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THE WORLD-Spectator AG NEWS

FEBRUARY 2025

Ag advocate Todd Lewis appointed to senate

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI
 LOCAL JOURNALISM
 INITIATIVE REPORTER

A name familiar to many in Saskatchewan agriculture has been appointed to the Senate of Canada. Todd Lewis was one of three newly appointed independent senators to fill vacancies at the house. The Governor General, Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon, appointed Lewis along with retired police officer Baltej Dhillon from B.C., and economist Martine Hébert from Quebec.

"Congratulations to Mr. Dhillon, Ms. Hébert, and Mr. Lewis on their appointment as Parliament's newest independent senators," said Prime Minister Justin Trudeau when the appointment occurred on February 7. "Their broad range of experience will be a great benefit to the Senate, and I am confident they will continue to be strong voices for their communities."

There have been 93 Senate appointments under the Trudeau government.

The job of these new senators once they join their peers is to examine and revise legislation, investigate national issues, and represent the interests of their respective regions.

Long-time volunteer

Lewis is a fourth-generation producer on the family farm (established in 1904) located near the hamlet of Gray, just south of Regina. Along with his wife Terry, brother Rod, and nephew Brendan, they keep their grain operation thriving.

A long-time advocate in the province's agriculture



Todd Lewis was appointed to the senate on Feb. 7.

Michelle Belle photo

industry, Lewis is currently the first vice-president of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture and a member of the Canadian National Railway Agricultural Advisory Council. Added to that, Lewis is a past-president of the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan, and served on many committees in-

cluding the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce Environment Committee, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Crop Logistics Working Group, Board of Directors of the Western Grains Research Foundation, and the Provincial Water Advisory Group.

"We're pretty excited and proud when we heard that

announcement," said Bill Prybylski, APAS president. "It's not only good for our reputation at APAS and the CFA, good for Saskatchewan, but it's good for Canada as a whole. Todd is just an incredible individual with an incredible mind in recognizing issues and how they affect everything, every aspect around it."

Prybylski sees Lewis' appointment to Senate as an opportunity to "implement some change for the betterment of everybody."

"Anytime we can represent producers, it's only a benefit to producers and to the province as a whole," he said.

At the more local level, Lewis has been on council

with the RM of Lajord for more than 20 years, currently serving as Deputy Reeve.

The World-Spectator interviewed Lewis last week:

How does a Saskatchewan farmer become appointed to the Senate of Canada?

Continued on page C14

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WSA releases Ag Water Stewardship Policy

By RYAN KIEDROWSKI

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Water is a widely debated issue in rural Saskatchewan, especially when it comes to who can divert it where and when. Recently, the Water Security Agency released their Agricultural Water Stewardship Policy and a \$1 million-dollar commitment over the next three years devoted to ongoing research and monitoring as a way to ensure long-term outcomes in their plan are met.

"We started work on this in 2019 with doing a bunch of demonstration and research projects, and then over the last two years have been when we're really actively engaging with the various different stakeholders and communities involved," said Krystal Tendler, Executive Director of Agriculture Water Management with the WSA.

"We engaged with 80 stakeholders, but beyond that, everyone in the province has some sort of connection to water—whether you're a cabin owner, you like to fish, or whether you just drink some water out of the tap or you're a farmer—you have some sort of connection, you have some sort of interest. Our job was trying to balance all those interests and create that science-based policy."

Coming up with the policy has not been an easy task, and Tendler says the end product will not totally please all stakeholders.

"For some, they would like to see a more restrictive policy that went—maybe some would say—as far as banning drainage, where some would say, 'I don't want to see any more rules in place. I want to be able to manage water on my farm,'" Tendler explained. "Those are the two ends of the spectrum, and we found a policy that kind of landed in the middle. I think for the majority of folks, the middle ground is the right spot to be."

Saskatchewan producers are the caretakers of over 40 per cent of farmland across Canada with some 4.6 million



acres of wetlands also in their stewardship. The WSA policy provides a guide to how many wetlands on agricultural land can be drained and how many need to be retained, managing the province's water and agri-environmental priorities, water quality and quantity, wildlife habitat, and soil health.

"Our role is to ensure drainage is being done responsibly and managing any of those downstream impacts," Tendler said. "We have a suite of different mitigation tools and policies in place, and this particular policy, the stewardship policy, completes that suite to make sure that we have the right tools to manage those impacts."

In total, there are over 16.3 million acres of wetlands in Saskatchewan with around 10 per cent of agricultural land being covered. These wetlands can be of various sizes, but by definition a wetland is saturated land seeing water stand long enough to promote wetland or aquatic processes. This includes rivers, lakes, pot-holes, peatlands, and even areas that usually dry up over the course of a growing

season.

"The policy applies to any agricultural drainage works, so typically, those are being done by farmers," Tendler said. "There is some works that RMs are advancing that kind of fall into that category if it's outside of their actual municipal developments, but typically they are farmer-led projects that it's most relevant to."

The first step for producers with a need to drain a wetland is to contact the WSA.

"We have an agriculture water management program, and we would work them through that," Tendler explained. "A lot of it's about making sure we have a good design project, where you want the water to go, how are we going to control the flows downstream, what are we going to do to prevent erosion, and making sure that any downstream landowners are involved in a part of that process."

Where this new policy comes into play is ensuring at least some of those wetlands remain on the landscape.

"There's room to V-ditch, absolutely, but let's keep some wetlands in place," said Tendler, who added that producers are in favour of keeping those wetland acres. "We actually just completed a wetland inventory for the majority of the province, and it's been really interesting to see the results of that. We've found that 86 per cent of wetlands in Saskatchewan right now are undrained. I think it really speaks to the role that Saskatchewan producers have played. They're the caretaker of the majority of those wetlands, and they're choosing to keep them and be the stewards of them."

Continued on page C7 *€*

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Water Security Agency releases preliminary runoff report

Conditions improve across the province

On February 13, 2025, the Water Security Agency (WSA) released the preliminary spring runoff report for 2025.

While much of Saskatchewan experienced below-normal precipitation, leading to dry conditions at freeze-up last fall, overall conditions improved compared to last year. Most major reservoirs in southern Saskatchewan are at or above normal levels and are expected to be near normal levels following spring runoff.

Winter precipitation has been variable across the province, ranging from below normal in south-central and northern Saskatchewan, to above normal in parts of the southwest and west central portions of the province.

Currently, Lake Diefenbaker, the province's main water supply, is above normal levels for this time of year and inflows this winter have been near normal.

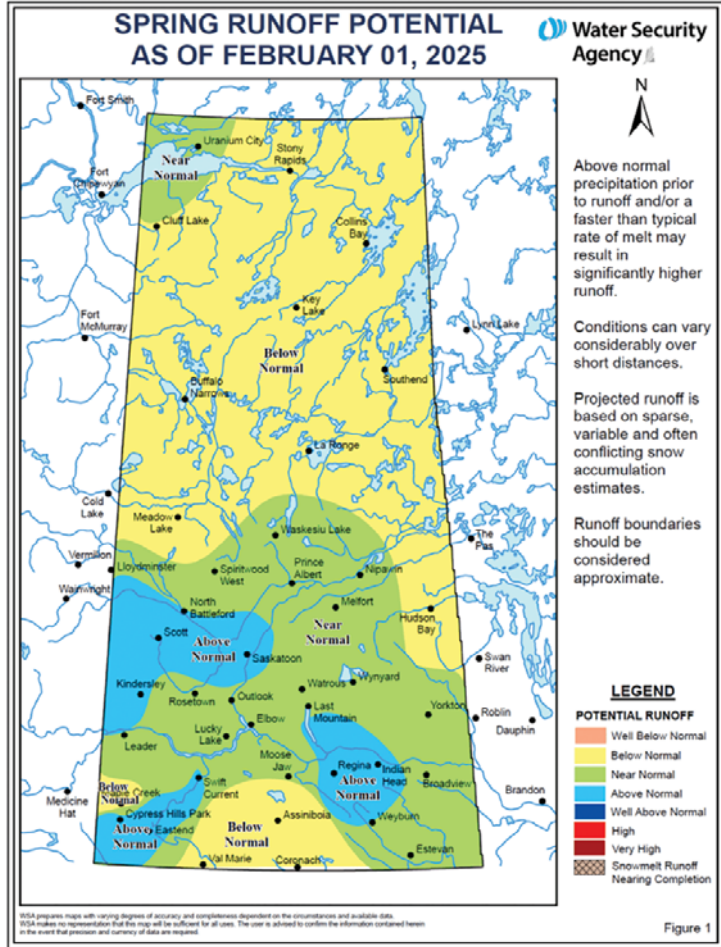
"In anticipation of potential below normal runoff from the alpine region, WSA has implemented an overwinter operating plan at Lake Diefenbaker that still focuses on retaining water supplies to ensure safe, reliable drinking water for communities and other users," Minister Responsible for the Water Security Agency Daryl Harrison said.

A more complete assessment of potential runoff conditions will be available after snowpack survey data is gathered later in February. Snowpack data, collected from over 100 locations across the province, provides a comprehensive view of moisture conditions, helping to refine runoff forecasts and water management decisions.

Parts of southern and central Saskatchewan are expected to see an above normal runoff response as a result of an above normal snowpack in combination with wetter fall conditions. Below normal conditions continue in northern Saskatchewan and the south- and east-central parts of the province.

In the Souris Basin, reservoirs are projected to remain within normal operating ranges. All lakes within the Qu'Appelle River Basin are expected to remain in the normal operating ranges.

WSA will continue to monitor and report on conditions as they develop.



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Cultivating prosperity: How plant science innovations are driving Canada's agricultural success

BY BETHANY LIPKA

BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE ANALYST WITH FCC

Canadian agriculture has been a driving force in global agricultural productivity growth for decades, thanks to plant science innovations. A recent report offers insights into the value that plant science innovations have had for Canada's agriculture sector and the greater Canadian economy.

Economic benefits of plant science innovations

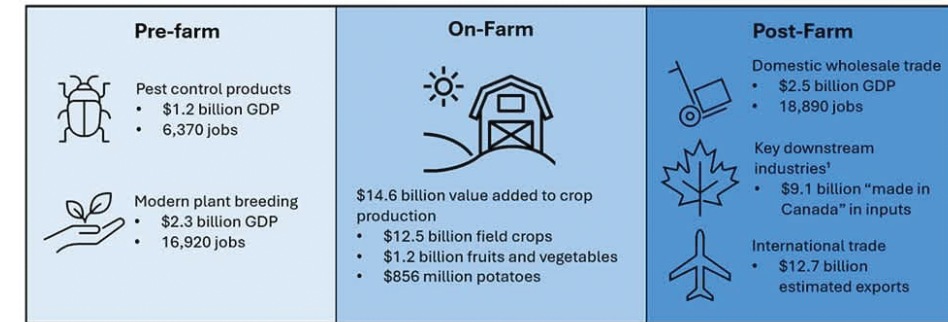
The value added of plant science innovations in Canada has been substantial. In their report, Regulatory Impact Alternatives Strategies (RIAS) estimates the following pre-farm, on-farm, and post-farm economic benefits of plant science innovations in 2023.

Pre-farm, crop protection and modern plant breeding sectors contributed over \$3.5 billion in GDP and more than 23,000 jobs to the Canadian economy.

On-farm, crop science innovations supported \$14.6 billion dollars in farmgate revenues.

Post-farm, these innovations added \$2.5 billion to Canadian wholesale trade GDP and generated close to 19,000 wholesale jobs. They contributed an estimated \$9.1 billion in inputs to key domestic industries downstream of crop production – like grain and oilseed milling, and animal production. And they had a substantial impact on Canada's trade position, generating an estimated \$6.4 billion in export value (approximately 30% of Canada's net agriculture product trade balance that year).

Canadian consumers have also benefited from plant science innovations through lower food costs. In the absence of plant science innovations, Canadian consumers would be paying a much higher price



Value of Plant Science Innovations to Canadians in 2023 – Pre-Farm, On-Farm, and Post-Farm. The downstream industries include grain and oilseed milling, other food manufacturing, animal production, and basic chemical manufacturing (mostly ethanol).

for their food: at least 25% more than they pay now, and perhaps as much as 65% over the average food bill of a consumer. This would have devastating impacts on food security and nutritional outcomes for Canadian households.

More innovation is needed to meet productivity goals

In recent years, productivity growth in Canadian agriculture has stagnated, raising concerns about our ability to maintain our leadership position within the global food system, and to meet future challenges and rising food demand. Crop productivity growth peaked in the 2000s, with an

average annual growth rate of 2.9% in that decade. Since then, average annual crop productivity growth has been on the decline. The status quo would lead to a decline not recorded since the 1980s.

Rekindling productivity growth to peak levels seen in the past will contribute significantly to capturing the \$30 billion opportunity for Canada's agriculture sector. Plant science innovations have played a pivotal role in driving past productivity growth and improving the profitability of Canadian crop production. If we want to seize this opportunity, we need to boost the momentum of plant science innovation. Here are some key recommendations.

- Foster an inviting business environ-

ment to innovations

- Integrate regulatory efficiency into economic growth objectives

- Make innovation, productivity, and competitiveness a top priority

Looking ahead, the potential for future growth in Canada's crop production sector is immense. By developing and embracing new plant science innovations, and fostering a culture of continuous improvement, we can enhance productivity, sustain economic growth, and ensure food security for future generations. Together we can cultivate a future where Canadian agriculture thrives as a beacon of innovation and productivity within the global food system.

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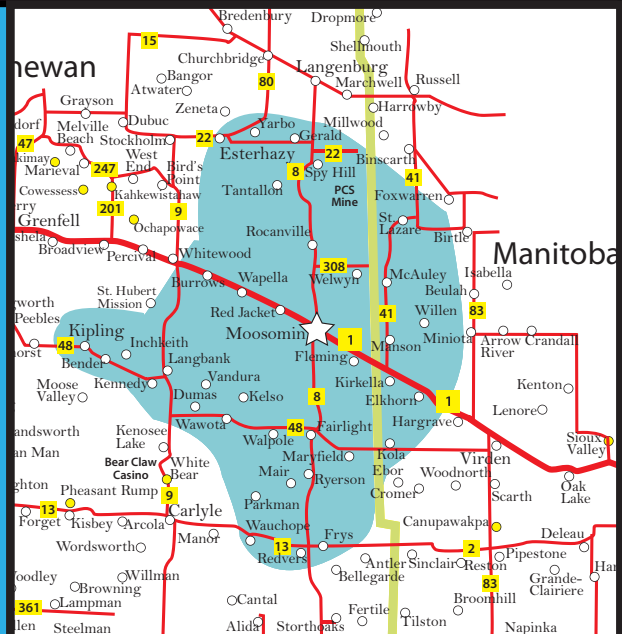
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Governments announce continued commitment through 2025 Crop Insurance Program

Canada's Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Lawrence MacAulay and Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister Daryl Harrison have announced continued funding and commitment through the 2025 Crop Insurance Program, administered by the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC).

"Our business risk management programs are a producer's first line of defense when it comes to protecting their operation," MacAulay said. "Our government is pleased to partner with Saskatchewan to make sure producers have access to the support they need, when they need it."

"SCIC's Business Risk Management programs remain strong and are here for Saskatchewan producers when they have challenging times," Harrison said. "The Crop Insurance Program offers producers the security they need, no matter what 2025 may have in store. I encourage all Saskatchewan producers to take a proactive approach to their coverage: select options, fine-tune and adjust coverage and costs within the program to further mitigate their risks."

SCIC's existing suite of Business Risk Management programs continues to demonstrate support for Saskatchewan producers. Over the last four years, the Crop Insurance Program paid approximately \$7 billion in claims, in addition to other program benefits. Crop Insurance continues to be a sound program, with premiums set to ensure the long-term sustainability of the program. A combination of Crop Insurance premium and government funds, along with private reinsurance, is in place to ensure the program remains stable. Funds are managed to build premium reserves in good production years, in order for money to flow back to producers during challenging ones. Premiums are cost-shared 60 per cent by federal and provincial governments and 40 per cent by producers.

Administration costs are fully funded by federal and provincial governments.

Trusted and relevant partnerships ensure the Crop Insurance Program remains



innovative and responsive for Saskatchewan producers. SCIC collaborates regularly with industry groups to support farmers and ranchers, assisting with overall direction of policy and program offerings. Work continues developing future opportunities to enhance support for the livestock sector. SCIC is evaluating new remote sensing technologies to measure soil moisture and plant growth, to evaluate potential improvements to forage and pasture insurance. This focus will ensure forage insurance is relevant and accessible for Saskatchewan livestock producers.

"We appreciate the continued focus and work on forage insurance," Saskatchewan Cattle Association (SCA) Chair Chad Ross said. "We are directly involved with the National Forage Working Group. Throughout the 2025 season, we will continue to consult on these projects, as producer feedback and understanding is critical in program design and acceptance."

"This continued work on forage insurance has potential to improve the program

for livestock producers," Saskatchewan Stock Grower's Association (SSGA) President Jeff Yorga said. "We look forward to our ongoing involvement at the national level, to ensure Saskatchewan producers have access to a variety of insurance options. We are hopeful, continued work

throughout 2025, will bring it all together as another viable positive outcome for risk management programming."

March 31, 2025, is the deadline for Saskatchewan producers to apply, reinstate or cancel their Crop Insurance contract. Producers must select their insured crops and coverage levels or make additional changes by this date. Producers can speak with their local SCIC office to make changes or options will remain the same as the previous year.

Every growing season is unpredictable. Producers are encouraged to plan and update their coverage yearly, based on the needs of their operation. A suite of Business Risk Management Programs offers options to help producers navigate uncertainties, mitigate risk and secure the future of their operation. In addition to Crop Insurance, producers can consider AgriStability, Livestock Price Insurance and the Wildlife Damage Compensation and Prevention programs. For more information, contact a local SCIC office, call 1-888-935-0000 or visit: scic.ca.

Crop Insurance is a federal-provincial-producer cost-shared program that helps producers manage production and quality losses. Support for the program is provided by the governments of Canada and Saskatchewan under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP).

WSA releases Ag Water Stewardship Policy

Continued from page C2

Continued maintenance

Another large component of the policy is sustaining those wetlands for future generations, which is where the 'research and monitoring' portion comes into play.

"We've established 10 indicators that we're going to be tracking over the next number of years that will help us understand how the policy is being implemented and whether it's effective in achieving what it set out to do," Tendler said.

Some factors that will be taken into account include the number of wetlands staying on the landscape, water quality, habitat, and compliance with conditions of approvals.

"Some of that \$1 million will help support that type of monitoring," Tendler confirmed. "It will also go towards more of a forward-looking approach. There's still things we don't know about drainage and agriculture water management in the Saskatchewan context. In other jurisdictions, they've been doing this for 100 years; in Saskatchewan, we're really just, I'd say, at the start of what could happen."

Through continued research, the WSA

seeks to answer questions of how to better manage water quality, what can be learned from the economics of drainage, and how to advance projects in a way that improves a community-level outcome. The research will be uniquely Saskatchewan-specific and done in partnership with stakeholders and landowners.

One challenge has been coming up with a document that integrates quite different situations across the province.

"That was one of our key focuses in designing this particular policy was, how do you design a policy that can kind of consider those regional differences?" Tendler said. "We don't want a 'one size fits all' approach, we want something that's tailored to each particular area of the province. The policy can be adaptive and flexible by those regions."

Through this regional approach, a baseline wetlands retention goal of 40 per cent (and up to 60 per cent where required) was set to protect important water sources.

The policy came into effect on Jan. 30 for all projects that have yet to enter the drainage approval process. After Jan. 1, 2026, all projects will be required to retain wetlands.



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Potential trade disruptions dampen strong cattle outlook

BY LEIGH ANDERSON
FCC SENIOR ECONOMIST

The cattle market continues to reach new highs. Canadian cattle operations after prolonged periods of drought and expensive feed ended last year optimistic about 2025. Cattle prices are record high, feed availability has increased and feed costs are easing.

Even with record high cattle prices and strong profitability, the Canadian beef herd in 2024 reached a three-decade low, while the number of replacement heifers was near an all-time low. The U.S. herd is in a similar situation as cow numbers declined through 2024, which were reflected in the January 1, 2025, beef herd estimate of 73.4 million head. We're expecting a drop in the Canadian cattle herd as well.

As we outlined in our top trends to monitor in 2025, cow and heifer slaughter rates will need to decline below 47% of slaughters before we are likely to see any herd growth. We expect some easing of the number of heifers heading to slaughter but not enough to rebuild the herd. Overall, the small North American cattle herd is expected to continue driving prices, leading to yet another year of strong cow-calf profitability in 2025 (Table 1, Page 9).

While the supply and demand fundamentals create a positive



outlook for cattle prices, uncertainty around potential trade barriers is being closely watched by the sector. Any tariffs applied to Canadian exports will impact the Canadian-U.S. livestock sector given the highly integrated North American market. Canada exports 17% of its total cattle production, with Canadian exports to the U.S. making up 99% of all exports. Of those

cattle being sent to the U.S., 70% are destined for slaughter. Canada also imports feeder cattle to fatten until they are ready for slaughter. Over half of all Canadian slaughtered beef is exported with majority of it heading to the U.S. We also rely on some U.S. beef imports to meet Canadian demand. This interconnect-

edness between the two countries means tariffs or any other trade barriers will significantly disrupt cattle operations on both sides of the border.

Proposed tariffs are expected to pressure Canadian cattle prices

Canadian fed cattle prices and

feeder cattle prices follow trends of both live cattle and feeder cattle futures, both priced in U.S. dollars. The difference between the Canadian cash price and the futures prices is known as the basis (cash price - futures price = basis). If tariffs are introduced, then basis levels are likely to widen as the costs induced by tariffs will be passed from buyers to sellers.

Past trade restrictions from the U.S. can provide guidance as to possible price impacts of tariffs. The presence of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in Canada from 2003-2005 and mandatory country of origin labelling (mCOOL) from 2009-2015 illustrate how wide basis levels could get (Figure 1, Page 9). We estimate Canadian cattle prices could decline 5 - 10% with 25% tariffs applied at the U.S. border. For example, our feeder 850 lb price forecast would decline to a \$320 - \$340 per cwt range. As wide as basis levels could get, expressed as a percentage of future prices in Canadian dollars the impact won't be as severe as experienced during BSE. Nonetheless any trade restriction will reduce Canadian cash prices. However, if tariffs are short-lived the impact will be smaller.

Continued on page C9

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Potential trade disruptions dampen strong cattle outlook

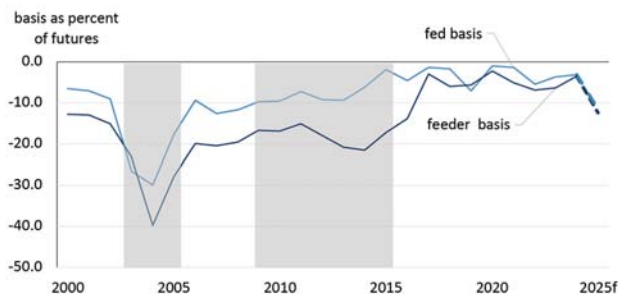


Figure 1: Canadian fed cattle and feeder basis levels expected to widen

Continued from page 8

Furthermore, the impact of tariffs on the Canadian cattle supply chain will vary based upon supply and demand fundamentals, exposure to the U.S. market and the length of time tariffs are in place. At the cow-calf level, the impact will be seen in a wider basis as cattle bids decline to offset the increased risk of exporting to the U.S. Feedlots, especially those involved in exporting to the U.S., face uncertainty regarding whether potential tariffs will still be in place or escalated by the time feeder calves are finished and ready for slaughter. U.S. packers are likely to adjust their bids and volumes of purchases of Canadian cattle. For Canadian meat processors, export sales of boxed beef to the U.S. will also face risks and will likely be discounted as a result to compete in the U.S. market.

Overall, given current healthy margins, the cow-calf sector is better positioned to cushion the blow from potential U.S. tariffs, although profitability will likely be reduced. The feedlot sector, which is poised to see improved profitability this year, would be at risk of recording lower returns depending on the magnitude and duration of the tariffs. The complexity of the tariff's impact depends on how different players in the supply chain respond to mitigate their risks.

For instance, U.S. and Canadian beef packers may adjust their strategies. The cattle sector is currently taking a wait-and-see approach, limiting new sales of cattle to the U.S. to mitigate the downside risk of tariffs being in place by the time cattle are ready for slaughter. They are

staying current on marketings while being cautious about placements into feedlots. Imports of feeders are likely to slow as fewer feeders are exported and feedlots turn to domestic supplies.

While potential U.S. tariffs are the largest factor impacting our cattle outlook this year, there are other trends to monitor as well.

Trends to monitor in 2025

1. Consumer demand
The beef consumer has been resilient. How long will consumers continue to purchase beef at record high prices? Do beef consumers have a tipping point and how is their consumption behaviour impacted by prices of competing meat proteins? If consumers back away, then we can expect cattle prices to reach their limits. Until we see consumer demand start to drop off, cattle markets will continue to stay strong.

2. Value of the Canadian dollar
The Canadian dollar will have an impact on the value of cattle and feed costs. Any depreciation in the Canadian dollar will provide a boost to cattle prices received by farmers but may also boost costs of feed grains. We estimate that a 1% depreciation of the dollar increases cattle farm cash receipts by about 0.6%.

3. Voluntary Country of Origin Labeling (vCOOL)
Further complicating the outlook for exports of cattle to the U.S. is the vCOOL requirement that will be coming into effect on January 1, 2026. The rule requires animals to be born, raised, slaughtered, and processed in the U.S. to be labeled

"Product of USA" (currently, companies in the U.S. are allowed to import Canadian animals, raise and/or slaughter them, and use a "Product of USA" label). While January 2026 may seem like a long way away, feeder placement decisions will be felt much sooner as some calves head to the feedlot up to nine months prior to when they will be ready for slaughter. This policy, while voluntary, could result in weaker demand for Canadian cattle heading south and widen basis levels here in Canada. U.S. slaughter plants will

begin adjusting procurement of cattle to gear up for the changes. As we progress through 2025, more U.S. beef slaughter plants are expected to implement changes.

Bottom line

The Canadian cattle sector is poised for another year of strong prices and increasing profitability driven by strong market fundamentals (including the small herd size) and strong demand. The outlook is however clouded by potential U.S. tariffs.

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Table 1: Cattle prices projected to remain strong in 2025

Livestock prices	2025 forecast	2024 estimate	5-year average
Alberta fed steer \$/cwt	260	245	165
Alberta 550 lb steer \$/cwt	440	405	235
Alberta 850 lb steer \$/cwt	355	330	205
Ontario fed steer \$/cwt	260	240	165
Ontario 550 lb steer \$/cwt	395	375	215
Ontario 850 lb steer \$/cwt	335	325	205

Sources: Statistics Canada, AAFC, USDA, CanFax, CME futures, and FCC calculations

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Diverse USask livestock research projects receive government support

Livestock and forage research at the University of Saskatchewan (USask) takes a variety of forms, and new government and industry funding will help support cutting-edge livestock research across campus

By MATT OLSON

Twenty-one livestock-focused research projects have received a total of more than \$5.18 million dollars in support from the provincial and federal governments through the Agricultural Development Fund (ADF).

"USask researchers are exploring diverse areas of research with the support of government and industry partners," said USask Vice-President Research Dr. Baljit Singh (PhD). "These projects are tremendous examples as to how USask is continuing to support Saskatchewan's agri-food producers in a time where agricultural production is more important than ever for food security across the globe."

The ADF is supported through the Sustainable Canadian Agriculture Partnership (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.

For this part of the 2025 ADF, 30 projects from five institutions were awarded a total of \$6,941,641 – which means USask's 21 projects and more than \$5 million in support account for more than two-thirds of the ADF support.

From animal vaccines to genomic tools to feed strategies and more, the ADF supports a myriad of research across disciplines at USask.

"USask researchers have a proven record of delivering on both the basic and applied science needed for a sustainable future," said Dr. Angela Bedard-Haughn (PhD), dean of the College of Agriculture and Bioresources at USask. "This important funding through the ADF supports the essential and interdisciplinary research that strengthens Saskatchewan's agricultural leadership in Canada and around the world."

Projects that received funding through the 2025 livestock and forage ADF include research being conducted by USask faculty associated with the Colleges of Agriculture and Bioresources, Pharmacy and Nutrition, Engineering, and Medicine, as well as the Western College of Veterinary Medicine, the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization, and the Global Institute for Food Security.

ADF projects can also receive funding through industry partners. Select USask projects received additional support from valuable industry partners in the agricultural and agri-food industries including Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association, Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission, BC Dairy, Alberta Milk, Sask-Milk, and Dairy Farmers of Manitoba.

Continued on page C22



Christina Weese photo

Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVN) cows in a snowy field.



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Ag advocate Todd Lewis appointed to senate

Continued from front
Well, I've asked myself that a few times. All the time in my advocacy for agriculture, I always try to be non-partisan and also respectful, and make the hard arguments, but at the same time, don't make them personal and do what was best for Saskatchewan agriculture, and Canadian agriculture, and I certainly wasn't expecting this appointment to the Senate, but it is very much appreciated. It sure is a great opportunity and a real challenge going forward.

What will your new job entail?

Just to get my feet wet in it now, I have appeared before Senate committees in the past on various bills, so it will be interesting on the other side of the table. The Senate is a place where a lot of research gets done, the true house of "sober second thought." When bills come through, it's a final sounding board for groups that want to get their point across, about how a bill will affect their lives. I'm sure there's going to be a big learning curve over the next months and probably years to really find out the true nuances of everything at the Senate. But so far so good, and I'm really quite looking forward to getting involved with what happens at the Senate.

There's six senators from Saskatchewan, and I look forward to working with them. Senate is a very welcoming place, a number of senators have reached out and certainly the transition team they have there is excellent. There's lots of help for a first-timer like me to get involved. Last week, I was in the in Ottawa for the FCC Farming for the Future event. I got a chance on Tuesday afternoon to go and get my security clearance and tour the Senate and all those kind of things, and there will be orientation next week. You get involved pretty quickly, and it's a very interesting time to be involved, of course, with anything in Ottawa with everything that's going on with the upcoming election, and the Liberal leadership, and certainly everything that's going on internationally, with the tariffs and all those kind of things.

How important is it to have an agricultural voice in the Senate? Are there many farmers sitting around that table?

As far as active farmers, Mary Robinson from Prince Edward Island—she has been in the Senate for a year. Senator Robert Black had an agriculture background in his career before the Senate, and he's from Ontario. But from Western Canada, as far as a straight ag voice, it's been a few years.

I look forward to not only looking out for Saskatchewan producers, but Western Canadian producers and agriculture in general across the country. It certainly is an interesting time and it's nice to see some ag

folks at the Senate because we're so much a part of the overall economy, and for it to be recognized as a position in the Senate is really an honour and really an opportunity.

A lot of people just don't realize the activity that does happen, where our food comes from and how we produce it, and how good a job we do producing it. Not only good quality food, but the buzzword is always 'sustainable agriculture,' but really, in Saskatchewan, that's what we do. In a lot of ways, over the number of years that I've farmed, the overall soil health and carbon management and all the buzzwords that they talk about—well, that's what Saskatchewan producers and ranchers have been doing for the last number of decades. We really lead the world in it, so that viewpoint and information should be helpful to the Senate and influence some of the policy that comes out of Ottawa.

How much time will you be spending in Ottawa?

You don't have to jump in right away, as far as moving to Ottawa or all that kind of thing. Very few of the senators do actually live in Ottawa, they have temporary accommodation. So that will be a learning curve as well. I'm fortunate, I wouldn't have been able to spend so much time with APAS and the CFA if I didn't have lots of support—my brother Rod and nephew Brendan, the work they do on the farm has certainly given me time to pursue some of these other things. That will certainly continue, and I hope to still be involved in the farm, but there will be less time at certain times of year, that's for sure.

How did you find out about the appointment?

A couple years ago, there was a call for applications, and you apply to an independent committee. There were some openings coming up with senators retiring, it's mandatory retirement at 75. I put the application in and never really heard anything about it.

Then about a month or so ago, I got a phone call from a gentleman if I was still interested in the application. I said I was, and really never thought much else of it. Then quite quickly, there was an interview process with the Independent Senate Board, one thing led to another, and there was an interview over a Zoom call.

The final step is the prime minister appoints you and I received a phone call from the prime minister at home, which is certainly something that doesn't happen every day! I was asked if I would accept the position, and I said I would. Before the announcement is made, the Governor General signs off on it and then the Prime Minister announces it. There will be a swearing in ceremony that happens on the floor of the Senate,



Todd Lewis speaking at an event.

but the Senate has to be sitting. It's a ceremonial part of a welcoming to the Senate from the other senators, but it's something that is kind of up in the air right

now with the Liberal leadership that's going on and who knows if the new prime minister will call an election right away, or they'll come back for a couple days in March. It's all part of the very interesting times that we're getting involved in. There's lots of things to be determined for sure.

Do you think this will put the Hamlet of Gray on the map?

Gray has already been on the map many times! The Senate, when you do your official paperwork, they won't recognize a hamlet. So, in the official paperwork, it's the RM of Lajord No. 128, which I've been a councillor there for 20 years, they see it recognized. But it would have been really neat to see 'Todd Lewis of Gray, Saskatchewan!' Lots of good curlers came out of Gray, lots of interesting people. It's an honor and really humbling. I had so many calls, so many people congratulate me, and people in the agriculture industry and people involved with APAS, lots of old acquaintances. It's a long way from Gray, Saskatchewan to Ottawa, that's for sure!

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Which Canadian Ag sectors are the most exposed to U.S. tariffs?



American tariffs on Canadian exports, which the White House had signaled would be implemented this week, have been delayed to March. The only positive from this one-month reprieve is the extra time it gives businesses to prepare for upcoming challenges. As we pointed out recently, the impacts of tariffs, while tricky to gauge, are unambiguously negative for the economy. How bad things get will depend largely on the duration of the trade war.

We decided to find out which industries, in the agriculture and food sectors, would be the most vulnerable to a trade war. There are at least two elements to consider here: 1) sales exposure to the U.S. and 2) the sector's financial situation. Sectors with high sales exposure to the U.S. and who are struggling financially, are arguably the

most vulnerable to tariffs. To gauge exposure for each sector, we calculated the share of total sales that goes to the U.S. And to assess a sector's financial situation, we looked at last year's margins and compared that to the prior five-year average. Figure 1 below summarizes the impacts and highlights sectors to watch indicated by either a red or yellow shading.

The greenhouse vegetable sector, for example, is highly reliant on the U.S. market and the sector is coming off a year of weaker margins. This puts the sector in a vulnerable position to absorb any trade shocks.

For the food manufacturing sector, roughly 30% of sales goes to the U.S. in the form of exports. This is significant but within that sector, some sub-sectors have even larger exposures. For instance, fruit/vegetable preserv-

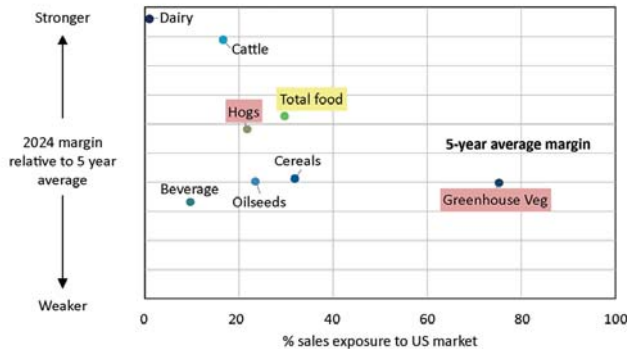
ing and specialty food manufacturing is at the highest risk, the sector relying on the U.S. market for almost half of sales, while also struggling with negative margins in recent years. Seafood product and preparation is also in a vulnerable position as margins are tight, while sugar and confectionery is highly vulnerable because the U.S. accounts for over 80% of its sales.

Looking at livestock, hogs are particularly vulnerable given the high exposure to the U.S. and the fact that the

sector, despite stronger margins than the previous 5-year average, is coming off multiple years of negative margins, hindering its ability to absorb any impacts to prices or expenses.

Cattle producers are in a better position than others to weather the tariff storm thanks to solid profitability of recent years, particularly for cow-calf (which is shown as "cattle" in the chart below). But one can expect feedlots to have tighter margins and therefore would be more at risk from tariffs.

Figure 1: Sector exposure to U.S. trade relative to margins exiting 2024



Note: Sectors highlighted in red indicate high concern and yellow a moderate concern.

Source: FCC Calculations

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New USask crop research chair receives Sask Wheat support

The Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission (Sask Wheat) has committed \$6.5 million to support the establishment of the Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission Applied Genomics and Pre-breeding Chair at the University of Saskatchewan (USask).

The new research chair will design and deploy cutting-edge technologies and strategies to assess genetic diversity for delivery into new crop varieties, with a primary focus on wheat.

"We are grateful for the Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission's support in advancing crop research," said Dr. Angela Bedard-Haughn (PhD), dean of the College of Agriculture and Bioresources at USask. "This new chair will bolster USask's leadership in the development of productive, climate-smart varieties that support a sustainable food production system."

The chair will focus on applying genomics to pre-breeding activities and bridge the gap between discovery research, exploration of gene banks, genomics and breeding. This research is necessary to connect crop wild relatives and commercial varieties. The goal is to translate gene discovery into better adapted varieties for Saskatchewan climates and agronomic pressures therefore providing producers with more rotational options to increase profitability for their operations.

"The University of Saskatchewan's Crop Development Centre is home to some of the best researchers and breeders in the world. This directed funding for a chair position is an investment by wheat growers into our future to develop improved wheat varieties for Saskatchewan," said Jake Leguee, board chair with Sask Wheat, a farmer-funded commission that

supports public-sector research and wheat breeding in Saskatchewan and Western Canada.

The new chair will expand and complement the current breeding and training capacity of the Crop Development Centre (CDC) at USask by developing a comprehensive applied genomics and pre-breeding program in wheat and other cereal crops, helping to alleviate bottlenecks that can exist at the pre-breeding stage.

Applying a combination of genomics techniques and data science methods to large collections of available germplasm—the genetic material of a plant—



the chair will provide expertise to support the selection of traits valuable in resistance to diseases, pests, heat stress, and drought tolerance to support climate

resiliency and increasing pre-breeding pathology support at the CDC.

"We greatly appreciate the Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission

for supporting this new position at the CDC," said Dr. Curtis Pozniak (PhD), director of the CDC and USask wheat breeder. "We are proud of the impact of the

CDC, which is far-reaching, benefiting the economy and the future of agriculture. This investment will allow us to expand our expertise so that we can continue to deliver on our mission to develop new seed varieties that benefit western Canadian growers while feeding the world."

Expected to be appointed later this year, the chair will hold a faculty position in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources at USask within the CDC and Department of Plant Sciences, providing mentorship and supervision of graduate students and post-doctoral fellows in their research and studies.

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What do tariffs mean for the Canadian dollar?



KRISHEN RANGASAMY
MANAGER, ECONOMICS,
PRINCIPAL ECONOMIST, FCC

Only the brave would be optimistic about the Canadian dollar these days. The currency's depreciation over the past year has been spectacular, from around 75 U.S. cents just twelve months ago to less than 70 cents this week. So, what happened to the loonie, and how will it fare amid tariff-related uncertainties?

U.S. dollar strength

To be fair, the Canadian dollar isn't the only major currency struggling to get a grip amid U.S. dollar strength. The trade-weighted U.S. dollar index, which is calculated by the Federal Reserve (Fed), and measures the value of the USD relative to other world currencies, is currently at its highest level in over 20 years. The U.S. economy outperformed several of its peers last year, meaning that inflation and therefore the Fed's interest rates have generally been higher than in other developed economies. This yield advantage attracts foreign capital to America and accordingly boosts the U.S. dollar relative to other major currencies. At the end of January, for example, the policy interest rate was 4.50% in the U.S. and just 3.00% in Canada. The last time Canada's yield disadvantage was that large was back in December 1997, when the loonie was trading near 70 cents.

Dull outlook for commodity prices

Another known driver of the Canadian dollar, commodity prices, have risen quite a bit over the past year. The Bank of Canada's commodity price index at the end of January was up about 6% year-over-year. Clearly, the positive effect of commodities on the currency is being dwarfed by the above-mentioned yield disadvantage and USD

strength. Going forward, one can expect the U.S. tariffs and likely retaliatory actions by America's trade partners to further curtail world trade and limit global GDP growth. If history is any guide, a slowdown of global growth should weigh on commodity prices, and therefore on the Canadian dollar.

Soft Canadian economy

Part of the loonie's woes is due to low confidence about Canada's economy among foreign investors. The 2025 forecast for real GDP growth, which many analysts, including us, had pegged at a meagre 1.5% or so (i.e., the average of the last couple of years), may now be revised even lower in light of U.S. tariffs. The longer the trade war lasts, the worse will be the GDP hit, increasing the likelihood of a recession, and therefore more aggressive interest rate cuts by the Bank of Canada. Retaliatory tariffs by Canada on the U.S. will make American goods more expensive and, accordingly, reduce Canadian demand for them. As such, our importers are expected to lower their demand for U.S. dollars, which will provide some support to the loonie. But overall, the impacts of tariffs are unambiguously negative for the Canadian currency.

So, there is downside potential for the loonie, at least over the near term. Exporters may see the silver lining of an even weaker currency, as long as they have market access. But if you're an importer or a business trying to boost productivity using imported machinery and equipment, then further currency weakness won't help.

When will the tariff drama end?

Back in 2018-2019 it took about eleven months before U.S. tariffs on Canadian steel and aluminum and Canada's retaliatory

tariffs were removed. Nobody knows for sure how long the new U.S. tariffs will be in place once they are implemented, but the massive costs associated with the trade war (especially if those tariffs are broad based) will provide incentives to negotiators on both sides of the border to clinch a deal eventually. But in the meantime, uncertainties related to tariffs will be enough to restrain exports temporarily and depress investment. That will only serve to worsen the Canadian economy's structural problems.

Lagging investment, particularly relative to the U.S., has indeed translated to weak productivity growth, and therefore diminished competitiveness over the last two decades. That, coupled with lack of diversification—more than 70% of our exports still head stateside—has arguably made exporters increasingly dependent on

a depreciating Canadian dollar (versus the USD) to boost sales.

Last year, even with a sinking loonie, the country registered a sixteenth consecutive annual deficit on the current account, the broadest measure of trade (Figure 1). That contrasts sharply with the solid current account surpluses that were generated from 2004-

2007 despite the strong loonie, the latter averaging roughly 85 U.S. cents over that period. Simply put, the Canadian dollar's current woes aren't just about ongoing cyclical factors. So, while one can expect the loonie to rebound somewhat once the tariff drama is over, don't expect a return to 85 U.S. cents anytime soon.

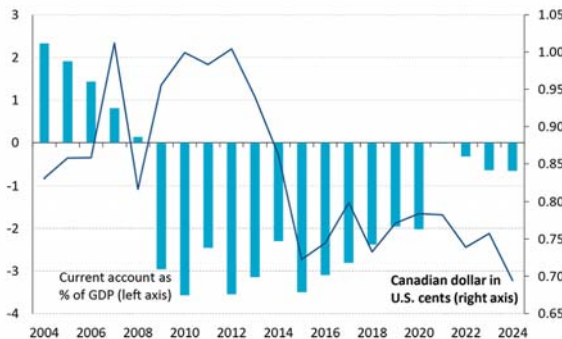


Figure 1: Sinking Canadian dollar has not helped restore trade surplus



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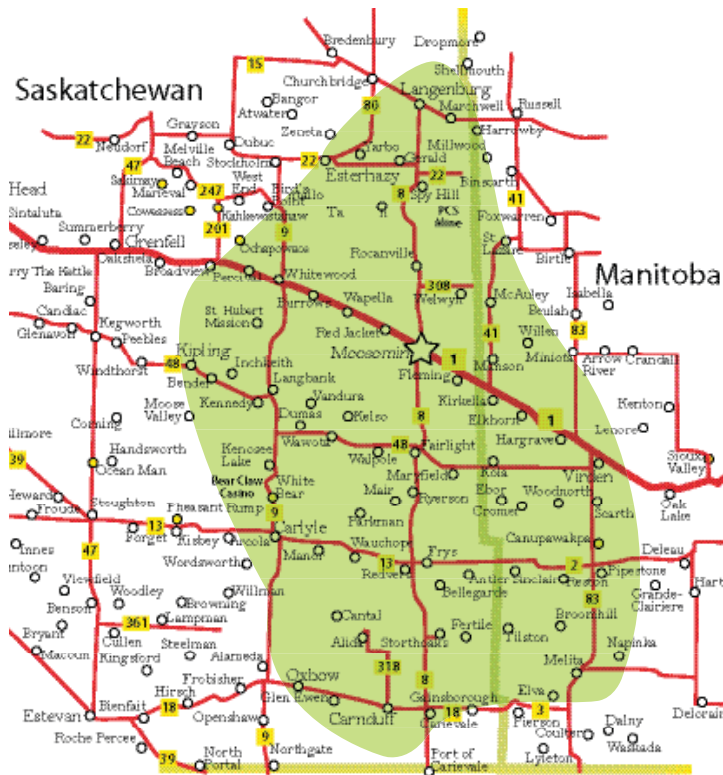
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Just how long can a February cold stretch last?

It's Valentine's Day as I write this particular column and it is, apparently, bitterly cold on the Saskatchewan/Manitoba prairies. Just how many days in February can it continually and consecutively be cold? Apparently a lot!

I have to be upfront though. I have escaped the cold for a handful of weeks and I can't say I am missing any of that nasty weather at all and despite the feelings on 'either side of the fence,' (as in Canadian/American border), we are surrounded by U.S. neighbours more interested in making us feel at home than anything else, no political puns of any kind intended.

As it was, earlier this afternoon, I was happily browsing the aisles of my favourite southern craft store when I became part (teeny-tiny part) of a certain gentleman's Valentine's surprise planning moment (and to be clear, not my gentleman). As I browsed along, I looked at wall décor, material (for my granddaughter who has taken up sewing), the craft supplies, the outdoor décor and on and on. When I paused near a particular wall sign and contemplated whether it would work in my laundry room, a fellow at least 25 years my junior asked me which tea-lights (battery-operated) he should get and then he explained: "The house will be totally darkened when my wife gets home tonight," he explained. "I will have little candles all the way down the hallway with fake rose petals covering the floor all the way along," he concluded.

Hubby had joined me by this time just as I suggested the package of white lights, all 18 of them, was a better choice (in my mind) than the eight off-white colored tea lights. I am pretty sure hubby was thinking this fellow was really going above and beyond - except for the fake rose petals. He may even have been thinking, 'wow, why didn't I think of that?' although I doubt it, lol. Just maybe, he may have wondered why the 'younger' fellow was asking someone so old as I. Let's hope hubby had better sense than to think that.

As it was, the fellow headed off down the aisle, quickly finding his fake rose petals and going up to the cashier to check out. Hubby and I continued our 'wall sign' search which would take the better part of an hour because I am seriously slow at making decisions, something that I never ever did that day. An hour later as we searched for fabric for our granddaughter, Kamryn, particularly the kind that would make great wheat bags, hubby says out of the blue, "Don't you think buying even one real rose and spreading real rose petals down the hall would be better than fake ones?" he asks me. Uh-huh! Told you! Kudos to the man who had no idea he would become part of the beginning of an ag column.

Though we have left the farm far behind, some 2,000 miles behind in fact, hubby is still keeping in touch with the folks at the inland terminal and checking to see if any of his targets triggered. He has our oldest granddaughter check bins temps and there is seldom a day that goes by that he isn't thinking, planning or wondering about something on the farm, one that is no doubt buried under two or three feet of snow. In January, hubby took to cleaning wheat in our garage, claiming my workbench in the garage in order to give the young gal with the sewing machine some 'stuffing' for her wheat bag-making venture. I was pretty proud of her for setting that little sewing machine up the day after Christmas and sewing up a storm.

Seeing Kamryn at her little sewing machine reminded me that I tried sewing. Once. My heart wasn't in it is the best way to describe that grade 12 fiasco where I was forced (okay, maybe that makes it sound like abuse which it really wasn't) to take crocheting, cooking and sewing classes. All I ever wanted was to take carpentry but, no, they said. Sewing will be so much more fun they said. Long story short, I got an amazing 99% on the dress "I" sewed one weekend at home, thanks to my seamstress mom who sewed the project while I worked outdoors with the cattle.

As I work on this column, I am really missing seeing the grands competing in their sport of choice, hockey, ringette, curling and figure skating, not to mention missing spending time with the kids in general. And missing 4-H speeches and dance recital once again. Our noon hours here in Palm Springs are pretty quiet in comparison to home where we make lunch for the kids and their friends who come over from school. One thing is sure, we are really looking forward to resuming those lunch hours when we get back home. Maybe we'll hear some 'fish' stories too as we hear the twins have been doing some ice fishing.

Although we have missed lots of winter activities with the kids, we were able to enjoy an afternoon or two of tobogganing before we left and we did start day one of



our holiday just over the border watching our youngest grandson (11) play hockey. We told his parents not to tell the kids we would be there and so the surprise was definitely just that! Hayden didn't notice us in the stands that first game as we watched him at centre ice doing what seemed like a dance to the music before puck-drop. "Coach Dad might have some words for him after the game," said our daughter, shaking her head. We loved it all, including the expressive way he moved to the beat of the music on. We shared in his excitement later when he received the MVP award.

Later, as Hayden joined his team for supper and we sat with his parents away from the group but in the same restaurant, our son-in-law predicted exactly what and how Hayden would order supper. "He'll ask for fries, but extra crispy," said Hayden's dad. "Then he'll ask for Pepsi to drink and they'll say, 'Coke okay?' and he'll say, 'No, just bring me a chocolate milk if you don't have Pepsi.'" A little later, Hayden came over to our table to say he had ordered his supper. "What did you order for supper," his dad asked. "Fries, but extra crispy," was the answer. Score one for dad! "Did you order Pepsi?" his dad continued. "Yeah, but they only have Coke so I ordered chocolate milk." Ahhh, score 2 for Dad. Hayden returned to his team's tables and our son-in-law grimaced, saying, "He is such a Beutler." It has a lot to do with the Pepsi thing. Us Beutlers aren't so particular about our fries.

It's really interesting when you are enjoying 27C days as opposed to let's say, hauling grain in the minus 30's or feeding or calving cows in the minus 40's. We watch the weather at home of course because what farmer wouldn't when he is away from the farm, right? One cold Saskatchewan Saturday morning, (as I lounged on my patio, loving the 22C morning where I am staying), I once again reminded one of the twins (13) to watch his previously frosted-in cheek if he was going to spend any amount of time outdoors. "Oh Grandma, it won't freeze in the curling rink!" was the response from the young man in four words. As it was, the twins and their team won bronze in 4-H curling and we were so proud! Meanwhile, it's back to the life on the farm for them after a busy weekend of curling. Too bad the forecast for the week off from school didn't look more promising.

One of the things I did before I left home was to make sure to double pay all my bills to cover the time I would be away. Needless to say I was a bit surprised to get an

email from Sk Tel Mobility saying I needed to pay my overdue bill. What the heck was my first thought, and then I checked my bank account where it was apparent I had paid either the landline phone bill twice or the mobility bill twice and one of them, not at all. I made a quick call and since it was the \$50/month landline bill I had waaaay overpaid as opposed to the more costly mobility bill, I asked if they would transfer the money over to the mobility account. 'No can do,' was the response. "Okay then," I said, "just refund the large amount I paid on the landline account and I will pay the mobility online." 'No can do,' was the response, 'we don't do refunds.'

By this point, I was somewhat frustrated you might say. I went ahead and paid double my mobility bill online, knowing my landline was going to be all paid up for the rest of the year. After all, there could be worse things in life. Three days later, I received a text from Sk Tel Mobility saying it is important that I read my emails because this was their second time contacting me about my overdue mobility bill. Grrrrrr. My second phone call to Sk Tel was met with, "So your landline account has a \$500 credit and your mobility bill has a \$50 credit. The mobility bill shows payment received yesterday," the gentleman told me. My one and only question was, "So why can't you refund my landline overpayment to me?" And behold! The answer was, "No problem at all, ma'am. You will receive the refund cheque in about two weeks." Frustration alleviated. ... Though why I got two different answers two days apart baffles me.

One of the things we love, love, love to do when we go south is to, with any luck at all, take in some concerts or comedy shows. We missed Leanne Morgan (comedian) last year by a day but the year before saw one of the world's top three tenor singers, David Phelps as well as the Blackwood Quartet. One year in Maui, we saw a poster in Lahaina saying Bill Engval was going to be there the next night. Woo-hoo! We were so excited and really enjoyed the laugh-all-night-long evening.

One morning in Palm Springs, we turned on the TV first thing only to see an ad for none other than Bill Engval in just a couple days' time. What?! How did I not know before now, I wondered, just before booking our tickets. This will be one of the highlights of our vacation, I know. Maybe he will even bring Jeff Foxworthy along with him! Here's your sign!

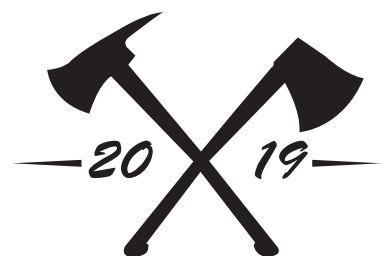
As I close off (with the huge patio doors wide open long after sunset while the cold remains relentless at home), I am reminded that no matter where I am at any given moment, my heart still belongs to my home and my friends and family back home. And my cats of course. Hubby's heart, generally speaking, belongs to the farm lol. He laughed when I told him that today. I get that he has so much invested in our agriculture operation and that he carries the load so I don't fault him for having 'the farm' right up there at the top of his thoughts. Here's to all our readers and friends in the ag industry who too are invested in this industry and who are always striving to make it one of the best businesses to be in. May you be able to say at the end of every day, "This is where I wanna be and what I wanna do!" Happy farming, friends! Stay warm! The cold will break one of these days.

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CWRC commits \$11.8 million to USask Crop Development Centre

The Canadian Wheat Research Coalition (CWRC) has committed \$11.8 million over the next five years to a core breeding agreement (CBA) with the University of Saskatchewan's (USask) Crop Development Centre (CDC).

The new agreement ensures continued CWRC funding for the CDC's industry-leading wheat breeding programs, as the previous CBA concluded at the end of 2024.

"This renewed investment by the CWRC will directly benefit western Canadian farmers by supporting the development of wheat varieties with improved yields, stronger disease resistance and better adaptation to our growing conditions," said Dean Hubbard, CWRC chair and a farmer near Claresholm, Alta.

"Farmer-funded breeding programs like this ensure that producers have access to innovative, high-performing varieties that are in demand and help make their farms more productive and sustainable."

CWRC funding via the 2025-29 CBA will support the CDC's development of new Canadian Western Red Spring (CWRS), Canada Northern Hard Red (CNHR), Canadian Western Amber Durum (CWAD) and Canadian Prairie Spring Red (CPSR) wheat cultivars with strong agronomics and improved resistance to common diseases such as the wheat rusts, common bunt and Fusarium Head Blight. This funding will also support the application of genomic assisted selection across all wheat breeding programs at the CDC, a technology that is used in part to "stack" genes for disease resistance, pest resistance and end-use quality in new varieties.

"We have had a tremendously successful partnership with the CWRC, and we are grateful for their continued support," said Dr. Curtis Pozniak (PhD), CDC director and wheat breeder at USask. "The continued investment from the CWRC will help support the CDC's mission to deliver high-yielding and reliable wheat varieties for western Canadian farmers."

The new agreement represents a more than \$2-million increase in funding compared with the previous five-year agreement. CWRC investment through the new CBA is divided among the organization's founding members by a funding shares agreement.

"Over its history, innovations from USask's CDC have significantly helped producers by enhancing the value of their operations," said Baljit Singh, vice-president research at USask. "The CWRC's investment will allow the CDC to continue to make positive impact in Canada's agriculture sector and around the world."

The CWRC also maintains CBAs with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, the University of Manitoba, and the University of Alberta.



New Canadian Wheat Research Coalition agreement ensures continued funding for USask Crop Development Centre's industry-leading wheat breeding programs.

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What are tariffs, and why is it tricky to gauge their impacts?

BY KRISHEN RANGASAMY
MANAGER, ECONOMICS, PRINCIPAL
ECONOMIST WITH FCC

An already vulnerable Canadian economy is now facing the real possibility of a trade shock as the U.S. prepares to impose tariffs on our exports. So, what exactly are tariffs and why should we fret about them?

Tariffs are simply charges levied by government on imported goods and services. The initial burden of tariffs will fall on American importers, who will have to pay those charges to the U.S. government. The tariffs that are currently being threatened by the U.S. on Canada are called "Ad Valorem Tariffs" and they are based on a percentage of the value of the imported goods i.e., similar to the tariffs the U.S. imposed on Canadian steel and aluminum back in 2018. But there are other types of tariffs that the U.S. could potentially use e.g.,

a "Specific tariff" which imposes a fixed fee on each unit of an imported good, or a "Compound Tariff" which combines ad valorem and specific tariffs.

The impact of tariffs on the Canadian economy is difficult to forecast accurately because of uncertainties about several key factors. For starters, the extent to which U.S. importers will absorb the tariffs and pass on the higher prices to American consumers is unclear. Also unclear is how U.S. consumers will react to any increase in prices of Canadian goods—higher prices may lead American consumers to switch to domestic alternatives, the extent of which depends on factors that are difficult to quantify e.g., price elasticity (or consumer tolerance to higher prices), availability of substitutes, and consumer preferences.

Continued on Page C22

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Diverse USask livestock research projects receive government support

Continued from page C10

Livestock and Forage ADF 2025 recipients at USask

The following University of Saskatchewan (USask) livestock and forage research projects received funding from the 2025 Agriculture Development Fund:

- Dr. Meena Sakthar (PhD), College of Pharmacy and Nutrition – Evaluation of hybrid drugs for resistant bacterial mastitis infections – \$300,000
- Dr. Cheryl Waldner (DVM, PhD), Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM) – Impact of micronutrient supplementation on response to vaccination in feeder calves – \$167,898 – Co-funded by Saskatchewan Cattleman's Association
- Dr. Vanessa Cowan (DVM, PhD), WCVM – Effect of isoflavone supplementation on hemodynamic responses of ergot-exposed cattle – \$274,000
- Dr. Sarah Wood (DVM, PhD), WCVM – Safety and efficacy of overwinter miticide treatments for honey bee colonies in Western Canada – \$306,500
- Dr. Martin Reaney (PhD), College of

Agriculture and Bioresources – Enhancing Dairy and Egg Lipids: A Comparative Study on the Impact of Barley, Wheat, and Canola Phospholipids – \$106,250 – Co-funded by BC Dairy, Alberta Milk, SaskMilk and Dairy Farmers of Manitoba

- Tate Cao, College of Engineering – Increasing Livestock Operation Efficiency through automated Weight Estimation and Reporting via Computer Vision and Machine Learning – \$60,000
- Dr. Matheus Costa (DVM, PhD), WCVM – Towards controlling Ear-tip necrosis in pigs – \$120,000
- Dr. Matheus Costa (DVM, PhD), WCVM – Lab to farm: developing a Streptococcus zoonotic vaccine into a practical tool – \$120,000
- Dr. Eric Lamb (PhD), College of Agriculture and Bioresources – Closing Litter Gaps in Saskatchewan Rangeland Reference Data – \$23,470 – Co-funded by Saskatchewan Cattleman's Association
- Dr. Eric Lamb (PhD), College of Agriculture and Bioresources – Efficacy of fire and herbicide for woody plant control in rangelands – \$125,300
- Dr. Peiqiang Yu (PhD), College of

Agriculture and Bioresources – Effects of Organic Acids on Mitigating Enteric Methane Emission by Improving Energy Efficiency in Lactating Dairy Cows – \$250,500

- Dr. Lynn Weber (PhD), WCVM – Experiential discovery and learning through research in food animal veterinary medicine – \$375,000
- Dr. Terry Fonstad (PhD), College of Engineering – Roller Compacted Concrete as a Liner of Livestock Pens to Protect Groundwater. Phase 2: Effect of Construction – \$489,718
- Dr. Bart Lardner (PhD), College of Agriculture and Bioresources – Application of Genomic Tools for Commercial Beef Cattle Producers – \$326,000
- Dr. Angela Bedard-Haughn (PhD), College of Agriculture and Bioresources – Advancing Research, Teaching and Outreach Capacity in Animal Agriculture – \$600,000
- Dr. Diego Moya (DVM, PhD), WCVM – Characterization of behaviour and physiology traits related to chronicity and recovery of feedlot cattle with induced BRD – \$60,022 – Co-funded by Saskatchewan

Cattleman's Association

- Dr. Aaron White (PhD), Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization (VIDO) – Testing E. coli virulence in chickens and development of an anti-E. coli vaccine – \$123,000
- Dr. Natacha Hogan (PhD), College of Agriculture and Bioresources – Improving hen health, welfare and productivity through novel yeast probiotics – \$256,000
- Dr. Andrew Sharpe (PhD), Global Institute for Food Security – Resource development for a sustainable Timothy forage crop in Western Canada – \$478,155 – Co-funded by Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission
- Dr. Gregory Penner (PhD), College of Agriculture and Bioresources – Changes in weaning management of dairy calves: Are there benefits of weaning with high-quality forage? – \$227,987 – Co-funded by BC Dairy, Alberta Milk, SaskMilk and Dairy Farmers of Manitoba
- Dr. Volker Gerds (DVM, PhD), VIDO – Enhancing Emergency Preparedness Using Process Analytical Tools (PAT) for Vaccine Manufacturing – \$392,517

What are tariffs, and why is it tricky to gauge their impacts?

Continued from Page C21

A drop in American consumer demand for Canadian goods may lead to lower prices received by our exporters. The impacts are even harder to gauge if Canada retaliates with its own tariffs by making imports of U.S. goods more expensive, prompting Canadian consumers to switch to domestically produced goods, partly cushioning the blow of reduced U.S. demand for Canadian goods.

The global economy is also key in determining the impact of tariffs on Canada. If the U.S. delivers on its threats to hit other regions like China and Europe with tariffs, and they retaliate with their own tariffs (by making American goods more expensive in their markets), Canadian goods will become more competitive relative to American goods in those markets. There are also other factors that could cushion the blow of U.S. tariffs on Canada e.g., a depreciating Canadian dollar and making better use of our existing trade agreements with other countries.

The impact of tariffs on Canada's economy will also depend on how long they are in place. If they last just a few months, the damage will be limited to short term price increases and temporary disruptions in trade flows, as we saw back in 2018. If they last longer, the damage will be more pronounced and could leave permanent scars e.g., reduced direct investment in Canada, with an accompanying decline in productivity and, therefore, industry competitiveness.

In other words, understanding and accurately gauging the effects of tariffs requires careful consideration of both short-term and long-term consequences. Even then, any forecasts would have to be interpreted with caution given the above-mentioned uncertainties. What's clear, however, is that the impacts of tariffs are largely negative with regards to GDP, employment, productivity, and the Canadian dollar. The damage is likely to be more severe for industries that export a significant share of their production to the U.S. and which don't have the ability to diversify away from the American market. Cattle and hog producers, for example, are particularly vulnerable and could see prices they receive decline to remain competitive in the aftermath of tariffs, although a weak Canadian dollar will cushion the blow somewhat. In the food and beverage space, the sugar and confectionery sector is particularly vulnerable given that more than 80% of its sales are generated from exports to the U.S.



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