

JANUARY 2026

'Trade is still about relationships' Moe talks about the trade deal with China

BY NICOLE TAYLOR

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The World-Spectator spoke with Premier Scott Moe on Friday about his trip to China with Prime Minister Mark Carney in which a trade deal was brokered that will see China lower its tariffs on canola seed. China plans to lower tariffs on canola seed by March 1 to a combined rate of about 15 per cent—a drop from current combined tariff levels of 84 per cent. China is a \$4 billion canola seed market for Canada. In exchange, Canada will slash tariffs on Chinese electric vehicles. Following is the interview with the premier:

Explain the groundwork and background work that went into making this deal possible. What work, what discussions, what previous trips helped make it possible, with respect to the agreements with China?

I think first and foremost, where we got to today, which is really a restoration of agricultural trade with China. It's not really anything new. It's a restoration of where we were a year and two and three years ago. But it does show that international engagement with our trading partners in person certainly does matter, as it provides you with the relationships, and trade is still about relationships between people and the contacts, to be able to get in front of those people when things get bumpy. Now you can't always fix it right away. However you are in the right room speaking to the right people.

So I would say that point one is ongoing international engagement does certainly matter when things get bumpy, and we are very bumpy around the world today with multiple countries.

Second to that, specific to working towards the agreement to restore trade—and there's some MOU's—memorandum of understandings to expand on that trade, and I'm quite excited about that as well. But it really started in September, and the change in tone and engagement started in September when I had went to China, the first premier in six years to be on the ground in China.

Kody Blois, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister, went with me. We were able to have the appropriate meetings with the actual organizations in government that were involved in tariffs, and thereby would be involved in removing those tariffs, and those meetings to that point were not happening with those organizations. And so in September, it really marked a change in the tone and a change in the conversations—who was having the conversations—the people who matter, as opposed to just people.

And then that intensified over the next



Scott Moe during the trade mission to China.

number of months, from September until ultimately we got to an agreement just this past week.

Kody Blois was very much the continuity in those negotiations, whether it was a minister, whether it was a prime minister meeting with President Xi on the sidelines, or Premier Li in New York, Kody very much was at the forefront of that effort.

So that is my second point. I'd say September was a pivot point using the contacts and the relationships that Saskatchewan have, and really lending that relationship to the federal government, to much of their credit. They engaged, and engaged heartily from that point on.

Last but not least, I would say—and this really is noticed—when I went to China, most recently with the Prime Minister, there was a significant delegation there. Kody Blois was there, and he was a continuum throughout the negotiations. But there was five or six federal ministers as

well, and that's noticed, that relationship, that type of priority.

So it was a number of things I think that came to it, but that's a little bit of the backstory and some of the history on how we got to an agreement that really restores our agricultural trade.

But there's some memorandum of understandings that I think open up some opportunities in the energy sector, in the forestry sector, and ironically, I think, in the longer term, in the manufacturing and auto sector as well.

So if I'm hearing you right, you're saying that when you go into these negotiations, having the right people there, having an actual relationship with these people really is important then.

It certainly does. Our international relationship under our previous Prime Minister just was not a priority, and certainly getting to points of agreement with respect to trade specifically, never seemed

to be a priority.

That seems to be shifting with Prime Minister Carney, and that's a welcome shift, from my perspective, to put a priority on Canada's credibility on the international stage.

We've always believed that to be the case, and we've always engaged as a province through our parental trade offices and various missions that we had, and we're happy that we did have that relationship with China and were able to really breathe some ambition into the trade relationship and the trade agreement that we got to between Canada and China.

I've always said, it isn't going to be any provincial Premier, myself included, that stands up with President Xi or Premier Li and China, or any other international leader and says, 'listen, we have a trade agreement between a province and a nation.' That's not how it works.

Continued on page B4

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Indian Head Research farm closing due to federal cutbacks

Staff receive 6-month notice

BY NICOLE TAYLOR

LOCAL JOURNALISM

INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Indian Head Research Farm, which has been in existence since 1887, will be closing due to federal cutbacks.

Last week the World-Spectator learned that staff had been given six month notice.

The government has announced it wants to cut 16,000 positions, or about 4.5 per cent of the public service workforce across Canada, over the next three fiscal years.

"It's definitely not great news for our community. We are estimating about 40 people work there and have been given some different options on where they go," said Indian Head Mayor Steven Cole last week.

"The tree nursery we had, the PFRA, we still survived the loss of that, we got through it but it's going to effect a lot of families and a lot of employees there. I know some of them pretty well and they were born and raised and lived all their life here. Now, are they going to want to go to another community, with a few years left to retirement? It's going to be tough."

Cole says the farm is part of the town, and the area's history.

"My grandfather and



An aerial view of the research farm at Indian Head.

my dad and myself, we all worked out there many years ago. I know in my family alone, my dad was saying we had well over 100 years of my family working there. It's close to 140 years old. It has been there for quite some time. It's been a big part of our community for many years.

"I'm shocked right now. Government cuts, we all know what happens and how it works, but nobody wants to see that leave your community.

"It has always been there, it has always been part of our history. I remember as a kid going to different functions in the corn rows and different things like that over time. It's huge part of our community and now it's going to be closed and gone."

"They were always testing different seeds and coming up with lots of new varieties of seed for growing in our area. And even when they shut the tree nursery down some of that work was moved there.

"So a big part of it is shock right now. Nobody wants to see that happen in their community, especially something that has been there so long."

Premier Scott Moe said he doesn't feel the research farm should have been part of the federal cuts.

"I am starting to hear about some agriculture and agri food workforce reductions and number of research farms, not just in Saskatchewan, but across Western Canada," he said

on Friday.

"I have not talked to my ag minister specifically about it yet, but I am going to, and likely talk with the federal ag minister and Prime Minister Carney as well.

"I know there's been the indication there's going to be a workforce reduction at the federal level because it has increased so drastically under the previous

Prime Minister. But this is not a place where it was increasing under the previous Prime Minister. This is a historical research farm that has been operating in our province for literally decades and doing tremendous work when it comes to some of the developmental research or crop research or in the grasslands and ranching spaces as well.

Continued on page B5

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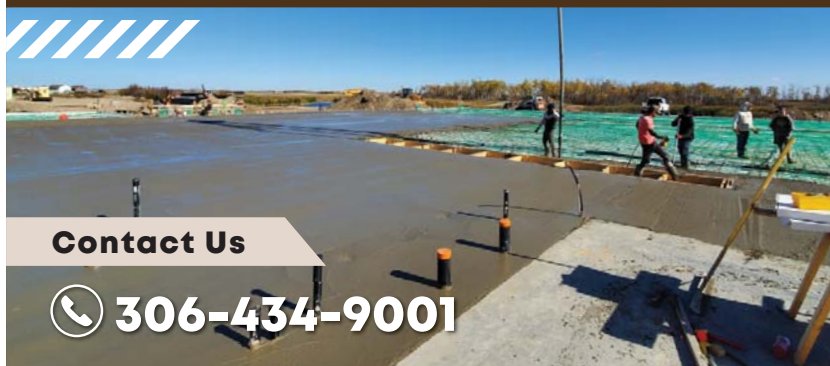
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Governments announce satellite based insurance available under 2026 Crop Insurance Program

Federal Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Heath MacDonald and Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister David Marit have announced enhanced business risk management support for the livestock sector.

For 2026, Satellite Forage Insurance is replacing the Forage Rainfall Insurance Program (FRIP). FRIP is no longer available and all existing FRIP customers will be automatically enrolled in Satellite Forage Insurance.

"We continue to look for innovative ways to support producers as they face ongoing unpredictable moisture conditions," MacDonald said. "This program is a great example of how governments are using new and more localized data in business risk management program decision making."

"Agriculture is essential to Saskatchewan," Marit said. "We are proud to stand behind our producers with further development of forage programs. Satellite Forage Insurance reflects our commitment to supporting Saskatchewan's producers with insurance that is relevant, responsive and accurate."

Satellite Forage Insurance provides coverage when there is a shortage of soil moisture. It uses satellite-based technology to measure soil moisture, an important factor in forage production. Claims and premiums are now localized at the township level where the insured hay or pasture is located. High, medium and low coverage levels are available, varying by soil zone. There are two monthly weighting options available for producers to tailor their coverage.

Working in partnership with producers and industry helps to ensure risk management is available to producers when challenging growing conditions arise.

"Saskatchewan's producers face tremendous variability when it comes to weather and growing conditions," SARM President Bill Huber said. "The introduction of Satellite Forage Insurance is another important step in providing tools that better reflect what is happening on the ground. By expanding and modernizing forage coverage, we are strengthening risk management options that help producers remain resilient and sustainable in the face of change."

"We are pleased a new and improved forage insurance program is going to be available for the 2026 growing season, as a result of the collaborative work initiated through our AgriRisk Initiatives project," Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association (SSGA) President Jeff Yorga said. "We are expecting this program to eliminate long standing issues with basis risk. By measuring conditions at the local level, payments will be more reflective of conditions on the ground and be more responsive when there is a production shortfall."

"SCA appreciates the governments' risk mitigation programs," SCA Chair Chad Ross said. "While SCIC has made improvements to FRIP throughout the years, the reliance on weather stations was challenging for producers to ensure they selected the right one. Moving to a program that uses satellite provides a more localized focus for producers and may result in a more accurate and responsive program."

Today's announcement provides producers with timely information to plan for their upcoming year. Producer information packages will be available in mid to late February and will include coverage options and premiums. Producers with questions can contact their local SCIC office.



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'Trade is still about relationships' Moe talks about the trade deal with China

Continued from B1

They're always between nations and nations, and so we need that ambition and that priority from the federal government. We haven't had it for a decade, and I was pleased to see the results of it and the prioritization of it by Prime Minister Carney.

What were your expectations going into this trip? Were you fairly confident, then, going on this mission that China would agree to lower tariffs based on some of the groundwork that was laid previously?

I knew we were close, and I'm always hopeful, however, I'm always cautious as negotiations literally do happen, and this isn't this isn't any different than other times we've had to work with tariffs, or monetary tariffs, or non financial tariffs, with countries like China and India and others. The negotiations happen literally to the very last minute.

And so I knew we were close, because we've been part of the conversation and discussions all along. But I was pleased in where it ended, where it restores, with the exception of pork, largely restores our agricultural trade with China, beef coming on a few days later.

I'm also pleased because it does set out two other things I think that are important, and not politically attractive or anything, but very, very important with respect to doing business with China. I mentioned the memorandum of understanding—that's going to open up some opportunities for future trade, as I said, in the energy, the forestry and possibly even the EV sector, the manufacturing sector.

Second to that—this was relevant to the agricultural situation and the lack of agricultural trade that was happening—often when you have an agreement with a country and there's a trade dispute—a boat of canola in the harbour that is not getting the proper stamp of approval for some reason. You have dispute boards or dispute entities that are put together so that that individual company can call someone and they'll work through whatever that dispute was.

Those entities were not in place, which made it incredibly risky, in addition to the tariffs, to be doing any business with China. All of those dispute mechanisms and those dispute boards are put back in place, which is critical for us to actually start to ship canola and canola meal to China again.

So this is a significant deal in the substance of it and the operation of it in order for canola to actually flow.

What does that mean at the farm gate back here in Saskatchewan? I know because I talked to a number of farmers and they've been sitting on the canola and it's still in their bins. Now it's our hope that Canola is going to flow not only to the markets that it goes to, but in significant amounts to China. And I would hope that there's a little bit of upward pressure on the price as well.

You have talked about how this is a really good deal. What makes it such a good deal?

Well, we've had between \$3 billion and \$4 billion in canola products that traditionally will flow the last number of years to China. And they weren't being exported. They were sitting in farmer's bins.

And so now farmers are going to be able to sell that canola. I think any ag producer across the province can pencil out how much canola they have in their bins, and they can be assured that they're going to be able to sell it this year, hopefully at a price that'll bring in some profits.

That's why it's a good deal—we were not selling canola to China, that canola was sitting in bins across the province and across Canada. And now that canola is going to flow.

And I would step two to that—second point to that is it's going to provide some degree of price certainty and volume certainly for the new crop. I talked to a couple producers once I got home, and they were already starting to pencil out the profit or lack of profit for next year. And they said, this is going to help in determining what they're going to see next year.

What sense did you get from China when you there? Do you think there will be a better relationship in the long-term moving forward?

I don't know that I would speak too much to the long-term relationship with China. We've had as a province trade disputes about every five years with China, whether it's actual tariffs this time, which were quite broad and quite deep and quite steep, or whether it's phytosanitary standards and non tariff barriers that we run into.

Dealing with China and India and countries such as that, we're no stranger to working through those challenges. However, this one was larger and much broader, and much more impactful.

But I would say this. I saw the tone start to change in September, when we were there, from where it has been for a number of years, and I saw a significant tone change when I was there last week, when we were able to come to agreement on restoring agricultural trade.

So that's a positive. As far as long-term certainty in the trade world, you just watch or listen to the news every night, and I don't think there's any such thing in today's world. It's every country for themselves, relying on the relationships that we have in Saskatchewan. That means 160 countries around the world that we deal with, with China being our second largest trading partner.

It really is an uncertain time, and that's why I'm pleased to see a federal government starting to prioritize their international credibility of our nation in Canada. That is going to be entirely helpful in getting to more agreements like



Moe and Carney during the trade mission to China.

we just did here with China.

Saskatchewan is such a trade dependent province? In the new dynamics of international relations, do you think there'll be a lot more trade skirmishes like this, where you have a country putting on a tariff, another country putting on a separate tariff in retaliation, and then you need to come to a deal, and then sometimes you're back at square one, right where you started before the skirmish happened. Is that going to become more common in this new world?

Possibly, I think trade agreements, and how trade is structured, is monumentally changed for the foreseeable future. What we used to do is come together as two countries, or three or four or five countries, work on a trade deal for as many sectors as we possibly could, and at the end of that two or three year negotiation, all countries would sign on the bottom line, and you would have a trade pack, whether that was the free trade agreement we had in North America or NAFTA, or USMCA.

Those types of agreements I think, are very much going to be in the minority if they happen at all. Moving forward, trade agreements are going to be much more like what you saw happen in China this past week, where it's two countries, a couple of sectors—in this case, the agricultural sector, seafood sector—and maybe some memorandum of understandings or some notional intents on where we're going to work together on moving forward.

So they're going to be smaller, they're going to be sector specific, often, and between maybe two, possibly three or four countries, but not these large, multinational, or multi-sector trade deals that we've had in the past.

It would be nice to think we'd get back to that at some point in time, but I don't see it in the foreseeable future.

So you're going to see a lot of activity and a lot of engagement by countries with one another, wherever that might be. I think they'll take every opportunity to do that and I think we've seen that from Prime Minister Carney over the course of the past week.

And I think Saskatchewan, with the priority that we have put on international engagement and our provincial trade offices and standing shoulder to shoulder with industries here that are creating value in markets around the world, is really going to serve us as well as we could be served in what is certainly a different trade environment as far as the negotiations and what our trade is going to look

like moving forward.

So Saskatchewan is well poised. Canada is reprioritizing their efforts. And so I like our chances.

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Indian Head Research farm closing due to federal cutbacks

Continued from B2

"So this is bothersome that this is a place where the federal government is trying to reduce their public workforce. I think there's a number of other places that they could look to save more money than they will here."

"And I would point to one, and that is the gun grab that they're doing. If they remove that flawed program, that would save you far more money than what is trying or attempted to be saved by closing these research farms or the workforce reduction that is happening there."

Milton Dyck, the President of the Agriculture Union which is a component of the Public Service Alliance of Canada which represents the employees at the research farm, says there was no need to include Agriculture Canada as part of the federal cuts.

"I think it's a blow to agriculture research within Canada, within Saskatchewan. It's also a blow to the town of Indian Head, because in 2012 they lost a tree nursery there for the prairie farm rehabilitation administration that had over 70 employees with Ag Canada, and now they're losing another 30 or so employees from the town," he says.

"So the town has lost basically its biggest employer over the last 15 years. Indian Head, incidentally, was one of the first research centers. It was one of the first five agriculture research centers in Canada, and it was created in 1887, back when Saskatchewan was the Northwest Territories."

"Research is based on a lot of having different soils, different areas to do crop testing, and as we lose more and more centers to do our crop testing, this lessens our abil-



An historical photo of the research farm at Indian Head.

ity to create good genetic varieties, because we're losing the areas that we normally plant in.

"I do not think the staff are getting a lot of options. When the time comes—they still do not know quite when, but it's coming—they will just lose their jobs and positions."

"We knew there was going to be cuts because the government had said they were going to be cutting, of course, but when Mark Carney was talking and when the Treasury Board has been talking about the Civil Service increasing by 30 per cent over the last 10 years, Agriculture Canada has actually dropped by 10 per cent of employees."

"So we're already short staffed. We were already short staffed, and now we're even shorter because the department has already lost a lot of employees for research, and now we're losing more."

"So it's a blanket cut that has been asked of all departments, but when your department has already fallen in numbers, how do you continue to cut it?"

Dyck says the union will be pushing back on the cuts to the research farm.

"As a union we're going to be pushing back. But this is something that's just come out. In the last day, we found out where the cuts are and which stations they've cut, and they've cut five stations across the country, and they're also trying to cut a lot of corporate staff. You always try and cut, say the administration staff, or the back of the house staff, but yet they're vital and I just don't know how, when we're already short staffed, how we're going to continue to be viable."

We knew the cuts were coming, but it's always shocking to people when they're told out of the blue. They had no idea in these positions that was the meeting they were going to, to then be told that their jobs were going."

Dyck says he suspects the research farm will be closed by the summer.

"I would suspect that it is six months, but it might be different for different groups, even at the station, because they will have facility staff that might be there longer to shut down everything before the final closure. But I would say there's not going to be another year of work. They're not going to be doing anything this summer, is what I would think."

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Nights in Rodanthe...or elsewhere

The story isn't remotely like mine and to be honest, I am not overly big on romantic dramas and I especially have an aversion to Hallmark Christmas movies. I do however have this vague memory of the 2008 movie, "Nights in Rodanthe." Not so much the details, but the feelings that the story invoked. One evening before Christmas as we were setting up for our annual Christmas supper, our pastor and his wife were joking about Hallmark Christmas movies to some differing opinions like his: "Ewwwww," and hers: "Oh yes, love them." Since the story in every one of those Hallmark movies is basically the same, my guess is it's more about the warm feelings than the actual storyline.

Why does this particular thought have any place in a humorous farm column you might ask? Well, I'm getting there. Do you know how sometimes out of nowhere come these warm, fuzzy feelings when you think about a place, a person, a moment in time? Sometimes when I am cleaning or baking or whatever, I remember a particular place, just for an instant, and it just brings a smile to my face. Or sometimes it might be a special moment with someone that just fills me with warmth. When I hit the treeline going north or east, I am filled with this warmth that reminds me of my childhood home. When I see my baby cousin at a wedding or family get-together, I cry; he hugs me and asks what's wrong. But nothing's wrong – in fact, everything is just right, it's just that a multitude of feelings and wonderful memories sometimes overtake me when I see him.

As for the "Nights in Rodanthe" moment that hit me yesterday, it was a fleeting thought from last harvest that literally came to me with the same feeling I had when I thought of this movie. I was sitting in my comfy chair in the RV on the farm, awaiting hubby's return from a late night spent combining. In he comes, dirty and tired with the dirtiest old ball cap atop his messed-up hair complete with a bit of a goose egg on the top of his forehead from hitting his head on some piece of metal while doing repairs that day. The dust fills the air around him as he pulls off his bunny hug and then he says, "I'm going to make myself something to eat. Anything you'd like me to make you?"

I didn't even want anything to eat that night but I said sure. It's 11 p.m. and he's been up since before 5:00 that morning and the food choices in the RV are limited to fried eggs and leftover warmed-up noodle-hamburger casserole that we had likely eaten three times in a row already but with a smile (these aren't always that prevalent in harvest) and his chef's hat on (okay, well his chef-like heart), he got us something to snack on. And that's the "Nights in Rodanthe" moment in my world minus Richard Gere and the seaside village of Rodanthe, North Carolina.

And of course, that particular thought led me to the next. I'll call it, "Days in the R.M. of Willowdale." We were moving two combines across the #9 highway, hubby in one, I in the other. Hubby went ahead, up the

The Lighter Side of Life... DOWN ON THE FARM

by donna beutler
FREELANCE PHOTOJOURNALIST
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ditch and onto the highway and down the other ditch. And I, dutifully following, went up the ditch and onto the highway at which time I thought, "No way am I going down that ditch. My header will hit the dirt and what if it breaks off or worse, makes me roll this unit over, tossing me out and squashing me? My kids will miss me. Who will cook for them? Hubby will be a mess. Nope, there's no way I am going down that embankment. There is no way I can do this." Keep in mind my combine at this point is essentially blocking the entire highway off. Hubby is stopped ahead, standing on the deck of his combine waving me ahead. And waving. And waving. I finally took the plunge and inched the combine down the ditch, header as high as it would go. Was that my heart pounding or the header hitting dirt? Whichever it was, I was now safely down the other side. Hubby is still standing on the deck of his combine giving me with a big thumbs up before getting back in the cab of his machine and driving into the field. Ah yes, those few and far between "Rodanthe" moments down on the farm!

All this is to say, little moments of warm memories speak of those people and places that impact us even in what may seem like 'unremarkable' moments. And it's these moments that aren't ever forgotten.

With Christmas behind me, the decorations put away and the family room restored, I tackled painting bedrooms and bathrooms and organizing storage rooms and linen closets. It's amazing what one can accomplish when one procrastinates doing the things you don't want to do long enough. Nevertheless, the day came when there were no more walls to paint or closets to empty and re-organize. There were no more excuses to be made and no reason not to, I pulled out my computer and got to work. And yes, in case you are wondering, the yearend financials are finally wrapped up.

During this first part of January, I was tackling another hurdle, all while attempting to maintain a happy façade. That root canal I postponed last year because I was no longer experiencing any problems had to be resurrected. And let me tell you, those 10 days I had to wait were the longest 10 days ever! I literally rocked

back and forth with my head in my hands for days on end until at last, the penicillin kicked in and gave me a breather. I have to tell you, if I had a choice, I would do two hip replacements all over again instead of the having a tooth ache like I had. Between Boost and strawberry milkshakes that were my form of sustenance for an entire week you will never guess what I craved more than anything? A hot dog. I don't even like hot dogs at the best of times but guess what my first 'real' meal was? Yup, complete with relish and ketchup!!

As I write this, we are in the dead of winter at the moment. It's cold. The wind tends to add an extra 10 degrees of coldness to even the coldest of days and those combine moments are nothing but a distant memory. Hubby has been hauling grain and together we have a daily ritual that sees us head out to the farm in the late afternoon to feed the farm cats, one of which is 'my' special cat, who happens to have half a dozen friends who love when we show up with supper for them.

When we are at the farm we will usually see the twins out doing something at the farm but last week, with one of the boys down with a nasty cold, it was just one of them out and about, looking a bit forlorn without his primary buddy. Today, after having left the table set and food in the oven for the "Lunch Bunch" (a group of seven or eight teens) as I lunched with a friend, I returned home to see the table cleared except for one clean plate and cup in the spot where the twin who hasn't been sick always sits and I thought, "Oh, another one down in that household." And so goes the season of sickness, passing from one person to another but fingers are crossed here that it misses me!

And here's hoping it misses you as well! As we enter calving season and potential cold snaps and windy days and who knows what kind of nasty weather, here's hoping you winter well out here in rural Saskatchewan and we'll see you again when it's just a bit closer to spring than it is right now! Quite say how much we appreciate your support of our paper? To those who enjoy the light-hearted look at life down on the farm in this column, we appreciate that too. There isn't a column that goes by that someone doesn't say how much they can relate to these columns or how well they've 'gotten to know' the twins or how they have been able to have a laugh over some funny thing that's been said or done "down on the farm." Here's hoping life down on your farm or wherever you call home is full of stories to remember. Have a wonderful Christmas season everyone. See you all next year!!



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Governments of Canada and Saskatchewan invest \$9.7 million in crop research

Federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Heath MacDonald and Saskatchewan Minister of Agriculture David Marit announced \$9.7 million to support crop research in Saskatchewan.

This investment includes \$7.2 million to support 39 new crop research projects through the Agriculture Development Fund (ADF) and \$2.5 million through the Strategic Research Initiative (SRI) to study the long-term management of herbicide-resistant kochia and wild oats.

"Investing in agricultural research is an investment in the future," MacDonald said. "It helps address current and emerging challenges while creating new opportunities for farmers. We will continue to support agricultural research to ensure producers have the tools, knowledge, and solutions they need to succeed now and in years to come."

"Saskatchewan's position as a global leader in crop exports is built on decades of investment in research and the dedication of scientists in crop development," Marit said. "Investments in agriculture research remain key to driving economic growth."

A Government of Saskatchewan extension specialist stands in a crop research field holding a microphone, surrounded by rows of green plants and informational signs. The image includes text that reads: "Agriculture Innovation" at the top and "\$9.7 Million to Support New Crop Research Projects" at the bottom.

ADF projects are selected through an annual competitive process to identify research with the potential to help Saskatchewan's farmers remain innovative, profitable and competitive. This year's crop projects include a range of topics, including: evaluating the performance of subsurface drip irrigation; identifying new ways to build resistance to wheat stem sawfly; enhancing tolerance to drought and phosphorus deficiency in lentil crops; managing riceworm infestations in northern Saskatchewan wild rice production; and validating bale wrapping material made from flax straw and oat hulls.

The Governments of Canada and Saskatchewan work closely with industry partners on ADF projects to leverage funding to support research that aligns with industry priorities. This year, projects are supported by an additional



\$3.2 million from 13 industry partners, including:

- Alberta Canola Producers Commission;
- Alberta Grains;
- Alberta Pulse Growers;
- Canary Seed Development Commission of Saskatchewan;
- Manitoba Canola Growers;
- Manitoba Crop Alliance;
- Results Driven Agriculture Research (RDAR);

- Saskatchewan Barley Development Commission (SaskBarley);
- Saskatchewan Oat Development Commission;
- Saskatchewan Oilseeds Development Commission (SaskOilseeds);
- Saskatchewan Pulse Growers (SPG);
- Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission (SaskWheat); and
- Western Grains Research Foundation.

"Producers are constantly growing, changing and innovating farming operations to capture growing potential and maximize on-farm efficiencies," SaskWheat outgoing Board Chair Jake Leguee said. "Today's ADF and SRI funding announcement signals to us as producers that we have strong partners with government to tackle agriculture challenges and continue to unlock potential."

The SRI provides targeted funding to address complex challenges facing the agricultural sector. The 2026 SRI project, led by Dr. Shaun Sharpe at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), will accelerate development of sustainable solutions for producers to manage herbicide-resistant kochia and wild oat. The collaborative initiative involves a multidisciplinary team from AAFC, the Universities of Saskatchewan, Regina, and Manitoba, and the National Research Council. The multi-year research project represents a \$3.2 million research investment with \$2.5 million in government funding and \$730,000 from SaskWheat, SPG, SaskOilseeds, SaskBarley, RDAR and Alberta Grains.

The ADF and SRI are supported through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a five-year, \$3.5 billion investment by federal, provincial and territorial governments to strengthen competitiveness, innovation, and resiliency of Canada's agriculture, agri-food, and agri-based products sector. This includes \$1 billion in federal programs and activities, and a \$2.5 billion commitment that is cost-shared 60 per cent federally and 40 per cent provincially for programs that are designed and delivered by provinces and territories.




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Governments of Canada and Saskatchewan invest \$4.5 million in livestock and forage research



Today, Federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Heath MacDonald and Saskatchewan Minister of Agriculture David Marit announced \$4.5 million to support 25 new livestock and forage-related research projects in Saskatchewan through the Agriculture Development Fund (ADF). Additionally, the ministers announced a renewed \$3.9 million, multi-year partnership with two world-class research organizations, the Prairie Swine Centre (PSC) and the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization (VIDO).

"Investments in agricultural research drive innovation across the sector and strengthen one of Canada's most important economic engines," MacDonald said. "These investments will help ensure producers can operate more efficiently and sustainably, today and into the future."

"We are investing in research that will deliver innovation to livestock producers, helping them to adapt, stay competitive and thrive in an ever-changing industry," Marit said.

A brown and white cow stands in a green pasture in front of a wire fence. The title at the top reads "Livestock Innovation". Overlaid text reads "\$4.5 Million to Support 25 New Livestock and Forage Research Projects." Logos for the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership, the Government of Canada, and the Government of Saskatchewan appear at the bottom.

Projects are selected through an annual competitive process to identify research with the potential to help Saskatchewan's livestock producers remain innovative, profitable and competitive. This year's livestock and forage projects

include a range of topics such as developing new types of hybrid bromegrass with more consistent yield and improved digestibility; exploring biomarkers to develop an earlier and more reliable test for Johne's disease; and enhancing sustainable bison production through improved grazing strategies and the preservation of prairie ecosystems in Saskatchewan.

The Governments of Canada and Saskatchewan work closely with industry partners to leverage funding to support research that aligns with industry priorities. This year's ADF projects were supported by an additional \$1.3 million from 13 industry partners, including:

- Alberta Beef Producers;
- Alfalfa Seed Commission of Alberta;
- Canadian Poultry Research Council;

- Manitoba Forage Seed Association;
- Results Driven Agricultural Research;
- Saskatchewan Alfalfa Seed Producers Development Commission;
- Saskatchewan Barley Development Commission;
- Saskatchewan Cattle Association;
- Saskatchewan Chicken Industry Development Fund;
- Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission;
- Saskatchewan Pork Development Board;
- Saskatchewan Sheep

- Development Board; and
- Western Dairy Research Collaboration.

"Investment in research is critical for our industry," Saskatchewan Cattle Association Chair Chad Ross said. "We appreciate government investment in our research priorities, which focus on animal health, forage production and water quality this year."

The ADF is supported through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership - a five-year, \$3.5 billion investment by federal, provincial and territorial

governments to strengthen competitiveness, innovation, and resiliency of Canada's agriculture, agri-food, and agri-based products sector. This includes \$1 billion in federal programs and activities and a \$2.5 billion commitment that is cost-shared 60 per cent federally and 40 per cent provincially for programs that are designed and delivered by provinces and territories.

For more information, including a full list of the above projects, please visit: saskatchewan.ca.

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Saskatchewan responds to federal Firearms Buyback Program launch



The federal government recently announced the opening of its firearms buyback program for individual firearms owners. While the federal government is asking individuals to register in the program to indicate their interest in receiving compensation, they confirmed that registering in the system will not guarantee compensation for affected firearms owners.

"It is very disappointing that the federal government is continuing to proceed with their completely flawed gun grab program that does nothing to make communities safer," Justice Minister and Attorney General Tim McLeod, K.C. said.

Above are photographs of just some of the more than 2,500 firearms that the federal minister continues to suggest are "assault-style guns meant for warfare." Many of the firearms targeted by this program are hunting rifles and collector's items.

"This program will not remove the street weapons that are being used by criminals," McLeod said. "The federal government is targeting law-abiding firearms owners, and they have now confirmed that they will be offering little or no compensation. This is completely unacceptable. Our government is committed to safeguarding the heritage of firearms owners. This spring we are advancing amendments to The Saskatchewan Firearms Act to help ensure our affected firearms owners receive compensation for their legally-obtained property that is now prohibited by federal firearms legislation. We will continue to look at all options to protect law-abiding firearms owners, while taking meaningful measures that will actually improve com-

munity safety."

The amendments propose that lawful firearms owners must be fairly compensated by the federal government or their agents, in an amount determined to be appropriate by the Saskatchewan Firearms Commissioner, if they own firearms that are seized or deemed to be seized as a result of the federal legislation or bans.

"We want to make it clear that there is nothing in our legislation that prevents Saskatchewan firearms

owners from participating in the federal buyback program if they desire to do so," SFO Commissioner Robert Freberg said. "We share the frustrations of law-abiding firearms owners that they are being unfairly treated and being threatened with criminal liability if they do not declare firearms for which they are unlikely to receive appropriate compensation. Saskatchewan's approach in this matter has always been around ensuring that individuals receive fair compensation for their

property, and the federal government's suggestion that we are somehow attempting to prevent our citizens from being paid fairly is as ridiculous as their buyback program."

In the coming weeks, an online portal will be launched by the Government of Saskatchewan to provide appraisals for all firearms, ammunition and accessories impacted by

federal legislation.

Further details on this program and the provincial government's continued efforts to support Saskatchewan firearms owners will be announced soon.

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USask researching sustainable bison grazing management

Wasacase working on project that would bring bison herd to Kahkewistahaw

A new research project led by the University of Saskatchewan (USask) is laying the groundwork for more sustainable bison husbandry through grazing management and ecosystem enhancement techniques.

Dr. Trever Crowe (PhD), acting dean of USask's College of Agriculture and Bioresources, is working with Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence (LFCE) Director Dr. Scott Wright (PhD) and LFCE research scientist Dr. Eric van Cleef (PhD) on the project.

As van Cleef puts it, the goal of this research will be to "start from the beginning" to develop scientifically-grounded feeding, grazing, and care techniques tailored specifically for bison populations living in modern "intensive" systems—meaning grazing within fences instead of being completely free-roaming.

"The first step is to generate science-based information on how this grazing management affects forage and animal production, animal behaviour, the environment, and soil health," van Cleef said. "Then we'll have new information that could guide us to the next level, like introducing new forage species to feeding systems."

This project received support from the Agriculture Development Fund (ADF), a joint provincial and federal government-funded program intended to support innovative agricultural and agri-food research throughout the province.

USask has built a unique and robust catalogue of bison research, due in large part to the genetic research conducted through the Integrated Omics for Sustainable Animal Agriculture and Environmental Stewardship (IntegrOmics) project led by USask Distinguished Professor Emeritus Dr. Gregg Adams (PhD) with the Western College of Veterinary Medicine.

The next step for researchers is to bring knowledge of best practices for raising and feeding bison to producers that are built directly from researching bison instead of building off beef cattle techniques. Due in large part to past efforts and connections built in the community, USask researchers have access to a bison herd they can work with to create robust research to support sustainable bison production.

As Wright puts it, bison are different than beef cattle, from their behaviour to their preferences in food.

The overall aim of the project is to build a base for sustainable bison production now and into the future. Wright included five different factors to consider when pursuing sustainability: environmental, ecological,



cal, economic, social, and cultural.

Examples of environmental and ecological impacts to consider include the kinds of plants required for the bison to be able to feed and graze, and the literal impact the hooves of bison will have on the already-existing plants and soil. In addition, Wright and van Cleef both noted that as soon as bison are brought into a paddock, their social behaviour among the herd changes, which is another consideration for safe and healthy bison production.

Economic considerations come into the overall cost-effectiveness of raising bison in paddocks. van Cleef, who has a background in economics, will also explore the impact of bison on rangeland and the direct value of having bison as part of a production strategy.

"We're trying to understand the impacts of moving animals to a very intensive system," van Cleef said. "Is it economically feasible or not? How can we bring Indigenous communities and groups of producers on board and show them we can do this and be sustainable? I think that's what's important."

Crowe stressed the level of importance in getting the input of Indigenous communities and listening to the cultural underpinnings of their work, noting that this project would help bridge a gap between anecdotal evidence and hard scientific evidence that could help support Indigenous knowledge and methods for bison production for today's producers.

"It is about bison, but we're thinking about plants, plant viability, rangeland soil viability, soil health. It's that relationship between the bison and their space," said Crowe.

Candace Wasacase, the former USask di-

rector of Indigenous Engagement and the current CEO of Kahkewistahaw Economic Management Corporation, has worked with bison numerous times through her career and is deeply familiar with the importance of bison to Indigenous communities. A member of Kahkewistahaw First Nation, Wasacase said bison are not simply animals—they are family to First Nations in Saskatchewan. And research into bison care and production helps to create knowledge for the university and community alike.

"There's a re-emergence and a renewal of the bison spirit back to our community, and I think projects like this will help the co-creation of a new knowledge base about bison, the land and all its people, First Nations and not," she said.

Wasacase is currently working on a project that would bring a bison herd to Kahkewistahaw First Nation. She is working with numerous organizations to ensure the land they've secured for the bison is appropriate and sustainable for a herd and said this kind of project could help support this kind of initiative.

"This work is absolutely critical to the mission of both First Nations and the university," Wasacase said. "Bison are a key-stone species to the province and this land. They've had a relationship with First Nations for thousands of years, and it's important we treat them as the relatives they are." The research team lauded the support of the ADF for this unique project, calling it a clear signal that the provincial government understands the importance of bison in Saskatchewan and believes in USask and the LFCE to lead this kind of work.

"To me, fundamentally, it gives industry options and answers. It allows the livestock industry in Saskatchewan to make choices based on science," Wright said.

The ADF is supported through the Sustainable Canadian Agriculture Partnership (S-CAP), an investment of \$3.5 billion over five years from federal, provincial and territorial governments with the goal of supporting the agri-food and agri-product sectors across Canada. The Sustainable CAP includes \$1 billion in federal programs and activities and a \$2.5 billion commitment for programs designed by provinces and territories that is cost-shared 60 per cent by the federal government and 40 per cent by provincial/territorial governments.

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Producers cautiously optimistic about Chinese canola deal

BY STEPHANIE ZOER

On March 20, 2025, China imposed a 100 per cent tariff on Canadian canola products after Canada put a surtax on China's EVs, steel and aluminum. China is the largest market for Canadian canola exports with canola seed, oil, and meal valued around \$4.9 billion in 2024, with canola oil accounting for over \$20 billion.

Saskatchewan is the global leader in producing and supplying canola around the world, and when the tariff came into effect, many farmers felt uncertainly on what it would hold for their futures.

Over half of the canola grown in Canada comes from Saskatchewan, with 12.2 million tonnes of canola produced last year in this province alone. Despite the significant increase of these tariffs from China, Saskatchewan remained a top global producer.

After a trip to China by Prime Minister Mark Carney and Premier Scott Moe, China has agreed to lower the tariffs significantly to 15 per cent, reducing the tariff by 85 per cent. The changes are expected to take place on March 1.

John Van Eaton, a farmer from Maryfield, said he is not breaking out the champagne just yet. He will wait to see what March 1 brings.

"With respect to trade issues with Chi-

na, and other foreign markets, it seems that the days of long-term mutually beneficial relationships are a thing of the past, and we have entered into an era of protectionism," he says.

"Any improvement in commodity prices would mean billions of dollars in Canada, and hundreds of thousands per farmer, and that would certainly be welcomed."

"Although peas were mentioned in this MOU, another important market for Canada is India, and there is much work to be done there to mend this fence," said Van Eaton. "So, in short, I am cautiously optimistic that this MOU will help, but I would reserve final judgment until after March 1, 2026."

Blake Duchek is a farmer from Esterhazy and he worries the Chinese won't make good on their promise.

"It is better than nothing but I'm concerned that in ten months' time we will be back at the table to negotiate again and the Chinese will not want to make a deal because they will have their canola stocks replenished," said Duchek.

As farmers wait for spring, they are preparing their equipment for an eventful seeding season, and they hope that the weather will be on their side when the time comes, to plant their fields with canola.



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Farm Credit Canada (FCC) is giving \$1.5 million through its FCC AgriSpirit Fund to 81 community projects across Canada to support rural capital projects.

"Every AgriSpirit Fund project reflects a community coming together to solve a need," said Justine Hendricks, FCC president and CEO. "We are proud to play our part in supporting those efforts and contributing to these essential spaces, services and infrastructure that help rural communities thrive. These projects show what's possible when local vision and national support work hand in hand."

This year, the FCC AgriSpirit Fund awarded between \$10,000 and \$25,000 to various community improvement initiatives that enrich the lives of residents in cities, towns or Indigenous communities with fewer than 150,000 people.

Over the past 22 years, the FCC AgriSpirit Fund has supported 1,778 projects, an investment of \$24 million.

Registered charities, non-profit groups, municipalities and First Nations, Métis or Inuit governments/communities interested in funding can visit www.fccagrispiritfund.ca for eligibility requirements and view past projects.



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Meeting held in Wawota on CFIA traceability regulations

BY NICOLE TAYLOR

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER
About 300 livestock producers crowded into the Wawota town hall on January 15 to discuss proposed changes to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's traceability regulations.

Henry McCarthy, 2nd Vice President of Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association (SSGA), the SSGA's rep on the Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association board, and local veterinarian, said the focus following the meeting is for producers to work through their associations to formally bring their concerns forward.

"The next steps will be formulating resolutions through the various associations in the province to get the will of the producers, their desires, into the hands of the people in government," McCarthy said.

He said the meeting was intended to allow information to move from producers upward. "Yesterday was about information flowing from the grassroots up, not top down," he said.

Strong turnout

McCarthy said the strong turnout reflected growing frustration among producers.

"These people are hard to get out to meetings," he said. "They're independent farmers, and they've traditionally trusted their representatives or left it up to somebody else. The fact that this many people came out tells you something."

He said trust in the Canadian Food Inspection Agency has declined over time, largely due to communication issues.

"When things get bungled, it's through poor communication," McCarthy said. "People are going to lose faith in you. When they feel there's no accountability and no voice, people get pretty frustrated."

McCarthy said producers are particularly concerned that proposed traceability changes would increase their workload.

"They're just transferring the workload from the CFIA veterinarian to the producer," he said. "That paperwork burden is a big concern."

He said producers are not opposed to traceability, but want practical solutions that build on systems already in place.

"We've spent a lot of money creating brand inspection databases and tracing movement," McCarthy said. "Does it make sense to go reinvent the wheel?"

McCarthy said his hope is that industry groups can work together and repair relationships with CFIA.

"My best hope is that we repair all the relationships and come up with workable solutions that demonstrate compliance and producer buy-in, without creating extra workload for producers," he said.

He encouraged producers who were unable to attend the meeting to become involved through their associations and elected officials.

"Contact your provincial association. Come to a meeting. Have your voice heard," McCarthy said. "Contact your local MLA or MP. Their job is to represent you, but they need direction."

Participation is key

McCarthy said participation is key if producers want to influence the outcome.

"If you sit at home and do nothing, then everything stays status quo," he said. "This is a chance for people to speak up."

He said he believes that it's possible for producers to influence CFIA's proposed regulations if the groups representing producers speak with one voice.

He said the groups should focus on a few of the most important changes they would like to see, potentially including a mechanism for producer input to the CFIA, possibly through an advisory board.

One of the ideas suggested from the floor, maybe we need to have a board in the CFIA where there's producers from every region.

"What we need is representation that actually works."

The Wawota meeting was organized following widespread discussion about potential Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) amendments that would significantly expand reporting requirements for livestock movements.

While CFIA has since announced it will



Part of the crowd at a meeting on cattle traceability held in Wawota Wednesday.

pause publication of the proposed regulations to allow for more input, producers said uncertainty, lack of consultation, and past experience with enforcement have left them deeply uneasy.

"This isn't about being anti-traceability," one producer told the room. "This is about how far it goes, who controls it, and what happens if you don't comply."

A central frustration raised throughout the meeting was that producers said they still do not clearly understand what would be required of them under the proposed changes.

"How are we supposed to come up with resolutions when we don't even know what they're asking us to do?" one rancher asked.

Several speakers noted that information about the proposed regulations has largely been learned through other producers, rather than direct communication from CFIA with producers themselves.

"That's the problem," another producer said. "The goalposts keep moving, and nobody can stand up here today and tell us exactly what the final rules are."

Concerns over government overreach

While opinions varied on how traceability should evolve, many speakers framed the issue as one of rights and control rather than technology.

"This cannot happen without compliance," one producer said. "But once people are scared, they'll start enforcing it themselves. Pasture boards, auction marts, shows—before there's even a law in place."

Producers repeatedly emphasized that as they understand it, expanded reporting requirements would amount to constant oversight of routine farm activities.

Several expressed concern about data ownership and access, questioning who would control the information once it is reported and how it could be used.

"If somebody sitting in an office somewhere can pull up my file and ask me where all my cattle are, and I can't give them exactly what they want, what happens then?" One producer asked. "That's a huge grey area."

Past dealings with CFIA enforcement weighed heavily on the discussion. Some producers recounted being warned of substantial fines for late or incomplete reporting under existing traceability rules, even when issues arose from practical realities such as lost tags or emergency livestock movements.

"I was told if I didn't upload information within 24 hours, I could face a \$6,000 fine," one former tag distributor said. "That would have wiped out years of profit."

A veterinarian in attendance also warned that proposed requirements to report livestock movements to and from veterinary clinics could discourage producers from seeking timely care.

"If people are afraid they'll miss a reporting deadline or make a mistake, animals will suffer," one veterinarian said. "That's not hypothetical—that will happen."

Many speakers tied their concerns to the long-term sustainability of agriculture, particularly for small and mid-sized operations.



Above, Henry McCarthy addresses crowd at meeting last Thursday.



Above, Chad Ross, Chair of Saskatchewan Cattle Association, and Levi Hull, Chair of communications and finance for Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association (SCA).

"This is how you push people out," one producer said. "Older producers won't stick around for this, and young people won't get into an industry where one mistake could mean fines or penalties."

Others pointed to the potential ripple effects on rural culture, including 4-H programs, agricultural exhibitions, rodeos, and community pastures, where organizers may feel pressured to impose traceability requirements prematurely out of fear of non-compliance.

"There won't be anyone left to volunteer, to organize, to teach kids," one speaker warned. "Who's going to take that on?"

Despite the frustration expressed, many speakers stressed they were not calling for the elimination of traceability, but rather for a system designed and controlled by producers themselves.

"We already have traceability," one attendee said. "RFID tags, manifests, brands, bills of sale—that's all real, functional traceability."

Several speakers called for clearer limits on what data must be reported, direct consultation with producers rather than top-down regulation, greater producer representation within CFIA and traceability governance, accountability and transparency around enforcement.

Some also urged that CFIA agriculture oversight be returned under the authority of Agriculture Canada instead of Health Canada, arguing inspectors and policymakers must better understand livestock production realities.

"We want accountability," one speaker said. "People making decisions about cattle should know cattle."

Organizers encouraged producers to remain engaged through industry associations, submit resolutions, and attend upcoming provincial and national meetings, saying the level of turnout demonstrated the seriousness of the issue.

"This is our livelihoods," one producer said in closing. "If we don't speak now, we may not get another chance."

Farm equipment outlook 2026: Used equipment and livestock support modest sales growth



The farm equipment market has been slowing for several years due to declining crop prices and rising operating costs, which have squeezed farm profits. Reduced profitability, combined with high equipment prices, has constrained equipment sales. The big question is: how long will the weakness persist and where are the opportunities?

In this outlook, we look ahead to the coming year with sales projections for new and used equipment and highlight trends in Canada's agricultural implement manufacturing sector. While the industry remains in a downturn, trade uncertainty adds another layer of complexity. Ongoing negotiations and potential tariff changes could influence commodity markets and farmer confidence, shaping purchasing decisions in 2026. Despite these challenges, we identify areas of opportunity.

New equipment sale weakness expected to persist

New farm equipment sales are expected to finish this year below 2024 levels across most categories. Combine sales are currently tracking on par with last year while 100 HP and 4WD tractor sales have fallen 10% - 20%, signaling overall weakness heading into year-end.

We anticipate this softness will continue into 2026 (Table 1). New farm equipment unit sales are projected to remain soft as farmers feel the pressure of tighter profitability due to low commodity prices, high equipment prices, and market uncertainty stemming from geopolitical and trade issues. Categories like low-horsepower tractors that ended the year stronger are largely the result of additional units being directed to the Canadian market.

Table 1. New farm equipment sale projections: weakness persists

Equipment type	2025 relative to 2024	2026 relative to 2025	2026 relative to 5 Yr Avg
< 40 HP	4.8%	3.1%	-13.9%
40 - 100 HP tractors	5.9%	-4.7%	-18.6%
100+ HP tractors	-10.9%	-5.6%	-19.5%
4WD tractor	-13.2%	-1.6%	3.0%
Combines	-2.2%	-6.7%	-13.5%

Sources: AEM, FCC Economics

Equipment manufacturers face rising costs and shrinking demand

Canadian agricultural implement manufacturing sales fell sharply in 2025, at least based on the first nine months which showed sales down 18% compared to last year. We expect Canadian manufacturing sales to keep declining, ending the year below \$5.2 billion. New orders so far in 2025 are down 16% compared to the same period last year.

Manufacturers are caught in a tough position. Elevated equipment prices have reduced demand, yet they also face rising input costs from tariffs on steel and aluminum. This combination leaves little flexibility on pricing and adds pressure to maintain profitability and sales.

Overall, farm equipment purchases have shifted from being driven by wants to being driven by needs, as many farm operations focus on cost efficiency—either by keeping equipment longer or exploring options in the used market.

Rising interest in used equipment spurs modest growth

In recent years, used equipment inventories have been rising. In 2025, sales were uneven—some categories saw strong results for part of the year, while others remained weak throughout. Stronger used sales were driven by early arrivals of new equipment, which boosted trade activity, and by farms looking for more affordable upgrades. For example, the surge in new combine deliveries in September resulted in increased trade activity for used combines; sales are up 18% year-to-date.

Our projections for the remainder of 2025 and into 2026 show that the outlook for used equipment remains more positive than new equipment across most categories (Table 2). Used combine sales are expected to finish 2025 above 2024 levels, although still below the five-year average. Meanwhile, sales of used seeding and planting equipment have declined, and are expected to fall 10% by the end of the year.

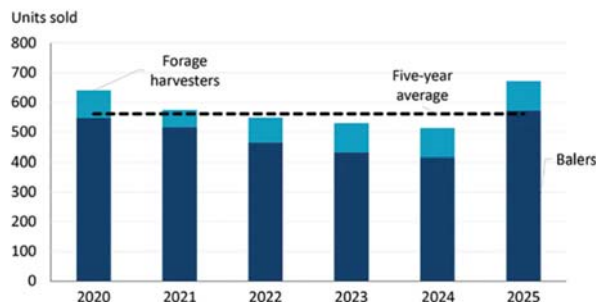
Table 2. Used farm equipment sale projections: modest growth

Equipment type	2025 relative to 2024	2026 relative to 2025	2026 relative to 5 Yr Avg
< 40 HP	12.8%	-2.1%	1.2%
40 - 100 HP tractors	-4.1%	2.8%	-22.1%
100+ HP tractors	-0.8%	1.7%	-4.7%
4WD tractor	-7.3%	2.3%	-7.3%
Combines	12.8%	-0.1%	-7.8%
Forage harvesters	0.0%	3.0%	16.4%
Balers	33.2%	1.6%	17.1%
Seeders/planters	-10.6%	-1.3%	-17.9%

Sources: IronSolutions, FCC Economics

The bright spot in the used equipment market is rising demand for forage and haying equipment. Used baler sales are up over 30% in 2025, and forage harvester sales have remained steady for the past three years (Figure 1). Imports of balers and forage harvesters (though trade data doesn't separate new from used) also point to strong interest, with baler imports up 5% and forage harvester imports up 23%, signaling upgrades in livestock operations, particularly in eastern Canada.

Figure 1. Sales of forage and haying equipment rising on strong cattle outlook



Sales illustrated are year-to-date through 11 months of the year

Looking ahead to next year, several factors could influence our forecast and farmers' buying decisions.

Trends to monitor in 2026

1. Progress on global trade

Several trade developments will heavily influence the farm equipment market next year. A key factor is the review of the Canada-U.S.-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA), set to begin in July 2026. While there has been talk by the U.S. of letting CUSMA expire, renewal efforts are expected to gain momentum as the White House seeks visible progress before the November mid-term elections. If history is any guide, negotiations eventually lead to a trade deal. A revised CUSMA could bring positive changes, such as lower tariffs on steel and aluminum—critical input costs for farm equipment manufacturing. Another major factor is a potential trade framework between the U.S. and China, which could stabilize agricultural markets, boost U.S. soybean exports and farm-gate prices, including in Canada. If favorable trade agreements emerge early in 2026, they will strengthen commodity markets, restore farmer confidence, and drive investment decisions in equipment. However, if progress on the trade front stalls, the downturn in the equipment industry could persist.

2. U.S. equipment sales

The slowdown in U.S. equipment sales can't be overlooked. One of the main factors that influenced sales and early delivery of equipment in Canada is the continued weakness of the U.S. farm equipment market. South of the border, sales of new equipment are down 25% to 40% compared to 2024. As a result, more equipment is being redirected to Canada, often arriving earlier than originally planned.

We've seen this pattern over the past two years: Canadian sales seem strong at certain points in the year, but it's largely due to lower U.S. demand. If U.S. demand changes, it could affect our projections as manufacturers adjust.

Bottom line

The Canadian farm equipment market is set for another year of weak sales, with demand hampered by tight margins resulting from continued low crop prices and high input costs. While used equipment sales are expected to outperform new equipment, overall growth will remain modest. Improved trade conditions could further restore confidence and provide farm operations with greater certainty, encouraging more investment in equipment.

That said, record-high cattle prices and strong livestock outlook are creating opportunities for the farm equipment market. Beyond forage equipment, livestock producers may begin upgrading tractors and combines after years of delaying purchases. If cattle prices and revenues remain strong, the livestock sector is an area of opportunity for the equipment industry to improve sales beyond our projections. If additional sales materialize, equipment inventory levels could normalize by the end of 2026, paving the way for a recovery in equipment sales the following year.

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2026 crop outlook: Export momentum key to prices given abundant supplies

Prices for grains, oilseeds, and pulses have been falling for most crops over the past several years largely due to global trade uncertainty and improved production. Globally, there are ample supplies for most grain and oilseeds, as many countries benefited from optimal growing conditions last year. The situation was no different domestically as Canada produced a record 107 million tonnes in 2025. Considering uncertainties with regards to trade and market access, farmers are, not surprisingly, wondering about prospects for profitability.

In this outlook, we look at the key factors that will drive prices and present our forecasts for the 2026-27 crop year.

Ample supplies limit price forecast for 2026-27

Commodity prices for the 2025-26 crop year have declined year-over-year for nearly all crops. The downward price pressure is expected to continue into the 2026-27 crop year (Table 1). Abundant supplies due to record grain and oilseed production along with trade uncertainty and market access challenges will limit prices for the new crop year keeping them all well below the five-year average. Record production means higher carry-out stocks at crop year end and that has added pressure to prices.

Table 1: Crop Prices (\$/tonne) for new crop year under pressure and below five-year averages

Cash crop	2024-2025 (actual)	2025-2026 (forecast)	2026-2027 (forecast)	5-Year Average
Corn (ON)	240	240	245	270
Soybeans (ON)	525	520	515	610
Canola (SK)	630	615	685	735
Peas (SK)	410	300	290	430
Lentils (SK)	810	820	490	800
Spring wheat - (SK)	290	260	255	345
Feed barley (AB)	250	245	240	295
Durum (SK)	340	290	275	440

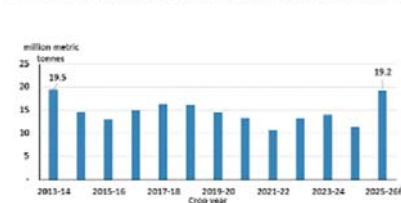
Sources: Statistics Canada and FCC calculations

Canadian ending stocks expected to surge

In Canada, most principal field crop ending stocks are projected higher for the 2025-26 crop with the exception of corn and soybeans. Combining all Canadian grains and oilseeds together, crop year ending stocks are expected to

surge to levels not seen since the bumper crop of 2013-14 (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Canadian crop year ending stocks expected to surge to levels not seen since 2013-14



Corn ending stocks are expected to be similar to last year while soybean ending stocks are projected to decline slightly due to production challenges in Eastern Canada. Demand remains high for many crops, including wheat, and while wheat exports have been strong so far this crop year the expected increase in carryover will likely continue to weigh on prices limiting upside into the 2026-27 crop year.

Peas and lentils face the potential for record high ending stocks – 70% higher than previous highs – due to a 30-40% jump in production year over year from strong yields, in addition to trade barriers. Canadian pea prices have remained under pressure from restricted access to both China and India due to tariffs. The recent removal of the 100% Chinese tariffs on peas is a positive development, but regaining access to India remains critical to reducing high year-end stocks and preventing further price declines. Canadian pulses still face significant market access challenges in India. Peas with higher tariffs at 30% will see more uncertainty and weaker prices while lentils, at a 10% tariff into India means exports will still move, but at lower prices.

For canola, increased production and losing the Chinese export market for a portion of the crop year means stocks relative to use have increased since last year, which has weighed on prices. Ending stocks are still expected to rise on increased supply.

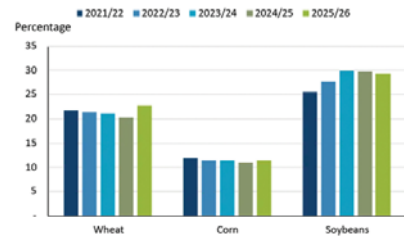
While Canadian ending stocks affect aspects of local prices, global supply and demand fundamentals have an even bigger impact on pricing. In fact, U.S. ending stocks are a major factor that determines Canadian prices for ma-

for crops.

Unless exports to China materialize U.S. soybean ending stocks will rise

Stocks-to-use ratios for the three major global crops (corn, soybeans and wheat) from the latest World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE) report released by the USDA provide valuable insights on the market (Figure 2). Currently there are minimal global production concerns for most commodities.

Figure 2: Global stocks-to-use ratios for corn, soybeans and wheat




Source: United States Department of Agriculture

The global wheat stocks-to-use ratio is expected to rise because of strong worldwide supply, driven by higher production from major exporters like Canada. At the same time, weaker demand from key importers could limit price increases.

Despite strong global production of corn and soybeans, solid demand has allowed stocks for 2025/26 to remain in line with last year for both commodities. The U.S. achieved record corn yields and production. Soybeans also had record yields, supporting significant production. Global corn stocks-to-use are expected to finish the crop year slightly above last crop year. Even though global soybean ending stocks are projected to decline at the end of the crop year, they remain above the 5-year average.

Our 2026 top trends blog highlighted the relationship of exports on ending stocks and crop prices. The export pace of commodities will provide greater insight into the potential size of ending stocks for commodities in the current crop year, influencing prices this year.

Continued on page B18 

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2026 crop outlook

Continued from page B17

Trade developments and exports key trends to monitor in 2026

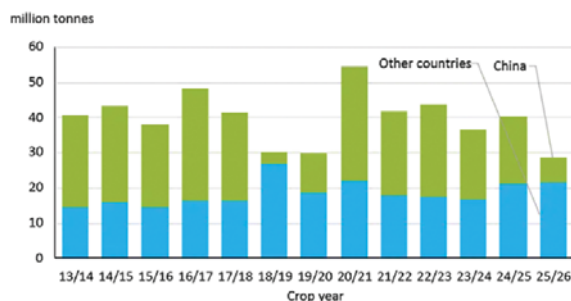
Trade developments could influence our 2026 price projections. A possible trade deal between the U.S. and China might help stabilize agricultural markets boosting exports and prices. If agreements are reached early in the year, they could strengthen commodity markets and support growth in the sector.

For example, the recent trade agreement between Canada and China which will take effect by March 1st will give the canola sector a significant reprieve from tariffs. While the deal would still see tariffs of 15% on canola seed, down from 76%, the elimination of the 100% tariffs on canola meal is a positive trade development. Canadian processors were previously forced to discount their prices in order to find alternative export markets.

With the reduction in canola tariffs, we could see some additional exports to China moving Canada closer to the 8 million tonne export target projected by AAFC this crop year. Without the Canada-China trade agreement Canadian exports would likely only reach 6.5 million tonnes as the current export pace is 20% below target. The fulfillment of Chinese purchases going forward of both canola seed and canola by-products will be important to keep ending stocks from increasing above current projections and will keep prices supported.

In the U.S., corn exports are doing well, but soybeans are underperforming as export commitments remain well behind last year's pace (Figure 3). While China has bought some U.S. soybean cargoes, a formal U.S.-China deal remains absent. Unless exports to China materialize U.S. soybean ending stocks will increase pressuring oilseed prices.

Figure 3: U.S. soybean sale commitments and exports to China continue to lag historical levels



Source: USDA

Export pace for both Canadian and U.S. crops will be a major driving factor for where ending stocks finish the current crop year. Monitoring exports and ending stock estimates can be valuable for price and farm revenue expectations this year. It also allows producers to make incremental sales when marketing opportunities present themselves. While farm prices and revenue are expected to be restrained the expense side of the equation is also important.

Managing costs will be more important than ever

On the expense side, crop inputs are expected to remain elevated, putting producers in negative territory for margins. Profitability projections for nearly all grain, oilseed and pulse crops across Canada are below break-even levels while many crops are showing large losses per acre (e.g. barley and peas in Manitoba). However, outcomes will largely

depend on individual crop yields, as well as operating and land costs.

Knowing and managing cost of production is critical as increased on-farm inventory reduces and delays cash flow. Farmers would do well to focus on the things they can control and should not underestimate the incremental efficiencies from small improvements. For example, renegotiating land rents that are up for renewal could be considered. Communication with input suppliers on needs e.g., target yields and appropriate fertilizer and chemical rates, is also crucial for producers.

Bottom line

Large carryover stocks for most crops are expected to keep prices under pressure into the 2026-27 crop year. Uncertainty around global trade and market access adds more complexity to the price outlook. Watching how exports progress will be important as it will influence how the price projections outlined above evolve throughout the year. More importantly, it can create pricing opportunities and help set expectations for the year ahead, including spring planting decisions. Understanding and managing cost of production will be more important than ever to protect profitability.

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