline purchases has been eliminated, and reduced from 100 per cent to 80 per cent for bulk diesel purchases, for an effective tax rate of three cents a litre. Additionally, the Saskatchewan Grain Car Corporation will be wound down.

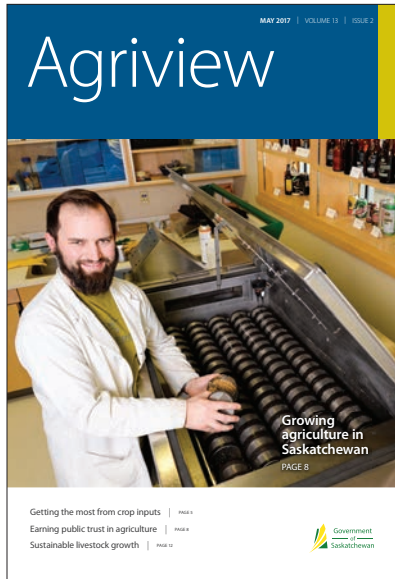
Budget 2017-18 includes funding of \$71.2 million for strategic initiatives under the federal-provincial Growing Forward 2 agreement, and again provides \$26.8 million for agricultural research. As well, \$4.2 million will support events and organizations such as Canada's Farm Progress Show and Agriculture in the Classroom.

Our agriculture industry is an important part of our diversified economy. Saskatchewan farmers produced the second largest crop in our history last year and our agriculture exports for 2016 reached \$14 billion, second only to our record-breaking year in 2015.

I am confident this budget will support the continued success of our agriculture industry. ■

**Our agriculture industry  
is an important part of our  
diversified economy.**

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# New edition of *The Irrigation Scheduling Manual* now available



**Joel Peru, PAg, CCA**  
Irrigation Agrologist  
Crops and Irrigation Branch

With intensive irrigation, producers are able to apply water to their crops when—and if—required. Consequently, irrigation scheduling is important to maximize crop yields and ensure sustainable water use. Proper irrigation scheduling will improve a farm’s profitability and efficiency by maximizing crop yield and quality, decreasing water lost through deep percolation and runoff, and optimizing pumping costs. Determining when to irrigate during a growing season is dependent on many factors.

Saskatchewan Agriculture and the Irrigation Crop Development Centre (ICDC) have jointly released the first update to *The Irrigation Scheduling Manual* since 2008. The new publication is available in book form from Saskatchewan Agriculture’s Outlook Regional Office or online on ICDC’s website at [irrigationsaskatchewan.com/icdc](http://irrigationsaskatchewan.com/icdc).

The key topics addressed in the manual include how to determine the texture and water-holding capacity of the soil, as well as the water use of several crops at specific developmental stages. The manual explains the necessary steps required for producers to schedule irrigation, from site

selection to correct water application. Updates cover the use of modern irrigation scheduling tools, including computer models (the Alberta Irrigation Management Model or AIMM) and physical devices such as watermark sensors. Step-by-step instructions on using the AIMM have been included to help producers use this free software. A section on crop water use elaborates on how much water is used in an average season, the optimum times to water and when to cease irrigation. A new feature in the manual is the crop water-use graphs for commonly grown irrigated crops in the province. The graphs display the average, maximum and minimum crop water use on a day-to-day basis for nine different crops using a 10-year climatic data average for Outlook. This gives producers insight into when their crops will require water and the quantity of water that should be used at a specific time.

The manual is designed to be relevant to both novice and experienced irrigators, so it provides basic information along with more technical details. Additional information and assistance can be obtained by contacting Saskatchewan Agriculture’s Irrigation Unit in Outlook. ■



Contact an Irrigation Agrologist at Saskatchewan Agriculture’s Outlook Regional Office, 410 Saskatchewan Ave. W., Box 609, Outlook SK S0L 2N0, or 306-867-5500.

# Getting the most out of your crop inputs



**Patrick Mooleki, PhD, PAg**  
Soil/Nutrient Management Specialist  
Agriculture Knowledge Centre, Regional Services Branch

Many factors come into play in maximizing grain yield and quality. These factors include proper seeding, right crop and variety, proper fertilizer application, appropriate weed, disease and insect protection, and cooperating weather. While producers have no control over the weather, they can work around the weather to maximize those inputs they have control over, one of which is fertilizer.

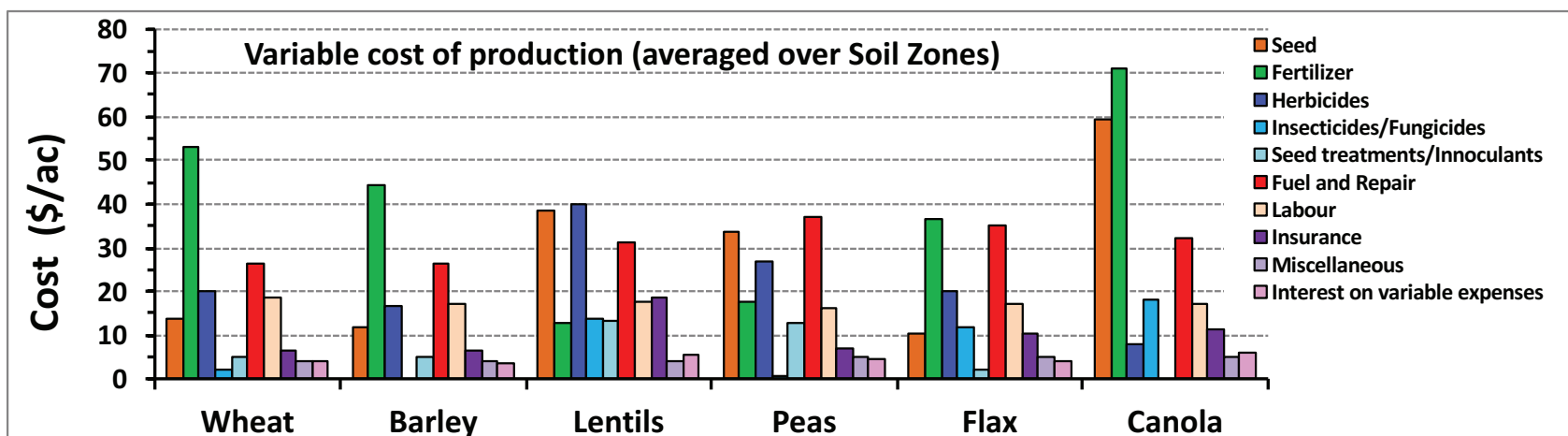
With the exception of legume crops, fertilizer constitutes the largest proportion (24 to 35 per cent) of the variable cost of production (see chart). Of all the nutrients required, nitrogen has the most direct impact on yield and quality, and accounts for approximately 70 per cent of the fertilizer cost of these crops. Therefore, it is imperative that producers pay attention to fertilizer application and ensure that they apply fertilizer at the right rate, right time, right place and using the right source. A soil test analysis will allow producers to determine which nutrients are low in their fields and need to be added as fertilizer. Contact the Agriculture Knowledge Centre for information on soil testing laboratories.

Other factors producers should consider to maximize grain yield and quality include but are not limited to:

- **CROP ROTATION:** Follow a good four-year crop rotation taking into account use of legumes, herbicide residue and re-cropping restrictions. A good crop rotation minimizes the costs of weed, disease and insect control. Incorporating legumes, which fix their own nitrogen from the air, reduces the overall fertilizer cost.
- **SEEDING:** Select high-yielding varieties with good resistance to diseases, lodging, insects, shattering, etc., and high germination and vigour. Use the recommended seeding rate and seeding depth, and seed as early as possible at good soil temperatures for the crop.
- **CROP PROTECTION:** Scout fields for weeds, diseases and insect pests and know when and what to use to control them and protect the crop. Timely application of pesticides will allow the crop to perform well and achieve its maximum potential yield and quality while reducing the number of spray operations and costs. ■



Contact the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377.



# Economic thresholds the best way of determining if an insect pest is worth controlling



**Danielle Stephens, MSc, PAg**  
Integrated Pest Management Agrologist  
Crops and Irrigation Branch

Saskatchewan producers have a variety of tools at their disposal to help them manage insect pests, including forecast maps, cultural practices, resistant crop varieties, insecticides and seed treatments. During the field season, however, there is only one tool—economic thresholds—that matters when it comes to evaluating when insect pest pressure might affect the crop yield and make control worth the cost.

For many of Saskatchewan's major crop and insect pest combinations, scientifically verified and reliable “economic” thresholds have been established that can be used when making pest control decisions. There are also “nominal” thresholds, an educated guess that is based on what is known about the crop and the pest, but has not been validated by research.

Producers use a variety of techniques to determine if an infestation has reached the economic threshold to warrant an insecticide application. Depending on the insect, producers will change their scouting pattern or sweeping technique. They may look for insect damage rather than the insect, itself, and they may even count the insects.

However, it is not just insect pests that you will see while scouting a field. There are many other insects that live in fields—most of them are not harmful and some are beneficial. Most of the current economic thresholds do not take into account the beneficial predators and parasitoids that live in fields, and so do not calculate their contributions toward reducing pest pressure which can, in some cases, be sufficient to eliminate the need for a chemical control. There is ongoing research into validating some of



*Two adult weevil per sweep when canola is over \$8/bu is the economic threshold for cabbage seedpod weevil in canola.*

these models that incorporate beneficial insects. Although using them takes time and effort, economic thresholds are still the best way of determining when—or if—a pesticide application is warranted, and their accuracy is constantly improving.

Information on currently recommended economic thresholds can be found at the beginning of the Insect Control section of the 2017 Guide to Crop Protection. The insect tables at the front of the section contain basic information on pests of each crop, how to monitor them and their current economic thresholds. Also see the “Economic Thresholds of Insect Pests” factsheet on [Saskatchewan.ca](http://Saskatchewan.ca). ■

## FOR MORE INFO

Follow the Prairie Pest Monitoring Network Blog online at [prairiepestmonitoring.blogspot.ca/](http://prairiepestmonitoring.blogspot.ca/); or Subscribe to the Crop Production News newsletter via [www.saskatchewan.ca/agriculture](http://www.saskatchewan.ca/agriculture) or by emailing [cropproductionnewsag@gov.sk.ca](mailto:cropproductionnewsag@gov.sk.ca).

# Keep it clean to keep market access



**Brenna Mahoney**  
Director of Communications and Stakeholder Relations  
Cereals Canada

Saskatchewan farmers are efficient, effective and use innovative technology to deliver what their customers want. This is Canada's competitive advantage and how we stay a step ahead of our competitors like the countries of the Black Sea region. Farmers always want to know how they can do better year after year and how they can better connect with their customers.

## 'KEEPING IT CLEAN' IS ONE OF THE ANSWERS.

Cereals Canada is coordinating with the Barley Council of Canada and Prairie Oat Growers Association on the 'Keep It Clean – Cereals' campaign. Our global customers come back to Canada because we deliver high-quality, safe products that meet regulations on pesticide residues and other grain safety concerns. Our reputation as a reliable supplier of quality grains hinges on our ability to deliver on this promise.

Importers are increasingly on the lookout for unwanted material in their shipments, and they often test arriving vessels to ensure that contract specifications are being met. Shipments that contain things like pesticide residues above the importer's maximum residue limits (MRL) or mycotoxins such as ochratoxin (OTA) and deoxynivalenol (DON) can derail exports. Sometimes a pesticide is approved in Canada before it has been approved by importing countries. In these cases, the MRL might be

zero. Sometimes importing countries may also lower their MRLs for existing pesticides. Farmers help keep our markets open by considering these issues before using a pesticide.

Importing countries can turn shipments away if we do not meet their regulations, causing millions of dollars in losses and placing future business at risk. The industry must work together as a single value-chain in order to protect and build upon Canada's reputation for quality and safety. As part of this effort, farmers should have a clear crop protection management plan, integrating the five simple Keep It Clean – Cereals steps:

1. Use registered pesticides according to the manufacturer's instructions only.
2. Consider market acceptance before using a pesticide for the first time.
3. Grow disease-resistant varieties and use practices that reduce infection.
4. Store cereals properly.
5. Deliver what you declare.

Individual producers cannot control everything that goes into Canada's international reputation and brand, but they do control some of the most important factors, as everything starts at the farm level. Adhering to these guidelines will not just protect your profitability, it will ultimately protect the entire Canadian grain industry. ■

## FOR MORE INFO

Visit [www.keepingitclean.ca](http://www.keepingitclean.ca) or call 204-942-2166.

# Earlier is better for preseeding herbicide burnoff



Clark Brenzil, PAg  
Provincial Weed Control Specialist  
Crops and Irrigation Branch

**EARLY APPLICATION IS THE KEY TO MOST SUCCESSFUL WEED CONTROL, AND FIELD PREPARATION PRIOR TO PLANTING IS NO EXCEPTION.**

Research conducted a decade ago on dandelion at the University of Saskatchewan found that early application is the best general policy for spring burnoff applications. In this work, applications of glyphosate and other popular herbicides mixtures with glyphosate (PrePass, Express, 2,4-D) made to dandelion earlier than the early flowering stage resulted in better control and better yield response than waiting until after flowering was well underway. Studies at the University of Manitoba also found that it is important to control that first flush of dandelion flowers, since it is those flowers that contribute to 96 per cent of the seedlings that will germinate in the coming season.

Early herbicide applications are as effective in controlling winter annual weeds as they are in controlling dandelions, and better at controlling

tougher weeds like narrow-leaved hawk's-beard. However, if sufficient time passes between the early burnoff and crop emergence, there is a risk of additional annual weeds emerging that may require another burnoff pass.

Weather plays an important part in the success of preseeding burnoff, with warm sunny conditions within the first 24 hours of application producing the best results from glyphosate based products. Glyphosate and Group 2 herbicides move with newly produced sugars from the leaves to the rapidly growing parts of the plant and into the storage organs in the roots and fruit. On cloudy, cold days, very little sugar is being produced and moved around the plant, and movement of glyphosate is limited as a result.

Glyphosate must get to its target within 24 to 48 hours after application or activity is reduced. Because of its strong affinity for organic matter, which is present in plants as cellulose and lignin, and the toxic effect of glyphosate on the plant itself, the transport of glyphosate within the plant is short-lived. This is why good conditions at the time of application are important for effective "whole plant" control. ■

FOR  
MORE  
INFO

Contact Clark Brenzil, Provincial Weed Control Specialist, at 306-787-4673 or [clark.brenzil@gov.sk.ca](mailto:clark.brenzil@gov.sk.ca).

# Harvesting the power of the Internet to access new markets

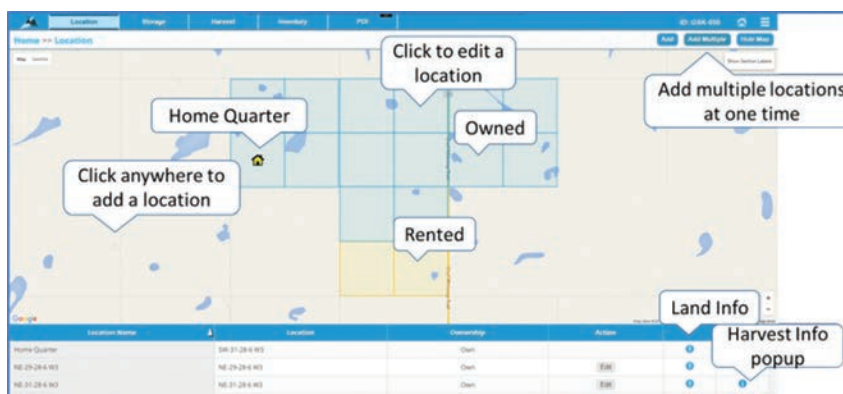


Steeves Tremblay  
Provincial Farm Business Management Specialist  
Regional Services Branch

In recent years, Saskatchewan agriculture has seen the introduction and growth of new commodity e-marketing firms. These firms use the reach and speed of the internet to get Saskatchewan-grown commodities to market; two of these firms are located in Saskatchewan.

The Ag Exchange Group, located in Saskatoon, offers online grain marketing services and tools to help farmers manage sales and inventory. In addition to connecting sellers and buyers, the group provides a tool to help farmers manage their inventories, while letting potential buyers know what they have in stock.

By employing a user-friendly online interface, sellers can manage critical farm assets, storage units, crop harvests and previous inventory, and link that information to someone else's potential bids. Farmers can market inventory by targeting price offers to single or multiple future buyers or by searching for buyers. Linking inventory management ensures that the farmers are not at risk of over-commitment.



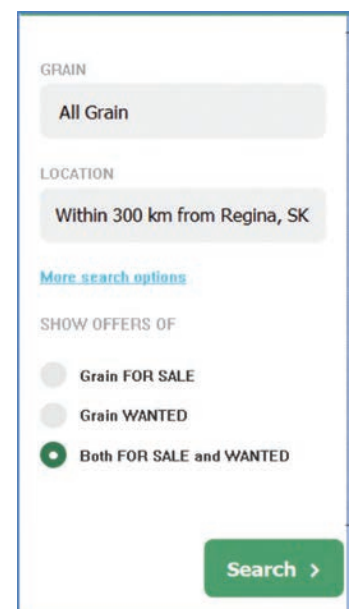
The Ag Exchange Group offers a complete package of real time analytic reporting, asset management, historical and audit reporting. Security is also a priority with the firm. All buyers are bonded and all bids are firm contracts when accepted. More information on the Ag Exchange Group is available at [www.agexchange.com](http://www.agexchange.com).

FarmLead, also located in Saskatoon is a digital marketplace that lets farmers and buyers connect, advertise, negotiate and finalize grain deals. The easy-to-use interface is available online at [farmlead.com](http://farmlead.com) and as a mobile application. By accessing the platform, farmers have access to a database of grain buyers looking to purchase commodities in Saskatchewan, Alberta, North Dakota and South Dakota. Farmers can also post for sale ads of their commodities to potential buyers. To post for sale ads, farmers have to provide information such as the amount of commodity for sale, how it is stored, its moisture level and if transportation needs to be arranged. Each participant in the FarmLead platform is given a satisfaction rating and buyers can also see if a potential seller is bonded.

In addition to providing farmers with support in selling grain, FarmLead regularly publishes the Breakfast Brief, a commentary on commodities markets written by its CEO, Brennan Turner. Regardless of how producers choose to market their grain online, it is recommended that they do their own research, talk to potential buyers and get references if needed. ■

FOR  
MORE  
INFO

Contact Steeves Tremblay, Provincial Farm Business Management Specialist, at 306-787-8792 or [steeves.tremblay@gov.sk.ca](mailto:steeves.tremblay@gov.sk.ca).



# Micronutrient deficiencies and calving outcomes

Providing the cow with proper nutrition before and during pregnancy is crucial to producing a strong, healthy beef calf, as well as ensuring the cow is quickly ready to breed again. Protein and energy have the greatest impact on reproductive performance, but micronutrients also play an important role. For example, research in 2010 linked a copper deficiency at the start of the breeding season with poor breeding outcomes in several Saskatchewan community pastures.

Previous work at the University of Saskatchewan determined the impact of trace mineral nutrition on pregnancy risks in cow-calf herds, but did not use a sufficient number of animals to analyze the connection between micronutrients and calving outcomes. As a result, Saskatchewan producers did not have an evidence-based economic assessment of the impact of micronutrient deficiencies on calf survival in beef herds.

With financial support from the Saskatchewan Agriculture Development Fund, researchers with the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM) joined forces with a cow-calf herd disease surveillance network being set up by the Beef Cattle Research Council to examine some unanswered questions about micronutrients and calving outcomes. The WCVM research team wanted to identify areas in Western Canada that were at high risk of micronutrient deficiency and also determine whether micronutrient status—including any supplementation provided by the producer—had an economically significant impact on calf survival rates. Does a micronutrient deficiency have an impact, can it be remedied, and is it worthwhile doing so?

This was the first study of trace mineral levels since 2001 to include more than 60 herds and cover a large geographic area. Herd size and management practices have changed significantly since 2001. For example, with larger herds there has been a move towards swath grazing, bale grazing and, more recently, corn grazing in some regions. These less-intensive feeding systems offer many potential benefits to producers, but make it more challenging to effectively manage micronutrient intake during late gestation in spring-calving herds. Less intensively managed herds might have fewer practical options for force-feeding minerals and rely on free-choice feeding for critical times during the production cycle. Previous studies have documented significant variation in free-choice mineral and vitamin intake in beef cows, with an average intake of less than 40 per cent of the recommended level leaving cows at risk of deficiency.

One hundred herds were recruited and herd owners were asked to provide access during fall pregnancy testing in exchange for a modest incentive. Local herd veterinarians selected by the owners were reimbursed for their costs to collect and submit blood samples from a systematic random sample of 20 pregnant cows that were expected to remain in the herd until calving. For example if the herd owner was expected to have approximately 200 pregnant cows retained in the herd, the veterinarian would flip a coin to select either the first or second pregnant cow as a starting point and then sample every tenth pregnant cow thereafter till

20 samples had been collected. Laboratory analysis was performed by Prairie Diagnostic Services of Saskatoon.

Having collected the data, the researchers wanted to identify geographical regions at high risk for micronutrient deficiencies. The first step was to determine the frequency of micronutrient deficiencies in cow-calf herds at the time of pregnancy testing. They then used geographical software to map the high-risk areas and evaluate the association with soil type and rainfall during the preceding grazing season. If successful, the results could be used to identify producers at greatest risk of trace mineral deficiencies.

To assess the connection between winter nutrition and calving outcomes, herd owners were surveyed about what, if any, supplements (trace mineral, vitamin, salt) were provided and the method of distribution (block, loose, combined with salt or other supplement, free-choice or force-fed) in the period leading up to sample collection as well as between pregnancy testing and calving. Finally, the herd owners reported the calving outcome of each surveyed cow. All the herds in the survey were provided trace mineral supplements before calving; however, not all herds were provided with trace mineral supplements during the breeding season. Measured amounts of supplement mixed with grain or silage were provided by fewer than half of herd owners. Very few herds received supplements for vitamin A or E.

Looking at the data, the researchers observed a tendency towards an association between lower-than-adequate selenium levels in the blood at time of pregnancy testing and calf losses within the first three weeks after calving; however, the number of calf losses reported in the participating herds was insufficient to reach a definitive conclusion. The researchers plan to follow up on this question within the surveillance network herds if funding for the necessary trace mineral analysis becomes available.

The Agriculture Development Fund provides funding to institutions, companies and industry organizations to help them carry out research, development and value-added activities in the agriculture and agri-food sector. The results produce new knowledge, information and choices in technologies, techniques and varieties for farmers, ranchers, processors and input suppliers, to improve the competitiveness of Saskatchewan's agricultural sector.

In 2017, the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada committed \$11.1 million in new funding for 70 ADF research projects through Growing Forward 2, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative. ■

FOR  
MORE  
INFO

Visit [Saskatchewan.ca](http://Saskatchewan.ca) and search for ADF; then enter the report number 20140189 into the search function.



# A framework for earning and maintaining public trust



**Krystal Aulie**  
Provincial Agriculture Awareness Specialist  
Regional Services Branch



**Miranda Burski**  
Communications Consultant  
Communications Branch

Saskatchewan Agriculture is dedicated to keeping the province’s agriculture and food industry strong and successful. At the most basic level, the Ministry’s efforts are centred around implementing—and encouraging other jurisdictions to implement—regulations that are based on science rather than emotion, and providing producers with programs and services that help them to be economically, environmentally and socially sustainable.

Government contributes to producers’ economic sustainability by ensuring they have access to services, such as risk management tools, and to the information they need to make sound business decisions. Environmental sustainability is supported through the promotion and use of beneficial management practices. Social sustainability will be reached when problems such as labour shortages are addressed.

Intertwined with the issue of sustainability is the need to build public trust in order to maintain agriculture’s social licence. Public trust and sustainable growth go hand-in-hand; realistically, one cannot be achieved without the other.

Building public trust in agriculture requires industry to listen to what consumers have to say. Then, government and industry must work together to take action. Saskatchewan Agriculture recently created a Social Licence Framework in an effort to better understand and address consumers concerns.

The framework is designed as an action plan. It identifies consumer concerns that pose the greatest risk to the industry’s future sustainability under the themes of animal health and welfare, environment, human health and society; it then outlines what needs to be done to address those concerns. Two questions were asked during the development of the framework: are industry and government doing the right thing; and, if so, do consumers know what agriculture is doing and why the industry is doing it that way?

In many cases, it was determined that industry and government simply need to keep doing what they are already doing—using pesticides responsibly, for example, or investing in appropriate research. In some cases, however, there were ‘pinch points’—areas where both industry and government needed to do better. It’s those gaps that the framework has pin-pointed and to which government will be paying particular attention.

The Social Licence Framework will be government’s roadmap, but industry and producers also have a role to play in maintaining the public’s support for a growing and sustainable agricultural industry. ■



Visit [www.saskatchewan.ca/agriculture](http://www.saskatchewan.ca/agriculture) and search for “social licence framework.”

# Help available to break into the complex American agri-food market



**Ashli Andreas, BBA**  
International Marketing Intern  
Trade and Value-Added Branch

The United States is Saskatchewan’s top export destination. American agri-food imports, worth \$3.5 billion in 2016, account for a quarter of the province’s total agri-food exports to the world. In some sectors, the share is even larger. Last year, for example, Saskatchewan exported \$1.5 billion worth of canola oil, almost 80 per cent of which went to the U.S. market. Due to its proximity to Saskatchewan and cultural similarity, the U.S. is typically a Saskatchewan agri-food company’s first international market.

The U.S. is a growing, wealthy market with hundreds of millions of consumers. Saskatchewan’s exports have increased by more than 120 per cent over the last 10 years. American consumers continue to move towards healthier and more diverse products in their diets. Saskatchewan producers are exploring new products to meet those changing demands. The province’s quinoa exports to the U.S., for example, have increased from nothing in 2012 to \$1.2 million in 2016.

Did you know that anyone eating a bowl of Cheerios™ for breakfast is eating Saskatchewan oats? Most of the oats in Cheerios are grown in Saskatchewan. The province exported \$243 million worth of oats to the U.S. in 2016. Oat exports to the U.S. have increased almost 15 per cent over the last five years and that growing demand is expected to continue.

Since the U.S. is such an enormous, highly competitive and complex market, novice exporters can find it an intimidating market to enter. To help the Western Canadian agricultural industry enter the U.S. market, the Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia agriculture ministries have created *The Exporters’ Guide to the United States*. This handbook provides step-by-step information on how Western Canadian companies and producers can export to the United States. Whether you are a novice or experienced exporter, this handbook is a valuable tool to assist you to develop or refresh your U.S. strategy. Specifically, this guide is a great resource if you are interested in:

- Obtaining market intelligence on the U.S market;
- Understanding product labelling and other regulatory challenges;
- Identifying market entry and distribution strategy options;
- Determining customs and logistic requirements; and
- Creating an export plan.

The U.S. will continue to be a valued trading partner for Saskatchewan. If you are interested in exploring the opportunities in this market, the guide is there to provide you with the information and tools you need. ■



Visit [www.saskatchewan.ca/agriculture](http://www.saskatchewan.ca/agriculture) and search for “*The Exporters’ Guide to the United States*.”

# Growing Saskatchewan's Value-Added Industry



Justin Redekop, MPA  
Provincial Agri-Business Specialist  
Trade and Value-Added Branch

With help from the provincial and federal government, Saskatchewan entrepreneurs are expanding the province's value-added sector. Three programs, all funded under the federal-provincial-territorial Growing Forward 2 initiative, are available to address the specific needs of value-added companies and entrepreneurs.

The **Saskatchewan Lean Improvements in Manufacturing (SLIM)** program helps processors adopt best practices, new technologies and state-of-the-art processes that will improve their productivity and efficiency.

The **Saskatchewan Agri-Value Initiative (SAVI)** helps small and medium-sized companies in a variety of ways. The program has a funding component that supports prototype and product development. Many value-added companies use the research and development infrastructure in Saskatchewan, such as the Saskatchewan Food Industry Development Centre, with funding support from SAVI. SAVI also supports companies' marketing initiatives, such as market assessments and sales missions. As well, SAVI supports companies that are providing training and re-training to new and existing employees to meet specific skilled labour needs.

Finally, the **Market Development Program (MDP)** helps local processors market their products outside the province. Companies can attend events in other provinces or countries to gain exposure for their products.

## SEVERAL SASKATCHEWAN PROCESSORS HAVE BENEFITED FROM THIS SUPPORT.

Boasting state-of-the-art equipment, **POS BIO-SCIENCES** develops ingredients in a Canadian Food Inspection Agency-licensed facility. POS also produces industrial products such as biofuel and synthetic fabrics. With the support of the MDP, POS travelled around the world, meeting with clients and attending conferences and trade shows in Europe, India, the Middle East and Asia.

**INFREAREADY PRODUCTS** gets its name from the infrared cooking process it applies to 60 different raw materials to create 300 products. The SLIM program supported InfraReady by making its processing line more efficient. The LEAN training, combined with new, more efficient equipment, allowed InfraReady to continue its growth. InfraReady remains competitive with international competition through SLIM.

**OATDEAL'S** smoothie mixes are gluten-free and high in protein and fibre. Combining Saskatchewan oats and milk allows Oatdeal to produce clean-label products with natural ingredients. Oatdeal developed its products with the support of SAVI, and also received support from MDP to expand its presence outside Saskatchewan. ■

FOR  
MORE  
INFO

Contact Justin Redekop, Provincial Agri-Business Specialist, at 306-933-8116 or [justin.redekop@gov.sk.ca](mailto:justin.redekop@gov.sk.ca); or Visit [www.saskatchewan.ca/growingforward2](http://www.saskatchewan.ca/growingforward2).

## Thinking of starting or expanding a livestock operation?



Bryan Gourlie, P. Eng  
Provincial Livestock Development Engineer  
Livestock Branch

Livestock producers who are considering building a new facility or expanding an existing one must consider the regulatory requirements prior to committing to their projects. Addressing environmental protection and land use requirements will help gain the local public's support, minimize development delays and eliminate the risk of having a livestock operation that is non-compliant.

Contact the local rural municipality (RM) early in the project planning stages to determine its requirements. RMs usually have a zoning bylaw that will require developers to apply for a "Discretionary Use" development permit for an intensive livestock operation. This process often goes fairly smoothly, however, in some instances the requirements of the RM or the development's proximity to local residences may result in the RM denying the application.

Municipal challenges are more likely to occur in areas with significant residential property development and where local residents have expressed nuisance and environmental concerns related to livestock operations. An RM will usually specify a separation distance between residences and both the facility and manure utilization areas. Municipalities may also have other requirements or management constraints, such as road construction or maintenance costs and operational requirements intended to reduce nuisance issues, that will need to be addressed. Knowing the RM's requirements, adapting plans to meet them and preparing for a public process to minimize controversy will help make the RM approval process as smooth as possible.



It is also likely that an intensive livestock development will require environmental regulatory approvals to ensure that the quantity and quality of water resources are not affected by the livestock development. The Saskatchewan Water Security Agency requires developers who are planning to use surface or groundwater supplies to obtain permits. This regulatory approval ensures that there is sufficient water to supply the operation without affecting other users of the water resource.

Saskatchewan Agriculture requires intensive livestock operations to have approved waste storage and waste management plans. These plans are required under *The Agricultural Operations Act* and ensure that manure and animal carcasses do not contaminate surface or groundwater resources.

Obtaining regulatory approvals is vital to gaining public trust for the livestock sector. ■

FOR  
MORE  
INFO

Visit [www.saskatchewan.ca/agriculture](http://www.saskatchewan.ca/agriculture) and search for "intensive livestock development;" or Call Saskatchewan Agriculture's Livestock Branch at 306-787-7170.

# Premises Identification: Saskatchewan's requirement for livestock traceability



**Melissa Hurst, BSc**  
Provincial Livestock Specialist  
Livestock Branch

Premises identification (PID) is an important element in an effective traceability system. PID supports the traceability system by linking livestock to specific geographical locations, allowing officials to rapidly contact the owners of those animals and dispatch appropriate resources in the event of a livestock disease outbreak.

A fully functional traceability system requires:

1. **ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION (RFID TAG).** In Canada, cattle, sheep and bison require radio frequency identification tags when transported outside of their herd of origin.
2. **PREMISES IDENTIFICATION (PID).** Any physical land location associated with livestock, such as a farm, pasture, feedlot, auction mart, veterinary office and abattoir, must be assigned a unique identification number.
3. **ANIMAL MOVEMENT TRACKING.** By linking an animal identification number to a PID at a specific time, an animal can be tracked as it moves from pasture to feedlot to abattoir.

Registering your premises online is quick, easy and free; and now it's required. Since December, PID has been a requirement for participating in provincial livestock-related programs. The Saskatchewan Pastures

Program requires all patrons to have a PID number in order to maintain their allocations, and a PID number is required to access the alternative financing options available through the Livestock Loan Guarantee program. PID numbers should be recorded on brand manifests and added to producers' Canadian Livestock Traceability System (also known as the Canadian Cattlemen's Identification Agency database) accounts.

Producers can use traceability as a management tool. The ability to trace an animal throughout its life cycle is essential to isolating animal health issues and can help in limiting economic, environmental and social impacts. Under Growing Forward 2, the Livestock Traceability Rebate program provides funding for purchasing equipment, such as wand readers and scale heads with tracking capabilities, to aid producers with tracking their livestock. By quickly locating the origin of a problem, producers and health officials can effectively contain its spread.

Traceability will help maintain Canada's reputation for producing safe and healthy food, and it will also protect Canada's livestock and livestock producers. Without a registered PID number, you may not be contacted in the event of an emergency.

Traceability is an essential part of livestock health, food safety, emergency management and, ultimately, value-chain production. ■

FOR  
MORE  
INFO

Contact the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377  
or visit [premisesid.saskatchewan.ca](http://premisesid.saskatchewan.ca).

# Mosquitoes and West Nile Virus



**Dr. Wendy Wilkins, DVM, PhD**  
Disease Surveillance Veterinarian  
Livestock Branch

With the changing of the seasons upon us, it is time for a reminder that mosquitoes are more than just a nuisance; they are capable of harbouring and transmitting a number of important diseases. West Nile Virus is probably the most well-known mosquito-transmitted disease in Saskatchewan. It first appeared in the United States in 1999, and the first equine case of West Nile Virus in Saskatchewan occurred in 2002. Every year, new cases are detected in Saskatchewan in naïve (unvaccinated) horses; those that develop clinical disease often do not recover and die or are euthanized due to the severity of their symptoms.

Mosquitoes become infected as they feed on infected wild birds, such as crows, blue jays, magpies and ravens, and then transmit the virus to other animals. The risk of humans or horses becoming infected tends to peak in Saskatchewan during July, August and early September, when standing water and other mosquito larva habitats are present, and following extended periods of warm weather.

In horses, West Nile Virus can cause an encephalomyelitis, or brain and spinal cord infection. Most horses bitten by a mosquito infected with West Nile Virus will not develop clinical disease. They develop an asymptomatic infection, eliminate the virus and are none the worse for it. For those that do become sick, symptoms may include listlessness, loss of appetite, fever and neurological signs. These symptoms may be confused with other nervous system disorders in horses such as rabies, sleeping sickness, equine herpes virus and tetanus. There is no specific treatment for horses affected with West Nile Virus; supportive treatment is the only



*Vaccination is the best protection for horses.*

option. Death is often the outcome once neurological signs appear and some horses that survive never recover completely.

Since West Nile Virus is transmitted by mosquitoes, insect control is important. Removal of stagnant water and tall vegetation, as well as the use of insect sprays and repellents are some of the preventative measures that can be taken. Vaccination is the best protection for horses; annual vaccination in advance of the mosquito season is recommended. Horse owners should contact their veterinarians for information about the available vaccines and recommendations on a disease prevention program. ■

FOR  
MORE  
INFO

Contact Dr. Wendy Wilkins, Disease Surveillance Veterinarian,  
at 306-798-0253 or [wendy.wilkins@gov.sk.ca](mailto:wendy.wilkins@gov.sk.ca); or  
Visit [www.saskatchewan.ca/agriculture](http://www.saskatchewan.ca/agriculture) and search for "West Nile Virus."

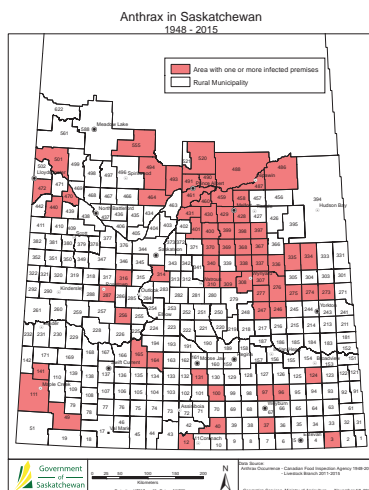
# Vaccinate now to protect your herd from anthrax



**Betty Althouse, DVM**  
Chief Veterinary Officer  
Livestock Branch

There is a risk of anthrax to grazing livestock throughout most of the province. Livestock that are on pastures where anthrax has occurred in the past should always be vaccinated to provide protection. Bison, in particular, can experience very high losses from anthrax, making vaccination even more critical in this species. Producers are advised to discuss their particular anthrax risk with their veterinarians to make an informed decision on vaccination this spring. For best protection, animals should be vaccinated before going out on pasture.

If grazing animals die suddenly on pasture this summer, anthrax could be the cause. This disease occurs when animals ingest anthrax spores from the environment. It does not spread directly among animals. Most often, infected animals are found dead without any warning; however, occasionally animals may be seen with shortness of breath, swellings and staggering, rapidly followed by death. Carcasses may show bloody discharges from body openings, decompose rapidly or show no signs of stiffening after death. A veterinary diagnosis is required to confirm anthrax and producers should contact their local veterinarian for help. The laboratory test for anthrax is performed by Prairie Diagnostic



Services in Saskatoon. The province also supplies carcass-side diagnostic test kits to veterinarians in higher-risk areas.

Anthrax is a Notifiable Animal Disease in Saskatchewan and all confirmed cases must be reported to the office of the provincial Chief Veterinary Officer, as well as to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

Producers with confirmed cases of anthrax will receive advice and support. Short-term movement controls will be put in place via a Quarantine Order (QO), and any animals that left the premises in the previous seven days will be traced. Information will be provided on proper carcass disposal to reduce the spread of the disease. Once carcasses have been disposed of, a farm inspection will be made to verify that proper disposal occurred. At that time, the QO movement restrictions can be removed if no further deaths have occurred for seven days.

Producers are responsible for all costs associated with proper disposal. As well, the initial diagnostic veterinary visit and any veterinary costs related to treatment and vaccination remain the producer's responsibility. The province will pay for anthrax testing and reimburse the veterinarian for farm visits to ensure carcass disposal and to apply and remove the quarantine. ■

FOR  
MORE  
INFO

Visit [www.saskatchewan.ca/agriculture](http://www.saskatchewan.ca/agriculture) and search for "anthrax;" or Contact Dr. Betty Althouse, Chief Veterinary Officer at 306-787-5547 or [betty.althouse@gov.sk.ca](mailto:betty.althouse@gov.sk.ca).

# Targeted grazing: using livestock to control vegetation



**Nadia Mori, PAg**  
Regional Forage Specialist, Watrous  
Regional Services Branch

Producers face many challenges when controlling invasive weeds on pastures and rangelands, including vast hard-to-reach areas that make chemical and mechanical control impractical. Targeted grazing is the intentional use of livestock to achieve vegetation management goals. Various studies and established programs show that grazing weeds and brush at the right time, duration and intensity can effectively reduce their abundance. Controlled grazing is gaining popularity across the prairies and is a promising tool in the battle against weeds. In addition to weed control, grazing animals offer the distinct advantage of converting an undesirable resource into a saleable meat product.

Successful targeted grazing requires in-depth knowledge of animal husbandry—which animal is best suited to the job—and plant ecology—when are plants susceptible and what health issues may they cause to different livestock. A targeted grazing prescription should:

1. cause significant damage to the target plant;
2. limit damage to the desirable surrounding vegetation;
3. be consistent with livestock production goals; and
4. be integrated with other control methods as part of an overall weed management strategy.

Targeted grazing is not without cost. Animals must be purchased, maintained in good health, and closely monitored to ensure they are having the desired impact on the unwanted vegetation. This may require keeping an experienced herder with the animals at all times and often



*Targeted goat grazing on common tansy.*

requires penning the animals at night. Where weeds with low nutritional value are targeted, a reduction in animal production should also be expected. Other associated costs include stock dogs, portable fencing, water, and transportation. Finally, at the end of the job, the animals cannot be hung up like a weed-eater machine; they will have to be fed and housed elsewhere.

On the benefit side, targeted grazing can be highly effective and offer environmentally sustainable weed control. It may be the only feasible method of weed control on rough terrain. If managed correctly, targeted grazing can be a winning situation for all involved. Not only does it provide a service to land owners and managers who may not otherwise have a weed management tool available, but it could also provide livestock producer with a new avenue of income. ■

FOR  
MORE  
INFO

Contact a Regional Forage Specialist at a nearby Saskatchewan Agriculture Regional Office; or Call the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377.

# Livestock water quality in Saskatchewan



**Halsey Shaheen, AAg, BSc**  
Regional Livestock Specialist, Watrous  
Regional Services Branch

Water is the single most important component of livestock nutrition, and now is the time to ensure your animals have access to good-quality water before the grazing season gets fully underway. The consequences of poor water quality are not always obvious and can often be missed. A reduction in animal performance and production may be overlooked for some time. The detrimental effects of poor-quality water may go unnoticed until symptoms are seen in the entire herd. Whether noticed or not, all of these issues will have a negative impact on the producer's bottom line.

A common quality issue with Saskatchewan water is sulphate levels. The province's ground water is already high in sulphates and, as the water evaporates over the course of the summer, the concentration increases. Elevated sulphate levels typically do not present a visual change or produce an odour. The various effects of elevated sulphate exposure are also often difficult to identify. Another common quality issue with Saskatchewan dugouts is cyanobacteria, which is potentially fatal under the right conditions.

There are numerous water treatment products available to Saskatchewan producers to mitigate the effects of poor quality water, but there is not a lot of research on their effectiveness. During the 2016 grazing season, Saskatchewan Agriculture's Regional Livestock Specialists in Moose Jaw, Outlook and Watrous conducted an Agriculture Demonstration of Practices and Technologies (ADOPT) project to test the efficacy of four commercially available treatment products. Four dugouts in each area were treated with one of the four products and the water quality was monitored throughout the grazing season. In this study, none of the products were effective at improving water quality, nor were they effective at killing and preventing regrowth of cyanobacteria. These products were also more expensive than copper sulfate products, which are known to be effective at treating for cyanobacteria.

In many cases, changing management practices will help to mitigate health and production effects of poor quality water. Reducing animals' direct access to the water source and diverting high organic-matter runoff will help prevent nutrient loading. Both surface and ground water quality will change over time, therefore routine water testing is recommended.

The ADOPT program is funded under Growing Forward 2, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative. ■

FOR  
MORE  
INFO

Contact a Regional Livestock Specialist at a nearby Saskatchewan Agriculture Regional Office; or  
Call the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377.



*Colby Elford, Regional Livestock Specialist, using a backpack sprayer to spread a treatment over the surface of the dugout to ensure it is spread evenly throughout.*

## Livestock stakeholders talk sustainable growth at industry/government meeting



**Kim McLean, PhD, PAg**  
A/Manager, Livestock Development  
Livestock Branch

In February, Saskatchewan Agriculture invited livestock industry stakeholders, including those from the forage and feed sectors, to a meeting in Regina. This is the third consecutive year that these groups have provided input into the Ministry Livestock Strategy, created as part of the larger Saskatchewan Plan for Growth. The strategy's target of achieving annual livestock farm cash receipts of \$2 billion, a 25-per-cent increase from 2012, relies on the support of the industry and individual producers.

This year's meeting focused on sustainability and what it means to the province's livestock producers. Keynote speaker Gurneesh Bhandal, Sustainability Manager with Cargill Protein, discussed why sustainability is an important factor in the livestock sector's growth. She spoke about who the industry's consumers are, why sustainability is important and what government and industry can do to advance industry growth. In addition to this presentation, industry groups received updates on important issues, such as the modernization of extension services and changes to federal regulation related to the use of antimicrobial products. The day ended with a discussion of individual groups' and producers' needs regarding sustainability.

Many of the groups at the meeting have been working individually on sustainability—prime examples of this are Dairy Farmers of Canada's ProAction initiative for on-farm excellence and Cargill's work with McDonald's on its sustainable beef pilot project. The Ministry wanted to know what role—if any—its staff should play in these efforts. Over the course of the discussion, it became clear that, while there are no specific demands for a sustainable label, the way in which a product is produced is important to both consumers and producers.

The definition of sustainability varies depending on organization, however it typically centres around three key principles: social, environmental and economic. The one important take-away from this meeting is that all groups were supportive of a robust, productive and profitable livestock system. This needs to be a guiding principle of the livestock strategy as the Ministry moves forward.

Meetings such as this help the Ministry understand the needs of the province's agricultural producers. Collaboration among producers, their industry groups and government will be essential in order to keep the industry growing to the benefit of the Saskatchewan economy. ■

FOR  
MORE  
INFO

Contact Kim McLean, Manager of Livestock Development,  
at 306-787-4675 or kim.mclean@gov.sk.ca.

# How livestock insurance protects you

Marketing livestock is hardly straight forward. The Western Livestock Price Insurance Program (WLPIP) helps alleviate some risks of marketing cattle in what is often a volatile and uncertain market.

In the last two years WLPIP has provided \$12 million to Saskatchewan cattle producers. Producers who purchased calf price insurance in 2015 and 2016 received payments when the market declined from the spring to the fall. In 2015, calf price insurance claims totaled \$5.1 million and in 2016, producers received over \$6 million in calf price insurance claims. The remainder was paid to the program option.

The last two years have shown even the most experienced livestock marketers can't predict the future of the market. The futures and cash markets, supply, demand, currency and grain prices all make this game an emotional and financial roller-coaster. WLPIP works by letting producers call the shots and get off the unpredictable ride at a safe platform that works best for them.

## Deciding when to buy insurance

### KNOW YOUR BREAK-EVEN PRICE.

Remember: it's impossible to manage what is not measured. Calculating an accurate "measurement" of the cost per pound of calf, feeder or fat animal sold is vital in knowing how many dollars you will need in return, and what you can expect for profit/loss based on current market expectations. Comparing your break-even to current WLPIP coverage can help to determine the cost-benefit of potentially using the program and will make your action plan more objective. It's easier to make decisions with the right information to work with.

### COVER FIXED COSTS.

Unfortunately, WLPIP doesn't always offer coverage that will insure a desired profit-level or, in some cases, a break-even. As a Plan B, it may be wise to know how much money per pound is needed to cover direct costs or service debts to remain in a positive cash-flow situation. Not only can this help producers sleep at night, it can also improve relationships with financial institutions. It may also help in deciding whether to purchase top-level coverage or lower coverage with a less expensive premium.

### PROTECT AGAINST A 'DISASTER.'

When looking at options on a premium table, WLPIP offers a range of coverage levels, with the lower levels being offered at a significantly reduced premium from top coverage. In the event of a market disaster, such as a border closure where prices take a drastic fall, such coverage may still prove to be effective in managing a producer's bottom line.

### CASH ADVANCE SECURITY.

Saskatchewan cattle producers now have an additional option for securing their Advance Payments Program (APP) advance. While the animals themselves remain the primary form of security, producers now have the choice of continuing to use AgriStability or using the WLPIP as secondary security. There are guidelines producers must follow to secure a cash advance, including maintaining continuous WLPIP coverage until the animals on which the APP advance is based are marketed. For full details, contact the nearest lending institution.

### COMPARE PRICE FORECASTS.

Having an idea of where the market is headed can help with evaluating whether the time is right to take action (will WLPIP coverage go higher? will premiums get cheaper?). Since WLPIP coverage fluctuates with current market conditions, monitoring the program frequently can ensure producers don't miss out on a desirable insured price. Remember: the Canadian/US exchange rate also effects coverage.

### HAVE A PLAN!

Risk tolerance is specific to the operation, so, for some, a risk management plan is hard and fast with rules. Others may have a couple of figures written on a napkin. No one plans to fail, they just fail to plan.

The bottom line is it is critical for producers to, at the very minimum, know their cost of production and the break-even price they need to receive.

## Purchasing a WLPIP Policy for 2017

WLPIP is a market-driven program that provides livestock producers with the option of purchasing protection against an unpredictable downward move in the average local cash market. For a premium, producers can purchase a floor price for cattle approximately three to nine months into the future. As the policy enters its final four weeks, cattle producers have the flexibility of submitting a claim. Settlement is based on an index of the current local cash price compiled using weekly sales data from Canfax for the Fed Program and auction yards across Western Canada for the Feeder and Calf programs. If the settlement index is lower than the insured price, the difference will be paid to the producer.

### KNOW THE TARGETS

Having a target for the coverage you want to purchase makes decisions easier. This way, you can take a quick glance at the daily premium and carry on with your day.

### SET A REMINDER

Coverage is available for purchase Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 2 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. MST. Producers can set a reminder through email, a smart phone alarm, or write on a sticky note to help remind themselves to look at the premium tables. The quickest way to see the day's premiums is to look at [www.wlPIP.ca](http://www.wlPIP.ca) at 2 p.m. MST, as they are posted as soon as the numbers are released.

May 31, 2017, is the last day price protection can be purchased for spring-born calves that are traditionally marketed in the fall. Price insurance for feeder cattle, finished cattle and hogs can be purchased year-round.

Price insurance is purchased online. Producers who do not have an online account and are interested in purchasing calf price insurance before the May 31 deadline need to contact their local Crop Insurance office to start the application process. ■

FOR  
MORE  
INFO

Visit [www.saskcropinsurance.com/wlPIP](http://www.saskcropinsurance.com/wlPIP), call 1-888-935-0000 or contact any Crop Insurance Office.



# New Lands Act introduces greater protection, more flexibility



**Megan Schafer, MPA**  
Manager, Strategic Initiatives  
Lands Branch

On March 13, 2017, *The Provincial Lands Act, 2016* and The Provincial Lands (Agriculture) Regulations came into effect. In addition to modernizing the language in the Act and Regulations, the changes allow for:

- Better protection of Crown Land.
  - When a breach of an agreement has occurred, a stop work order, along with an appropriate fine structure, will allow for both immediate action and the preservation of the lease agreement, where necessary. If the situation is judged to be severe enough, lease cancellation is still available as an option of last resort.
- Potential use of Crown leases for security.
  - The regulations include the ability to pledge a lease as security. The regulations will also ensure that the security holder is adequately protected via notice provisions, should the lease be cancelled.
- Investment in the development of long-term leases, for example installation of wind turbines.
- Clarity for leaseholders on control of access on their leased land (unless otherwise stated).

The new regulations give Saskatchewan Agriculture’s Lands Branch the ability to categorize Crown land, which will allow the Ministry to strategically manage agricultural Crown land to meet the needs of Saskatchewan people. The Ministry will be able to more quickly authorize or restrict certain activities on broader landscapes. Categorization can take many forms. For example, land can be identified in advance where certain activities, such as snowmobiling or all-terrain vehicle use, would be allowed or prohibited. This will improve overall client service in a transparent manner.

Categorization of land will allow the Ministry to establish different rules for different categories of land. It can also assist in the identification of land that no longer needs to be retained in the public interest, such as cultivated land which has little ecological value. Establishing different rules for different categories of land will lead to more effective land administration.

The strategic management of the land will allow Saskatchewan people to continue to use Crown land, while keeping this land protected and productive for generations to come. The previous Act, which dated back to the 1930s, did not account for the complexities of the multi-use objectives that exist today. ■



Contact Megan Schafer, Manager, Strategic Initiatives, at 306-787-5154 or [megan.schafer@gov.sk.ca](mailto:megan.schafer@gov.sk.ca).

# Animal welfare funding available for Saskatchewan swine producers



**Kathryn Tonita, MSc, PAg**  
Animal Health and Welfare Specialist  
Livestock Branch

Growing Forward 2 funding is available for Saskatchewan swine producers to keep up with advancements in animal welfare and to uphold their commitment to producing pork that is humanely raised, safe to eat and high quality. The National Farm Animal Care Council’s (NFACC) *Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Pigs* requires all Canadian pork producers to use pain-control medication during elective husbandry procedures such as castration and tail-docking. Needle-free injection equipment offers many advantages over traditional needle injections. Piglets are subject to less pain and stress; producers can dispense small doses of medication and there are no more worries about broken needles or workers accidentally pricking themselves.

On-farm euthanasia plans developed in conjunction with a veterinarian are also a requirement in the NFACC *Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Pigs*. Having an on-farm euthanasia plan provides consistent guidance to barn staff about when and how euthanasia should be applied and by whom. The NFACC *Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Pigs* lists the acceptable and unacceptable methods of euthanasia based on the weight of the pig. Many swine farms have euthanasia equipment; however, many do not have suitable equipment for all stages of swine production.

The Saskatchewan Swine Welfare Program was developed to help producers purchase needle-free injection equipment or to modify existing equipment in order to administer pain control medication to piglets and/or to purchase euthanasia equipment that is compliant with the current NFACC *Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Pigs*.



The Saskatchewan Pork Development Board (Sask Pork) is administering the program. Swine producers are eligible for up to \$4,000 for each Saskatchewan Canadian Quality Assurance (CQA) registered farm. The funding is cost-shared, with the program providing 60 per cent and Sask Pork and the producer each contributing 20 per cent.

The Saskatchewan Swine Welfare Program is funded through Growing Forward 2, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative. More details of the program can be obtained from Sask Pork. The *Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Pigs* is available on the National Farm Animal Care Council’s website. ■



Contact Harvey Wagner, Sask Pork – Producer Services and On-Farm Food Safety Programs at 306-343-3502 or [hwagner@saskpork.com](mailto:hwagner@saskpork.com); or Visit the NFACC website at [www.nfacc.ca/codes-of-practice/pigs](http://www.nfacc.ca/codes-of-practice/pigs).

# Creating local success stories



**Carmen Ly**  
Communications Director  
Saskatchewan Food Industry Development Centre

The Saskatchewan Food Industry Development Centre (the Food Centre) has built a reputation as the place to go to commercialize innovation—and has created many success stories along the way.

Zak Organics Food and Oatdeal THE HEALTHY CHOICE are two examples of the Food Centre's effectiveness in turning someone's entrepreneurial dreams into reality—and supporting the agricultural industry in the bargain.

Allen Zak, an organic farmer from Fir Mountain and founder of Zak Organics, saw an opportunity in the snack industry and decided to add more value to his green peas. A healthy alternative to typical snack food was developed at the Food Centre and launched in 2016. It is now selling in specialty stores across Canada, and the company has recently introduced a second flavour to its Crunchy Pea line.

Originally from Columbia, George Barreras, owner of Oatdeal, introduced to Canada an oat-based drink that is very popular in his home country. Saskatoon was a perfect base from which to start his business, given the abundance of oats grown in Saskatchewan. Oatdeal products are sold at

Western Canadian Co-op outlets and are gaining distribution momentum. The future is even brighter for Oatdeal after Barreras' recent appearance on CBC's *Dragons' Den*, where a deal was struck.

Zak and Barreras are just two of the many entrepreneurs with innovative ideas but no formal food training. This is where the Food Centre comes in. Food scientists, industry knowledge, networks and strategic thinking come together at the Food Centre to help take a unique idea to the final packaged product. In addition to the assistance provided by the Food Centre, both Oatdeal and Zak Organics received financial support for their product development efforts from the Saskatchewan Agri-Value Initiative (SAVI), a federal-provincial-territorial Growing Forward 2 program.

More successes are on the horizon as the Food Centre moves to the new Agri-Food Innovation Centre this year. Administrative staff are already in the new site. In the coming months, development labs and extrusion will follow. The facility should be fully operational by the summer. With new and improved services and over 35,000 feet of facility, the new centre will give producers more options to add value to their crops and livestock and increase the global competitiveness of Saskatchewan's food processors. ■

FOR  
MORE  
INFO

Contact the Saskatchewan Food Industry Development Centre at 306-933-7555.



Zak Organics products being processed at the Food Centre's facilities.

# Another successful year for the Agriculture Crown Land Sales Program



**Gary Coghill**  
Strategic Initiatives Analyst  
Lands Branch

Crown land lessees are excellent stewards of the land and many have been managing their leased land for decades. Under the 2015 Agriculture Crown Land Sales Program (2015 ACLSP), many lessees were able to purchase the Crown land they had been leasing from the government.

Approximately 175,000 acres of leased Crown land were sold to lessees. Land that is under active application moves through the sales process, starting with a review by provincial ministries and agencies to identify if the land can be sold. Once the land is deemed saleable, a price option letter is mailed to the lessee. If the lessee requests a price on the land, then an estimate is provided. Land is priced by either Ministry staff or an accredited appraiser, depending on the lessee's request. Once a lessee agrees to the price, a sales agreement is drafted to complete the sale.

Lands Branch staff used resources from across the Ministry to ensure a quick and efficient process. Resource agents from the Regional Services

Branch handled general questions and directed specific questions to the appropriate Land Agrologist in Lands Branch. "We are always willing to assist our clients and were glad for the chance to let lessees know about their opportunity to purchase land," said Kathy Daviduk, one of the resource agents. Several Regional Services specialists also helped to complete the estimates. With these specialists added to the team, more land was canvassed and valued in a shorter period of time and moved quickly and efficiently into the hands of lessees.

Under the 2015 ACLSP, more than 2,600 lessees applied to purchase the Crown land they farm. Approximately 17 per cent of the land selected in the applications was identified as ineligible for sale due to reasons of public interest, including sand and gravel potential and *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act* (WHPA) designations. Land designated as having high ecological value under the WHPA will remain under the protection of the Crown, and land designated as having moderate ecological value will be sold with a Crown Conservation Easement to ensure that it continues to be protected under the ownership of the lessee. ■

FOR  
MORE  
INFO

Contact Gary Coghill, Strategic Initiatives Analyst, at 306-787-5173 or gary.coghill@gov.sk.ca.

# Events calendar

Date	Event	Location	Phone	Internet
May 4, 2017	2017 Agri-Value and Networking Event	Sheraton Cavalier, Saskatoon, Sk	306-933-5096	<a href="mailto:www.agrivalue@gov.sk.ca">www.agrivalue@gov.sk.ca</a>
May 15, 2017	Under the Bee Mortality Insurance Pilot Program this is the deadline to notify SCIC of loss in the spring. Coverage terminates as of this date.	Saskatchewan	1-888-935-0000	<a href="http://www.saskcropinsurance.com">www.saskcropinsurance.com</a>
May 21, 2017	Deadline to seed camelina in the brown soil zone. Deadline to seed all classes of chickpeas.	Saskatchewan	1-888-935-0000	<a href="http://www.saskcropinsurance.com">www.saskcropinsurance.com</a>
May 31, 2017	Last day to purchase calf coverage with the Western Livestock Price Insurance Program.	Saskatchewan	1-888-935-0000	<a href="http://www.saskcropinsurance.com">www.saskcropinsurance.com</a>
May 31, 2017	Deadline to provide production contract information to Crop Insurance, under the Contract Price Option.	Saskatchewan	1-888-935-0000	<a href="http://www.saskcropinsurance.com">www.saskcropinsurance.com</a>

## Upcoming program deadlines

Program	Application Deadline
Global Youth Institute Application Deadline	20-May-17
Farm Business Development initiative (FBDI) – Consulting	1-Jun-17
Agriculture Awareness Initiative Program Q2 Application Deadline	1-Jun-17
Agriculture Demonstration of Practices and Technologies (ADOPT)	7-Jun-17
Farm Stewardship Program – Pre-Approval BMPs	30-Jun-17
Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program (FRWIP)	1-Aug-17
Agriculture Awareness Initiative Program Q3 Application Deadline	1-Sep-17
Agriculture Awareness Initiative Program Q4 Application Deadline	1-Dec-17
Agriculture Demonstration of Practices and Technologies (ADOPT)	7-Dec-17
Farm Stewardship Program – Rebate BMPs	31-Jan-18
Farm Business Development Initiative (FBDI) – Training	31-Jan-18
Saskatchewan Livestock Traceability Rebate	1-Feb-18
Market Development Program	1-Feb-18
Agriculture Student Scholarship	1-Mar-18
Saskatchewan Agri-Value Initiative (SAVI)	Monthly
Industry Organization Development Fund (IODF)	1-Feb-18