

THE WORLD-Spectator AG NEWS

FEBRUARY 2023



Four of the ten different burgers that were a part of Sharpe's Burger Blitz organized around Canadian Ag Day in Moosomin, Rocanville and Fleming. Above: Nutrien Sportsplex's the Whiskey Queen and the Witch's Brew Honey Garlic Hawaiian Chicken Burger
Below: Rocanville Golf Clubhouse Elvis! burger and the Cork & Bone Bistro's Horizon Burger.



Sharpe's Burger Blitz a different way to promote Canadian agriculture products

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS

Sharpe's Crop Services' third annual Burger Blitz promoted Canadian agriculture and moved a lot of burgers—3,668 burgers were sold in the Moosomin, Fleming and Rocanville area from Feb. 13 to Feb 18, more than ever before.

Ten local restaurants participated in this year's Burger Blitz selling burgers made from only Canadian agricultural products, timing it to coincide with Canadian Ag Day 2023.

The Burger Blitz also gave Sharpe's a way to support local restaurants while promoting the ingredients used that come from Canadian agriculture. The number of burgers sold was up 1,000 from last year.

"We sold 2,600 burgers last year, but we also added two new restaurants for this year," said Lori Yeske of Sharpe's.

"The World-Spectator helped promote it, so everyone knew about it. That made it a lot easier for us."

The 10 participating restaurants included the Red Barn, Cork & Bone, Witch's Brew, Fleming Windsor Bar & Grill,

Moosomin Dairy Queen, Nutrien Sportsplex, TJ's Pizza, The Crate House, Blueberry Kitchen and the Rocanville Town & Country Golf Clubhouse.

Based on its success from previous years, Sharpe's wanted to include more communities for this year's event.

"The feedback we got from Rocanville was awesome, they said it was nice to be included in an event in Moosomin," said Carly Miller of Sharpe's.

"We had a few different places reach out in previous years who said they wanted to be involved. We thought we would talk to Rocanville because they're in the area, to talk to Maryfield and try to get a few more communities involved.

"We asked Blueberry Kitchen and Rocanville Golf Clubhouse and they said yes right away."

Next year Sharpe's is hoping to possibly include a business in Maryfield.

Last year, Sharpe's held their Burger Blitz during the week of family day. This year, they hosted it from Feb. 13 to Feb. 18, making it a six-day burger week.

"Every year we try to get some feedback from the restaurants and switch it up a little bit for the following year," said Miller.

"Canadian Ag Day always falls on the 15th, so that's why we decided to have it this week at this time, even though it was the same week as Valentines Day.

"I know last year, businesses felt that because it was held on the Family Day week, they had less business because there was lots of people away. That's why we stayed away from the break week this year because we thought there was probably lots of people out of town."

Miller said Sharpe's Burger Blitz is also a great chance for the business to connect with the community in Moosomin.

"It's great to put on something that gets everyone involved, from people of all ages enjoying the burgers to businesses coming up with their creations," she said.

"We are a local business so it is nice to connect with the other local businesses in town through this event too."

Continued on page C12

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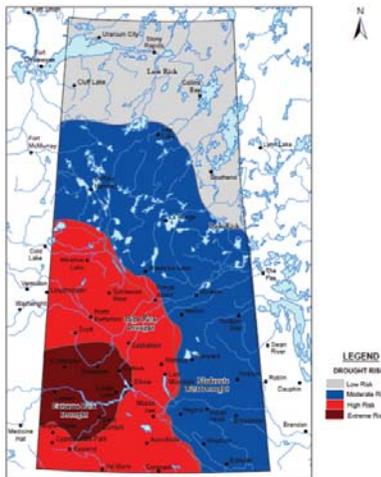


Figure 2: Hydrological Drought Risk as of October 2022

Snowfall levels

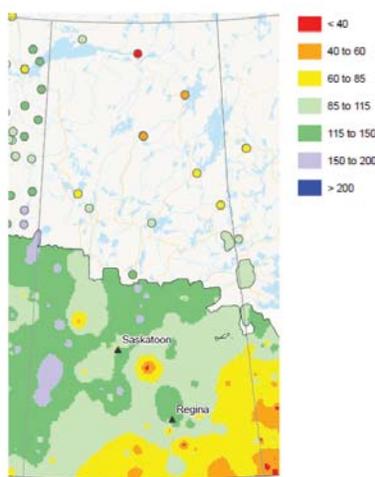
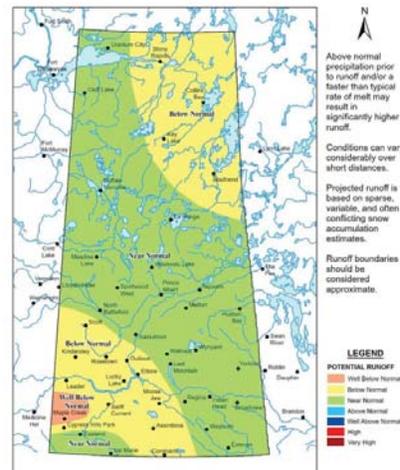


Figure 3: Per cent Normal Snowfall (November 1, 2022 to January 31, 2023)

Spring runoff potential



Preliminary spring runoff outlook shows near normal runoff for southeast

Saskatchewan Water Security Agency (WSA) released the preliminary spring runoff outlook for 2023 as it prepares its initial Spring Runoff Report for March 2023.

The information gathered in this report is based on conditions as they were on February 1, 2023.

The report shows most of southern Saskatchewan with below normal snowmelt runoff potential.

The central areas, with above normal snowpack, can expect an above normal snowmelt response; near normal conditions are currently projected for the far north.

Much of the southern areas of Saskatchewan experienced very dry conditions through the summer and into fall last year.

The exception is southeast Saskatchewan, where wetter

fall conditions and near normal snowfall have projected a near normal snowmelt.

The snowpack is generally above to well above normal to date in the central areas; however, flooding is not expected despite the predicted above normal runoff response.

The far north, encompassing the areas of Uranium City, Stony Rapids and Cluff Lake are anticipated to experience a near normal runoff event.

Runoff potential is determined based on several factors including the conditions at freeze-up, the snowfall received to date and potential expected further precipitation between now and spring melt.

The melt rate is expected to have a significant impact on

runoff yields across the south.

With depleted subsoil moisture, a slow melt will likely result in the bulk of the snowpack recharging the soil column.

A rapid melt is likely needed to result in an improvement to surface water supplies.

The current snowpack is not sufficient to satisfy both. Without additional snowfall, surface water supply issues are likely to occur in southwestern Saskatchewan in 2023.

The spring runoff outlook could change if there is additional snowfall over the coming weeks.

The first spring runoff forecast will be issued in early March.

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Hailey Olsen heading to youth world cup with Team Canada

BY KARA KINNA

Sixteen-year-old Hailey Olson from Maryfield will be heading to Texas at the end of June after making Team Canada to compete in the American Quarter Horse Youth World Cup.

Olson is one of 10 youth from across Canada who have been chosen for the team this year as one of the riders.

"There are 10 kids selected from Canada. There are five riders and those are the main people that show," says Olson. "Then there are two alternates and they're there in case someone can't compete for some reason. Then there are three that are leadership and development members, and they are like the grooms for the horses.

"You have to send in an application. Then once your application is in where you give them all of the information about your accomplishments, they let you know if you've made the team or not. Luckily I did make the team and the team is super nice. They're all friendly and we work well together."

At the Youth World Cup, Olson will be competing in events such as Hunter Under Saddle, Equitation, Ranch Riding and Cutting.

Olson has had a number of accomplishments as a young rider. Olson got involved in showing in the American Quarter Horse Western Pleasure All Around circuit when she was 12 years old. Since then she has gone to Canadian Nationals four times, winning six national titles and eight re-



Hailey Olson who lives near Maryfield has made the Canadian team for the American Quarter Horse Youth World Cup, and will be heading to Texas at the end of June to compete with the team.

serve champion titles.

She says making Team Canada for the Youth World Cup was one of the things on her list that she was hoping to be able to do.

"It's pretty incredible to me and it's one of my bucket list items, so it's pretty amazing," she says. "When I started showing in 2018, it was one that I wanted to compete at, and now to make it is kind of awesome.

"I think that it will be a step forward. I think that there might be university scouts

out there. So that will be amazing. It's going to be fun because my plan is to go to university in the United States and that will help me out."

Olson says she'd love to get onto one of the equestrian teams at an American university.

The Youth World Cup will be held June 29 to July 8 at Bryan-College Station, Texas. Olson says she will be working with her team leading up to the event to be ready for it.



"We all do Zoom meetings on Google Classroom. We do the online meetings and then we're all flying to Toronto because that's where our coach and manager are from," she says. "Some of the team members are also from Ontario. So we're all flying to Toronto on the March 5 weekend and we're all getting together to practice, do team bonding and other activities.

"Mainly you have to practice your riding and your ability to ride different horses because when you go down there you don't ride your own horse. You ride a horse that's applied to you. So at the opening ceremonies you draw the horse out of a hat, you ride it for a little bit and then you show it. So you use all of your abilities and you have to train for that and riding different horses—it's kind of crazy.

Continued on Page C17



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No. 4

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No. 5

Be extra cautious about calls, emails or mail offering instant prizes or awards. They may be an attempt to obtain your personal details.



Alanna Koch named Farm and Food Care Champion

Farm & Food Care Saskatchewan announced recently at the Ag Awareness Summit in Saskatoon that the winner of the 2022 Champion Award is Alanna Koch.

Each year, the Farm & Food Care Saskatchewan Champion Award recognizes a recipient who has engaged consumers about agriculture and worked to build public trust in farming and food in our province and beyond.

A long-time agriculture champion and senior government executive, Alanna served as Deputy Minister to the Premier and Cabinet Secretary.

Prior to that, she was the Saskatchewan Deputy Minister of Agriculture for nine years. As one of the longest serving Agriculture Deputy Ministers in Saskatchewan and Canadian history, Alanna worked closely with farmers and industry and her priority was to build and maintain public trust in agriculture by focusing on science-based decision making and communicating the benefits of modern tools and technology.

Alanna has been involved in the agriculture industry, both professionally and personally, for most of her life. Before joining government, she was President of the Canadian Agri-Food Trade Alliance and was a Director with Agricore United (a predecessor of Viterra), and Executive Director of the Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association.

She was on the board of the Saskatchewan Trade and Export Partnership (STEP) and the Buffalo Plains School Division.

Alanna's influence as a mentor was highlighted in 2021 when she was included in the Top 50 in Canadian Agriculture.

In 2015, she was recognized by the Regina YWCA with the Women of Distinction Award for excellence in Leadership and Management.



Alanna Koch

In 2012, Alanna received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal and in 2011, she was inducted into the Saskatchewan Agricultural Hall of Fame for her outstanding achievement in the sector. In 2005, her contributions to the agricultural industry and to her community were recognized when she received the Saskatchewan Centennial Medal.

Alanna is a graduate of the Canadian Agriculture Life-

time Leadership program and an Honorary Life Member of the Saskatchewan Institute of Agrologists.

She is a member of the Saskatchewan Agriculture Hall of Fame.

She has a Chartered Director designation from the Directors College, a program of the Conference Board of Canada and the Michael D. DeGroot School of Business at McMaster University.

Alanna and her husband, Gerry Hertz, farm at Edenwold. They have two daughters, Shayla and Keisha.

"Saskatchewan is fortunate to have many talented agriculture influencers," said Joan Heath, who has known and worked with Koch for several years. "What sets Alanna apart is her ability and opportunity to traverse into the broader community outside of agriculture to advance agriculture public trust."

"There are so many who do so much and I'm just so honoured to be recognized as this year's Champion," Koch said in her acceptance speech.

"What better way to make a difference in the world than to champion the best people and the best industry? To be able to share our story of how we farm and why we need innovation and access to all the tools and technology to sustainably feed the world is where so much of our focus has been the last 10 years, since the very first Ag Awareness Summit. We have come so far and made huge progress on getting our message out—and we have so much more to do."

"Farm & Food Care Saskatchewan is pleased to recognize Alanna Koch as our champion for 2022," said Clinton Monchuk, Executive Director. "She is well-known within Saskatchewan and around the world as a tireless advocate for agriculture in our province. We're so proud of the amazing people this award recognizes."

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Contribution from Weston Family Foundation:

U of S soil health project gets \$1.4 million

A new project at the University of Saskatchewan (USask) has been awarded \$1.4 million through the Weston Family Soil Health Initiative to develop land-based training workshops for First Nations communities, land managers, and producers who farm First Nations lands.

The \$10 million Weston Family Soil Health Initiative seeks to expand the adoption of ecologically based beneficial management practices (BMPs) including cover cropping, nutrient management (4R principles) and crop diversification/rotation that increase soil organic matter to improve biodiversity and resiliency on agricultural lands across Canada.

The project, Indigenous Soil Health Learning Circles for Resilient Prairie Agroecosystems, aims to establish a network to share evidence-based, culturally significant outreach and education to improve prairie soil health, biodiversity, and soil organic matter for First Nations agroecosystems.

USask soil scientist Dr. Melissa Arcand (PhD) will be working in partnership with Mistawasis Nēhiyawak, Saskatchewan Aboriginal Lands Technicians, and the International Buffalo Relations Institute.

The Soil Health Learning Circles will share soil health knowledge from both an Indigenous and Western science-based



USask soil scientist Dr. Melissa Arcand (PhD) will be working in partnership with Mistawasis Nēhiyawak, Saskatchewan Aboriginal Lands Technicians, and the International Buffalo Relations Institute

perspective with First Nations and farmers who farm First Nations lands across

the Prairies, focusing on the prairie-parkland region of Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Manitoba.

“Our project will expand soil science training beyond the walls of the university—alongside teachings of Indigenous

ecological knowledge—onto lands that are of significance to the First Nations we are in partnership with,” said Arcand, an associate professor in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources.

Conventional agricultural production is the main economic land use on First Nations in the Canadian Prairies, most of which is farmed by non-Indigenous producers.

Many First Nations are now actively engaging in agricultural land management for improved economic outcomes and to establish stronger connections to Indigenous values around ecological stewardship and biodiversity.

The Soil Health Learning Circles will also share outcomes from the Agricultural Climate Solutions Living Lab Project “Bridge to Land Water Sky” led by Mistawasis Nēhiyawak in partnership with Muskeg Lake Cree Nation and other organizations.

The Indigenous-led living lab, funded by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, aims to see farmers and First Nations working together to improve agricultural practices while honouring Indigenous values, communities, treaties, lands, and resources.

“I’m excited to exchange soil knowledge with First Nations land managers, producers, and community members on their own lands within their communities, and to continued building of respectful and reciprocal relationships for the benefit of the land and soil health,” said Arcand.

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Nutrition For Every Stage

Three keys to venture capital funding success

Farmers are no strangers to borrowing when it comes to financing their farm business. The game changes, though, if you're trying to bring an innovation to market, as it can be a struggle to find lenders who will support the start-up activities of a newly established business.

One solution is venture capital funding, a type of private equity financing that investors provide to start-up companies and businesses they believe to have long-term growth potential.

Venture capital funding is an evolving space and an area that is growing.

Venture capital (VC) typically comes from organizations with multiple partners and a sophisticated investment management structure, but it can also come from angel investors—individuals looking to support innovation opportunities they find promising. VC funding is still in its infancy in the agri-business world.

"Venture capital is for early-stage, high-growth opportunities," says Dave Smardon, CEO of Bioenterprise Canada. "The agri-tech, ag innovation and food tech innovation space is all very new; it hasn't been going on since the 1980s and 90s like high tech or life sciences."

Business accelerators specifically focusing on agriculture and food technologies—like Bioenterprise—are a logical place for entrepreneurs to learn more about venture capital opportunities. Attending innovation-focused events can also help with making connections and learning about how the VC process works.

Successfully accessing VC funds is different from applying for a bank loan, Smardon notes. It requires a higher degree of effort and commitment, and the investor will become a partner in the business.

"This is a challenging, labour-intensive undertaking, so you need to make sure you are willing to do what is necessary to go after that money," he says. "A VC is like your marriage partner, and you'll have that relationship for a number of years."

It can take up to a year or more for a VC fund to commit to an investment. This means entrepreneurs need to start looking for money long before they need it—and according to Smardon, only five percent of requests are eventually funded.

To support opportunities in the sector, FCC has set up its own program to invest in venture capital funds with an agriculture, agri-food or agri-tech focus, with 12 active funds and growing.

"It's an evolving space and an area that is growing; a lot of venture capital funds traditionally weren't focused on the ag space, but we're seeing more becoming established in the last few years," explains Rene Benoit, Director of Venture Capital at FCC. "We want to be able to provide capital to funds that invest in the agriculture ecosystem and help new companies grow so they can then transition to traditional bank financing."

Bethany Deshpande is an entrepreneur who has successfully raised venture capital funding, including from two funds supported by FCC—Ag Capital Canada and The51. She's the CEO of SomaDe-



tect, a technology now available in North America that provides real-time, automated analysis of milk quality for early detection of mastitis in dairy cows.

Some early competition wins, particularly the high-profile 43North accelerator, helped bring SomaDetect to the attention of venture capital and angel investors, who have provided much-needed funding and support.

"We needed time to develop the technology, which takes multiple millions of dollars, and as a new business, you don't have access to the type of loans you would need," Deshpande says, adding a number of farmers had also come on board as angel investors. "VCs are willing to put their money behind a dream, and they're an important source of capital for entrepreneurs."

Here are three key elements to help secure venture capital funding:

1. Be prepared

The innovation must be proven to work, and market research must show demand for it and that people are willing to pay for it. Entrepreneurs also need a rock-solid business plan and a good understanding of how to market.

"The expectation is that you are coming to a VC with a defensible, compelling and impactful business opportunity that will generate returns for the investor," Smardon says, adding that typically, farmers themselves don't have relationships with venture capital investors. "You have to give up your farming career and become a business manager if you want to be a CEO—you can't do both."

2. Build your team

Investors are looking for ventures that will yield high returns, and they'll take their time to do their due diligence. Ensure you have a strong team that knows what you're trying to achieve and has the leadership and knowledge to sell that vision.

"Investors invest in the opportunity and the person or the team, so make sure you or the people you surround yourself with have the credibility to carry your story," advises Smardon.

3. Practice

When preparing a pitch, Deshpande

goes to existing investors and trusted advisors for feedback and tries to anticipate all the possible questions that could come her way. And even with extensive practice, it's a process that still yields far more rejections than approvals.

"It can take years to find the right partners, and earlier stage companies will hear 'no' a lot, but 'no' isn't always a bad thing—it's important to get it right," Benoit says.

"It's important to find people who get what you are doing; you want investors who are committed to what you're trying to achieve and share your vision," Deshpande adds.



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Farmers are partnering with investors to bolster the ag sector

We all know what's happening to real estate these days. Everything got more expensive in a hurry, fueled by rock-bottom interest rates. But farming has also been impacted by lower interest rates and investors looking for safety and better yields.

The increase in farmland value in Canada has been nothing short of spectacular. The value per acre of farmland in Canada has skyrocketed by 334 per cent since 2001, but most of the increases have occurred within the last few years. Since 2016, the increase has been 213 per cent. According to Statistics Canada, the average acre in Canada is now worth almost \$3,800, compared to \$862 back in 2001.

The value of an acre of farmland in Saskatchewan has increased by 391 per cent since 2001, the highest in the country. The highest increase since 2016 is in Manitoba, by 266 per cent. Depending on what is produced, some farmland valuations have increased more than others due to various factors such as location, soil quality, and potential revenues.

The Atlantic region, though, is not seeing much change compared with other regions. Increases in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island have been more modest. Farming in the Atlantic region remains affordable compared to other provinces, not due to protectionist policies but more because farming is not as profitable and options to market are limited for many farmers. With lower value increases, building capacity when land is barely worth more year after year is more challenging.

In contrast, since 2016, the average farm real estate value in the United States has increased by 27 per cent, according to the latest report from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. But an acre of farmland on average in the U.S. is now worth about US\$3,800, so Canada has somewhat caught up to the U.S. in recent years.

Farmland values are being pushed higher in Canada by a series of economic forces. The includes high prices for



Sylvain Charlebois

commodity crops, a robust housing market, an extended period where interest rates were extremely low until recently, and a profusion of government subsidies supporting certain sectors. Compensation, which exceeded \$5 billion, linked to trade agreements and given to supply-managed sectors like dairy, poultry, and eggs, has over-capitalized many farm operations out there, compelling many to buy land. That's a problem few are talking about.

In Canada, barely seven per cent of all our land is devoted to agriculture. It's not a lot, and that amount of land where farming occurs is shrinking. In 2011, 166 million acres of land were devoted to farming to support over 245,000 farms. Today, this amount is about 150 million acres for about 188,000 farms. Farms are bigger, more successful, and more efficient.

Yes, farmland in Canada is getting more expensive, but farmers in Canada are also making more money. In 2021, cash receipts exceeded \$83 billion, a record, and 2022 is likely to be another record year. Last year was also a record year for agri-food exports; if you're a hedge fund or an investor, these numbers will catch your attention, and they have. Fewer barriers, including the end of the Wheat Board's single desk on wheat and barley, have brought a slew of new possibilities for the farming community.

As a result, we have seen more farmers renting land instead of owning. Close to 50 per cent of farmers in Canada now rent land instead of owning. Some may see this as a threat to normal ways of producing food and supporting

agriculture, but it's not necessarily a terrible strategy.

In fact, the largest farmland owner in the country is not even a farmer. Alberta's own Robert Andjelic has bought over 225,500 acres of land, a portfolio worth somewhere between \$500 and \$700 million. At the root of this investor's move into agriculture is the will to produce more food and address our global food security crunch. Along with his capital, his team brought knowledge of sound soil management practices, helping over 250 farm-tenants to benefit from such expertise. Andjelic's job is to make sure his tenants make money. Otherwise, he's not getting paid – simple as that. This new way of thinking can make Canadian agriculture more profitable.

Canada's agri-food potential is immense, and farmland has always been a good investment. A growing number of groups and investors who understand how to make capital work are making a difference. The intent of investors from outside the agriculture sector is to make our agriculture stronger.

Farmers who have been in the system for decades still have a lot to offer. But producing and investing simultaneously is getting harder, which is slowly getting agricultural pundits to specialize. Capital markets and the investment community worldwide have changed dramatically over the last five years. This is why more than half of younger farmers in Canada are leasing land now in order to operate.

The correlation between land prices, rental rates, and farm revenues is quite strong. All three tend to move synchronously higher over time, according to a report from Farm Credit Canada last year. With more specialization, everyone wins. Younger farmers also see value in renting and partnering with investors. It's just a different way of seeing farming.

Dr. Sylvain Charlebois is senior director of the agri-food analytics lab and a professor in food distribution and policy at Dalhousie University.

Wheat Growers wants answers on fertilizer reductions

The Western Canadian Wheat Growers expressed dismay at a meeting of the Commons Standing Committee on Science and Research where Canada's Chief Science Advisor informed that she had not been asked, nor had determined, if mandated fertilizer reductions would impact food production in Canada.

As science advisor, Dr. Mona Nemer's mandate is clear. "The Office of the Chief Science Advisor provides advice on issues related to science and government policies that support it. This includes advising

on ways to ensure that scientific knowledge is considered in public policy decisions and that government science is fully available to the public."

Speaking to the failure to study the obvious relationship between fertilizer and food production, Wheat Growers President Gunter Jochum commented, "More and more government departments are failing to deliver on their mandates, and are being ideologically captured. We see this in Agriculture Canada, and now in the office of the Chief Science Advisor. At

a time of food insecurity and skyrocketing consumer prices for basic food staples, to fail to consider the impact on the food supply of fertilizer reductions is frankly appalling. Canadians deserve public policy that is based on science and common sense. Neither supports reducing the

Canadian food supply at this time, and that is what mandated fertilizer cuts will do. For the government not to subject this policy to scientific analysis says one thing clearly—they don't care if consumers face even higher prices and more food insecurity."

Water Security Agency in the field for snow surveys

The Water Security Agency (WSA) is once again preparing to undertake snow water equivalent sampling to help create a complete picture of the spring runoff potential for Saskatchewan.

"To ensure the province's water needs for communities, farmers and ranchers, industry and recreation users, the Water Security Agency manages the province's water supply year-round," Minister Responsible for WSA Jeremy Cockrill said. "That's why every February, as part of our regular monitoring, WSA personnel gather snowpack data to help fill in other data gathered from other monitoring sites."

WSA staff will be in the field at over a hundred sites later this month, carrying out snow surveys to help forecast the

runoff potential, providing information on water supply and flood risks. Much of Saskatchewan's runoff comes from snowmelt, so these surveys are a key piece of information for forecasters.

WSA staff will collect a column of snowpack using a graduated tube, weigh the samples and then calculate the average snow-to-water equivalency for that area. Surveys from across the province contribute to the runoff potential map released every spring. Gathering and publishing this information helps municipalities, producers, industry and other users plan ahead.

This annual process is one of the many ways WSA manages Saskatchewan's water resources to improve our quality of life every day.

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R.M. of Moosomin #121

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Contact Murray or Donna Raab if you have any questions via email at draab112@hotmail.com or by phone 306-435-3026 (H) or 306-435-6597 (C)

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USask researchers discover new antimicrobial resistance gene associated with livestock disease treatment

Researchers at the University of Saskatchewan (USask) have discovered how a previously overlooked gene is involved in antimicrobial resistance—a growing global issue that threatens the health and welfare of both humans and animals.

The gene encodes for an enzyme named EstT and is capable of “turning off” or inactivating macrolides, a class of antibiotic drugs commonly used to treat disease in cattle and other livestock.

The researchers’ findings were published online last week in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS), a highly cited multidisciplinary scientific journal.

Tylosin, tilmicosin and tildipirosin are some antibiotics classed as macrolides. Veterinarians rely on these drugs to treat illnesses in cattle such as bovine respiratory disease and liver abscesses as well as other diseases in livestock and companion animals.

With this discovery, veterinarians will know “there’s a possibility that the drug will not work because of the presence of the gene,” said Dr. Poonam Dhindwal (PhD) the paper’s lead author and a post-doctoral fellow at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM).

Antibiotics are becoming less effective due to the global spread of antimicrobial resistance. Based on 2019 estimates, more than 1.2 million human deaths were caused by drug-resistant infections. Antimicrobial resistance genes (ARGs)—mobile genetic elements that can pass between micro-organisms—help to accelerate resistance.

The USask research team, led by WCVM assistant professor Dr. Tony Ru-



USask researchers have discovered how an antimicrobial gene inactivates antibiotic drugs used to treat bovine respiratory disease and other livestock illnesses.

Christina Weese photo

zzini (PhD) and in collaboration with Dr. Murray Jelinski (DVM), made the discovery after analyzing bacteria collected from watering bowls at a western Canadian beef cattle feedlot.

“[Our discovery] adds one more piece to the puzzle,” said Jelinski, a professor of large animal clinical sciences and the Alberta Chair in Beef Cattle Health at the veterinary college.

Ruzzini said scientists have previously identified the existence of this gene that’s commonly found in many animal pathogens and their microbiomes, but its pur-

pose remained a mystery. What the USask research team discovered is that this gene can break the ring structure of the antibiotic through hydrolysis (chemical reaction caused by water).

“If you break the ring or you open the ring with water, then you disrupt the active shape of the antibiotic. So, it no longer has a high affinity for the target,” said Ruzzini.

He added that once the gene destroys the antibiotic’s structure, the drug is no longer able to work as effectively in treating an illness: “Inactivation is concern-

ing because it reduces the effective amount of antibiotics that are being delivered during an infection.”

Ruzzini said his team found the gene in a cluster with three other ARGs—the first clue that it could be involved in antimicrobial resistance. Once the team identified the gene, team members worked to clone it and test it against a panel of many antibiotic drugs from different classes.

“This gene, even though we found it in an environmental organism, it is also present in pathogens that are responsible for causing bovine respiratory disease (BRD),” said Ruzzini. His lab has conducted numerous studies investigating BRD, which is commonly known as shipping fever.

The Saskatchewan Health Research Fund, Saskatchewan’s Agriculture Development Fund, the Beef Cattle Research Council, and the Mitacs Globalink Internship program supported the research.

Jelinski said the team’s work should be of interest to all researchers in both human and animal health fields who are studying antimicrobial resistance.

“Our finding adds to the considerable database of ARGs, which can be crossmatched to a bacteria’s DNA to determine if the bacterium has the potential to be resistant to a particular antimicrobial,” said Jelinski.

Ruzzini added that his research team is continuing to learn more about how EstT works.

“As AMR surveillance systems rely more on molecular tools for detection, our knowledge of this specific gene and its integration into those systems will help to better inform antimicrobial use,” said Ruzzini.

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First intake fall 2023:

Precision Agriculture Certificate at U of S

A new certificate program at the University of Saskatchewan (USask) will provide students the opportunity to gain knowledge and develop experiential skills in precision agriculture by leveraging competencies from their academic discipline.

Students in the new Certificate in Precision Agriculture will learn how to manage crops precisely to increase both production and sustainability.

This includes knowledge of the technologies used in precision agriculture (satellite imagery, global positioning and information systems, big data, yield mapping, management zones) to understand what drives within-field crop yield variability from year to year.

The new certificate program will be housed in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources and will bring together USask students from AgBio, the College of Engineering, and the Department of Computer Science to prepare them to be leaders in the rapidly evolving area of ag tech.

"The Certificate in Precision Agriculture is the third new academic program announced by the College of Agriculture and Bioresources in the last year," said Dr. Angela Bedard-Haughn (PhD), dean of the College of Agriculture and Bioresources.

"Our college is continually growing and strives to respond to student and community needs: providing hands-on training that combines both the 'how' and the 'why' and learning directly from industry-leading researchers.

"With this new certificate program, we continue to equip students with the critical thinking skills they need that will go beyond when a certain technology may become obsolete."

"Many of the world's leading precision agriculture companies are based in Western Canada and look to USask to hire our graduates," said Dr. Steve Shirliffe (PhD), professor in the Department of Plant Sciences at USask.

"By leveraging competencies from their



The new Certificate in Precision Agriculture will bring together USask students from AgBio, Engineering and Computer Science to prepare them to be leaders in the rapidly evolving area of ag tech.

unique academic discipline (AgBio, engineering, or computer science), students in the certificate program will be prepared for a variety of careers with a special focus on precision agriculture including agronomists, sales and marketing spe-

cialists, programmers and data analysts, and engineering machinery and control design."

USask students can earn the Certificate in Precision Agriculture concurrently with a degree program from the College of Ag-

riculture and Bioresources.

This certificate is also available to USask students studying computer science or engineering.

The first cohort will begin classes in September 2023.



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When and how to review asset values for better farm management

From transition planning to day-to-day bill payments, knowing the dollar value of your assets is a critical part of managing a farm business.

Values can change drastically over time and space, however. Regular evaluation of farm assets and their worth is important for various best business management practices.

What constitutes an asset?

Equipment and vehicles, buildings and property constitute several key asset categories.

Mike Bossy, chartered professional accountant with Bossy Nagy Group in Tillsonburg, Ont., says other examples include tile drain infrastructure, quota by farm and type, solar panels and bunk silos. Do a yearly estimate. It's part of determining your net worth.

"A subledger of [all] assets should be maintained," Bossy says, adding that asset reviews should be conducted yearly. The need for an appraisal could spur it for lending purposes or before selling a piece of machinery, for example.

"Do a yearly estimate. It's part of determining your net worth. Changes in net worth is a measure to determine if you are moving ahead."

Assess value

Determining the dollar value of an asset can take many forms.

Bossy says best management practices include awareness of local business activity and transactions, values highlighted by dealers, suppliers and realtors, and recent appraisals from or performed for lenders.

Taking depreciation into account is also important.

"The difference between the original cost and accumulated amortization is the net book value," Bossy says.

He recommends using a spreadsheet like Excel or Google Sheets to track market value and net worth and the fluctuations.

"The accountant-prepared balance sheet

is always at original cost, less amortization," Bossy says, adding that FCC software like AgExpert has a function for tracking estimates of market value.

Make way for differences

According to Andrea De Groot, FCC farm business advisor based in Stratford, Ont., operators should establish a range of asset values to account for non-linear impacting factors.

"Equipment is one thing; real estate and capital assets like barns are another. There can be many differences from building to building and farm to farm. That can significantly impact your net position," she says.

"The adage that equipment depreciates as soon as it's driven off the lot isn't necessarily true," de Groot says.

"Demand and supply chain issues, for example, can make a difference."

She points to three important pieces that go into assessing assets.

1. Analyze the local market

This is a good method of establishing asset values by oneself.

Tools and analyses such as the FCC Farmland Value Report can help.

So can making use of a third party, particularly if there is more than one person to whom the assessment applies.

Accountants and other professionals, she says, make it their business to pay close attention to dollar values.

2. Know why you want the information

"Understand why you want to get the update; whenever we talk about any capital assets, it's more than just your cash flow impact. It's thinking about how it comes back to your cost of production. Are we trying to establish the top dollar? Does it have to do with farm transition? Is it for insurance updates, or to determine if they want to retain ownership of a certain piece of equipment or asset, or not?"

3. Know who owns what

Knowing who owns the asset in question—and in what proportion—is also

critical.

Is it owned by the corporation or personally? The answer affects the tax implications when a farm asset is personally owned.

One farm partner may also believe an

asset is an even 50-50 split when things are different.

"Business changes happen naturally, but it can get complicated. Until you sell or upgrade an asset, you must know who owns it and its structure," de Groot says.

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Left: Rocanville's Blueberry Kitchen Blueberry BBQ burger made with local sourced beef and bacon loaded up with fried mushrooms, mozzarella and jalapeno jack cheeses and BBQ burger sauce made in house. **Right:** Cork & Bone Bistro in Moosomin Kimchi Burger made with spicy burger sauce, American cheese, bacon, kimchi, and coleslaw, all on a potato bun.

Sharpe's Burger Blitz was a success with 3,668 burgers sold in a week

Continued from front
How did the idea for Burger Blitz come about?

Miller said the idea of starting Burger Blitz in Moosomin to help promote Canadian Ag Day came from a community doing a similar event.

"We actually got the idea from Winnipeg who ran the burger week, but we've always wanted to do something more for Canadian agriculture too," said Miller.

"We have done lots of stuff at the schools in previous years, which is also where the idea came from which was challenging the local businesses to use Canadian products and maybe create their own feature burger with something that's truly agricultural."

"We felt that the whole burger encompassed Canadian agriculture from every aspect."

Restaurants from the area were happy to be a part of the event and are looking forward to next year, said Miller.

"Blueberry Kitchen Rocanville stopped in and told us she already has an idea for next year," said Miller.

"Also Jarrod from the Cork & Bone stopped in and said it was fantastic, that he loves being a part of it."

"We haven't really had any negative feedback. I think

people are just happy to do it."

Yeske mentioned that the Crate House and Witch's Brew stopped selling burgers by the end of the event due to selling out.

"Blueberry Kitchen was also telling me that they had people come from Virden and Esterhazy to buy burgers," she said.

"Also one day, they sent out 40 burgers to the mine."

With Sharpe's Burger Blitz bringing a lot of business into town, Miller and Yeske were asked how it feels to be part of having an impact on the community.

"It's definitely outside of our realm of things," said Miller.

"I feel like because we're not on Main Street, this helps Sharpe's get involved and helps to connect with the community a little bit more. We connect with our agriculture area a lot, but not necessarily with people who are in town. This is great for that."

People who tried the burgers also got a chance to vote on their favorite burger, as well fill out a Burger Stamp Card for a chance to win \$500 in a draw from every four burgers they purchased.

From the week of the event, around 486 people placed their votes online with the results of Red Barn having the highest number of votes, and Blueberry Kitchen being a

close second. The other participating restaurants were not far behind.

Yeske said she was happy to see how many people took part in placing their votes for their favorite burger.

"That's pretty good, that's the best feedback we've had," she said.

Sharpe's staff also took part in trying as many burgers as they could.

"I got to try seven out of the 10 burgers," Miller said.

"When we had a work meeting during the week, everyone ordered something different."

"I think across the board we probably got to every single restaurant, but maybe just not every single person got to try every single one."

"I also liked that for us at work it allowed us to get together every lunch hour and enjoy it as a staff."

"I hope that other businesses are doing the same thing as we are because we've had it a couple years now where our whole company, from Langenburg and all of the people from Sharpe's, came together in Moosomin to eat the burgers in town."



Left: Moosomin's DQ Bacon Mushroom Ringer Burger, stacked with layers of 100 per cent real seasoned beef, savory mushroom sauce, smoked Applewood bacon, and crunchy golden onion rings. **Middle:** Fleming Windsor Bar & Grill 'The Windsor Double Smash' burger. Two 3-oz patties, bacon, cheese, and house made potato sticks. **Right:** The Crate House in Moosomin, the Jack Daniel's Smoked Burger, featuring a store made smoked burger topped with caramelized onions, bacon, hickory sticks and Monterey Jack cheese.



Left: The Red Barn in Moosomin's burger was the B.A.M. (Bacon, Applewood, Maple) Burger. Created using in-house made burger, applewood smoked bacon, cheddar cheese, maple bacon aioli, crispy onions, bbq sauce, pickles, lettuce and tomato.

Excited to make Burger Blitz an annual event

Yeske was asked if she thinks Sharpe's will continue to have Burger Blitz as an annual event.

"How can we not?" she said laughing. "It helps get our name out there too. People usually stop and ask us too if we're doing burger week again or not, a lot of people do ask."

"As well, right before we started thinking about it, businesses were asking if we were going to host it again."

Based on the feedback they got from restaurants and people in the community from this year, Miller spoke about what Sharpe's plans to do differently for next year's event. "Depending on when Canadian Ag Day falls, we'll see," said Miller.

Miller said the event really helps spread the message about how important Canadian agriculture is.

"There's so many different components of Canadian agriculture that all goes into it," she said.

"That's why we chose the burger because it encompasses several different sectors, whether it was pork, whether it was beef, whether it was grain, even lettuce, tomatoes. All of those different things can be included on a burger so that was the message we wanted to get out there, that every component of a lot of these burgers came from agriculture."

"As well, it celebrates Canadian Ag, and supports local businesses. Sharpe's is a local business too so we want to tie in the rest of every one in town as well."

"Also to help give people a boost during the winter time, because it is pretty quiet," added Yeske.

In this year's Sharpe's Burger Blitz, Red Barn sold 654 burgers, Cork & Bone Bistro sold 260 burgers, Witch's Brew sold 375 burgers, Fleming Windsor Bar & Grill sold 234 burgers, Moosomin Dairy Queen sold 608 burgers, Nutrien Sportsplex sold 312 burgers, TJ's Pizza sold 100 cheese-burger pizzas, The Crate House sold 515 burgers, Blueberry Kitchen sold 415 burgers, and the Rocanville Town & Country Golf Clubhouse sold 195 burgers.

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WGRF completes 12 regional factsheets

WGRF is excited to announce the completion of twelve regional factsheets from the Resilient Rotations project.

The Resilient Rotations project is part of the Integrated Crop Agronomy Cluster (ICAC) and is evaluating various crop rotations to help create more productive, sustainable and resilient cropping systems on the Canadian Prairies.

The project is led by Dr. Kui Liu, research scientist with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

"We are approaching crop rotation by looking at a systems approach—

all the elements that impact crop rotation from soil health, economics and yield to local growing conditions," say Liu.

"It's a more holistic way to look at crop rotation and one we hope will provide new insights and options for farmers in Western Canada in a more customized, prescriptive type of approach."

The team is evaluating six different crop rotations at seven field sites across the prairies to provide relevant recommendations based on local growing conditions. There are three sites in Alberta, three in Saskatchewan and one in



Manitoba.

Data from the four-year rotations have been evaluated by region based on

yield, economics and efficient use of both precipitation and nutrients.

"We have produced

twelve factsheets with regional results on how each of the six rotations performed based on the evaluation criteria," says Sheri Strydhorst, Principal, Sheri's Ag Consulting Inc. who helps manage communications and extension for the Resilient Rotations project.

"We would also encourage growers and agronomists to complete our survey to help us better understand what would encourage the adoption of more diverse crop rotations. The survey can be accessed here."

The factsheets can be found on the WGRF website wgrf.ca/resilient-rotations-factsheet/

"There are agronomists, weed scientists, pathologists, economists and soil

health experts involved in this project," says Wayne Thompson, WGRF Executive Director.

"A testament to the diversity of factors that impact an effective, sustainable and productive approach to crop rotation. WGRF invests in research like the Resilient Rotations project with the goal to help farmers make decisions that are the best fit for their operation."

The Resilient Rotations project is supported by funding from WGRF, Alberta Wheat, Saskatchewan Wheat, Alberta Pulse Growers, SaskCanola, Manitoba Crop Alliance, and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership—a provincial-federal-territorial initiative.

Third consecutive year of record agricultural exports for Saskatchewan

Saskatchewan's agriculture industry has posted a third consecutive year of record agri-food exports, with a total value of \$18.4 billion for 2022.

The leading agri-food export commodities in 2022 were canola oil, non-durum wheat, canola seed, lentils, durum and dry peas. The top five international market destinations were the United States, China, Japan, Mexico and Algeria.

"Saskatchewan's agriculture industry is a model for reliability and innovation, as these export figures show," Agriculture Minister David Marit said. "Saskatchewan producers continue to make an impact

both inside and beyond our borders, as a driver of our provincial economy and as a worldwide leader in sustainable agri-food production. These numbers demonstrate our progress toward the \$20 billion agri-food export target in the 2030 Growth Plan."

In addition to Saskatchewan's primary production, higher-value processed products are a key contributor to the province's exports. With canola oil as Saskatchewan's top agri-food export and canola meal the seventh-leading, products like these provide an opportunity to reach the 2030 Growth Plan target of increasing agriculture

value-added revenue to \$10 billion.

Saskatchewan's agri-food exports are the second highest in Canada, behind Ontario which exported \$23.8 billion in 2022. Increases in agriculture exports continue to contribute to Saskatchewan's strong economic growth, as merchandise exports saw a 23.8 per cent increase in December 2022 compared to December 2021; this was the second highest increase among provinces, seasonally adjusted. Total merchandise exports for 2022 were valued at more than \$52 billion, an increase of 41.7 per cent since 2021.

"It is clear that Saskatchewan

has what the world needs, and these impressive numbers demonstrate that," Trade and Export Development Minister Jeremy Harrison said. "Our products have made significant gains in both traditional and new markets, which means opportunity for greater investment and a higher quality of life for the people of our province."

Saskatchewan's total exports have grown by more than \$20 billion since 2012. The province has established trade and investment offices around the world which will be key to continue growing trade by focusing on strengths and supporting Saskatchewan companies seeking investment and promoting trade.

Saskatchewan agriculture helps feed the world and helps fuel our province's growth.

Thank you to our agriculture community for the enormous contribution you make!

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Hailey Olson who lives near Maryfield has made the Canadian team for the American Quarter Horse Youth World Cup, and will be heading to Texas at the end of June to compete with the team. She is shown second from left in the middle row in the Team Canada photo above.

Hailey Olsen heading to youth world cup with Team Canada

Continued from Page C3
 “There are 16 countries competing, and I don’t know how many each country is bringing, but they vary from four people on a team to twelve people on a team.”
 The event will also include other activities for the youth competing, so that they bond and make friendships.
 “The American Quarter Horse Association has reached out to the team and they’re letting us know that all of the countries will be combined and there will be competitions—little fun ones, like art contests and a lip sync battle and we’re going to go to a street dance. So we’re going to make friendships out of this too,” says Olson.
 Olson is the only member of Team Canada who was selected from Saskatchewan. The rest of the team is made up of two members from Nova Scotia, five from Ontario, one from Alberta and one from B.C.

She says she has big goals as she con-

tinues to compete in the world of horses.
 “I hope that I can still be showing and maybe training in the future,” she says. “I hope to be training and to be a world champion. I want to be a world champion—that’s my one goal. I hope to go to the world show and win it.”
 Olson says she was born into a life of horses.
 “My mom has always been into horses so I was kind of born into it, but we did the ranch life more. I got into the Western showing in 2018,” she says.
 What does she love about it so much?
 “I think it’s the competitiveness. I think it’s all of the dynamics that go into it. There’s so much that you have to do to be able to show in that show pen. While you’re in that show pen it looks like you’re doing nothing but sitting on a horse, but there’s so much going on with leg pressure, your hands, with the way you’re sitting and the way that the horse adjusts to the way you sit.”



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Ottawa tone-deaf to the needs of farmers

Late last year, Ottawa announced that tariff revenues received from Canadian farmers who bought Russian/Belarusian fertilizers this year are being sent to Ukraine to rebuild infrastructure.

Canada was the only G7 country to put tariffs on Russian and/or Belarusian fertilizer after Russia invaded Ukraine back in March. Of the \$115 million sent to Ukraine, \$34 million were collected from our own farmers who had bought Russian fertilizer, according to Statistics Canada.

In haste, Ottawa announced it would compensate farmers, but nothing is official yet.

Tariffs were applied on fertilizers associated with the Russian regime as part of a series of retaliatory sanctions against the Putin government. We should all be pleased that Ukraine will receive this sum from Ottawa. But the news that \$34 million of that money came from our farmers was well received in the farming community.

Back in March of last year, sanctions came so quickly that farmers couldn't pivot and buy fertilizers from another source. They were essentially forced to pay tariffs. It's important to note that nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium are the "Big 3" primary nutrients in commercial fertilizers, and farmers will often source all three differently.

Most of the nitrogen fertilizer in Canada is imported, and Russia has historically been the cheapest supplier for our farmers. Phosphate usually comes from the United States or Morocco. Potassium, derived from potash, comes from Western Canada. Given the tariffs, nitrogen will likely be purchased from other sources next year.



Sylvain Charlebois

Some groups, like the Ontario Grain Farmers, are now asking Ottawa to remove tariffs on fertilizer imports. That may not be advisable since many farmers have already started to plan and work around tariffs and avoid Russia altogether.

So perhaps for next year, tariffs on Russian products will work. Or will they? Sanctions should be punitive. But for tariffs on fertilizers, there was no evidence that Russian companies were impacted at all. In fact, Russia's agriculture has barely been affected by the conflict or subsequent sanctions.

Case in point: Russian agriculture experienced one of its best years overall. Another case in point: Russia is bound to be the largest wheat exporter in the world for 2022 and 2023. It begs the question if all the sanctions implemented by Western countries have worked.

Over the years, the theory and research on the effectiveness of economic sanctions have been a mere exercise in running regressions on a series of random numbers. They do not shed any light to guide policy making. Most importantly, what has come out of years of research on sanction effectiveness is that success can only happen when

expectations are modest at best. Sanctions are mainly about perceptions and, yes, politics. When Ottawa implemented sanctions, it made Canadians feel good about helping Ukraine, but without having to go to war. That's what sanctions are for—nothing more, nothing less.

Russia is economically stable, whether we want to believe this or not. Russia's food inflation rate reached 20 per cent in April of this year, but since then, the inflation and food inflation rates have come down dramatically (to 11.1 per cent in November) to almost match those of the United States (at 10.6 per cent). France, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and Germany all had higher food inflation rates. All these countries implemented sanctions against Russia. How ironic.

Ottawa did the right thing in implementing sanctions against Russia, but some measures were either half-measures or incredibly short-sighted and did little damage to Russia.

Sanctions are powerful messages but forcing farmers to pay more for inputs will not only jeopardize the financial viability of smaller farms in Canada but could also compromise our own food security.

This is what happens when a federal government is driven by urban politics and is tone-deaf to the issues affecting agriculture. Despite its obsession to make Canadians feel good about themselves, Ottawa should never do this on the backs of our own farmers.

Dr. Sylvain Charlebois is senior director of the agri-food analytics lab and a professor in food distribution and policy at Dalhousie University.

Water Security Agency helping producers plan sustainable agricultural water management projects

The Water Security Agency (WSA) is offering free workshops called AgH2Onward to introduce farmers and ranchers to the Agricultural Water Management Strategy in Saskatchewan. The workshops explore the process and benefits of obtaining drainage approvals and techniques to best manage water on their land.

These free half-day workshops are being offered online and in-person until April 2023. Scheduled in-person workshops will begin in March.

"Often, the biggest challenge is knowing where to start," AgH2Onward Coordinator Julie Mackenzie said. "These workshops will introduce producers to well-designed drainage projects and help them incorporate strategies best suited for their farm or ranch operations and the regional landscape."

This is the second consecutive year WSA is hosting these workshops.

The course covers various types of water management practices such as surface ditches, tile drainage and wetland consolidation, completing a network project with neighbouring landowners, and using a qualified person to assist landowners through the process.

The Agricultural Water Management Strategy is a made-in-Saskatchewan approach that supports economic growth, thriving communities and resilient watersheds. It was implemented in 2015 to provide support and opportunities for farmers and ranchers to effectively manage excess water on agricultural land and safeguard against downstream flooding, water quality and environmental impacts.

Producers can learn more and register at agh2onward.ca. WSA will also host in-person or online workshops for organizations, groups or communities upon request.

For more information about these workshops, please contact: Julie Mackenzie, AgH2Oward Coordinator, 306-264-7747 or agh2onward@gmail.com.

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2023 Grains, oilseeds and pulses sector outlook

FCC Economics helps you make sense of the top economic trends and issues likely to affect your operation in 2023. The major trends to monitor for grain, oilseed and pulse operations include:

- Tight global supply/demand balances that may be on the verge of loosening
- Record-breaking average fertilizer costs
- A large rebound in production from 2021's drought-impacted harvest best characterizes the Canadian 2022/23 crop marketing year (MY). It was a good year to have more crop to sell, as commodity prices continued to rise, and excessively dry conditions plagued several of Canada's largest competitors. Farm revenues showed steep gains year-over-year (YoY), a rise necessary to keep on top of input prices that seemed to know no limits.

Prices for most principal field crops have already come down from the highs reached in 2022 but remain well in excess of their respective 5-year averages (Table 1). Corn and soybeans are each expected to continue rising from 2021/22 levels in the 2022/23 MY, the only prices to do so. All crops except feed barley will see prices rise relative to year-to-date before falling with the 2023 crop. Despite the decline, they'll remain above the most recent five-year average.

Table 1: Prices (\$/tonne) to fall YoY throughout 2023 but remain historically high

CASH CROP	2022/23 MY (ACTUAL)	2022/23 MY (YEAR TO DATE)	2022/23 MY (FORECAST)	2021/22 MY (FORECAST)	5-YEAR AVERAGE
Corn (CB) (\$/bu)	520	540	540	520	540
Soybeans (CB) (\$/bu)	640	700	710	600	610
Canola (CB) (\$/bu)	375	420	400	400	390
Peas (yellow) (\$/bu)	600	640	650	580	540
Lentils (red) (\$/bu)	910	715	720	640	560
Spring wheat (\$/bu)	450	410	440	410	390
Feed barley (AB) (\$/bu)	440	420	380	310	290
Durum (CB) (\$/bu)	520	450	450	470	330

Sources: Statistics Canada, AAFC, USDA, PDG, Canfax, CME, MDEK and ICE Futures, and FCC calculations

Marketing Year for corn and soybeans: September 1 - August 31

Marketing Year for wheat, canola, barley, peas and lentils: August 1 - July 31

The good news about crop prices is tempered again by the forecast for high input costs, particularly those for fertilizer and energy. Despite the pressure, margins are expected to remain well above break-even in 2023. Across eastern and western Canada, profitability will fall YoY but will also easily exceed their respective five-year averages. Assuming a wheat/canola rotation in the West, 2022's expected revenues less total costs stands at \$95/acre, falling to \$50/acre in 2023. Eastern producers (soybeans/corn) can expect positive margins as high as \$100/acre in 2023, with 2022 margins expected at \$255/acre.

Wheat

According to the USDA, total global wheat supplies will fall 1% YoY in the 2022/23 marketing year. Global ending stocks are 3.0% below the previous year's level, and U.S. ending stocks are forecast at 18.3% below their 2021-22 ending stocks levels. That's based on no growth in global and U.S. production.

Canadian wheat production has risen by 47% YoY (and durum production increased by 79% YoY) to make the 2022/23 crop the third largest on record, with the average quality for CWRS wheat rated higher than the past five-year average.

Global market interest in Canadian wheat may rise this year. Argentinian exports are expected to drop off after their wheat was hit with excessively dry conditions during their growing season. Growth in Canada's exports to Asia and South America is expected, while U.S. exports have been cut due to a strong dollar and limited drought-impacted supplies. A loonie projected to average US\$0.73 in 2023 would help offset discounts in the world market for the large supply of Russian wheat.

Corn

2022/23 corn production in South America is forecast to be higher YoY, even as heat and dryness shrink area and yields in Argentina and Brazil. But global corn production overall is projected to be 4.9% lower YoY. The USDA estimated U.S. production at 349 MMT versus 383 MMT a year earlier. They also forecast supply falling more than use, with the season-average corn price expected at US\$6.70 per bushel.

It's a different story in Canada, where 2022/23 corn production is estimated to be at a new record level and 4% higher YoY and 5% higher than the previous five-year average. However, even here, we'll see total supply fall by 14% from the record high seen in 2021-22 as the pace of corn imports drops sharply YoY. Statistics Canada forecasts carry-out stocks to fall 13% from last year's record high, although they'll remain slightly higher than the previous five-year average.

Soybeans

The world will see more soybeans in the current MY, with global ending stocks estimated to increase 5.4% YoY. The drought that has levelled South American corn production has also impacted the region's soybean production, most notably in Argentina. Brazil's dominance in the global soybean trade is expected to continue. U.S. production is forecast to be 4.2% lower YoY, and their ending stocks are projected to be nearly 25% lower than last year.

Canadian soybean production is up slightly YoY in the 2022/23 MY. But although carry-out stocks are forecast to be up 17.8% YoY, they're 22.2% lower than the five-year average.

Canola

The drought in 2021 was particularly hard on canola. The world canola stocks-to-use ratio in 2021-22 was the lowest since 2003-04, while Canada's ratio was close to the record low set in 2012-13. The current MY has helped to regain some stability. Despite unexpected low yields in Alberta and Manitoba, StatsCan estimates that 2022-23 canola production is 32.1% higher YoY. Not surprisingly, the total supply is forecast to increase by 22.6%. A larger supply will lead to stronger exports, and the crushing industry is expected to function at capacity, given the robust demand for canola oil. Under this scenario, carry-out stocks are slated to fall 8.6% YoY.

Lentils and peas

Better growing conditions in western Canada produced better yields (68% higher YoY) for dry peas in 2022, which have boosted production by 52% in the 2022/23 MY. Although supplies are still low because of the poor 2021 crop, Canadian YoY supply growth of 35% will support gains in exports. Strong export demand is expected from Bangladesh and India. Carry-out stocks should also rise, pressuring prices which are expected to fall throughout the MY.

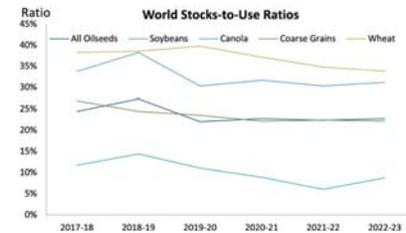
Growth in yields also helped raise lentil production by 43%, enough to increase supply but only by 24% after small carry-in stocks from 2021/22. Despite the above-average quality and lower carry-out stocks, the Canadian lentil crop will likely record prices on average lower YoY in the 2022/23 MY.

Trends to monitor in 2023

Are the tight global supply/demand balances about to loosen?

The January WASDE made clear that the December 1 carryout levels of corn, soybeans and wheat—the world's largest traded crops—were lighter than expected. Corn and wheat were each down 7% year-over-year (YoY), and soybeans were 4% lower. Before the January WASDE report, the market had expected increased production estimates for all three. The news was bullish.

Figure 1: Crop stocks-to-use ratios show a decline and a possible easing of pressure beyond 2022/23



While that has contributed to higher prices early in 2023, the forecast shows some easing of the pressures felt last year with either a halt or reversal in most stocks-to-

use ratio trends (Figure 1). With favourable yields in 2023, supply/demand balances are likely to align more closely to historical trends, which is a big reason underlying some price declines.

There are caveats on the availability of production, however. Any resumption of supply chain disruptions, especially out of the Black Sea region, threatens this outlook, as does any further weather-related damage to South American or European crops. On the other hand, with global economic growth weakening, demand for commodities could fall broadly or in key regions, pulling the supply/demand balances higher and pressuring prices lower. Chinese demand is a wild card as they shift their COVID policies, and economic activity remains uncertain.

Inflationary pressures on fertilizer

After three years of severe supply shocks and dramatically rising prices, fertilizer markets remain destabilized. Prices across Europe will continue to be volatile, limiting further EU fertilizer production. EU natural gas prices will set the floor price for global ammonia and other fertilizer products in 2023.

Table 2: Average fertilizer prices (\$/tonne) to break last year's record

(ALL TO SPRING AVERAGE)	FERTILIZER			
	UREA (\$/TONNE)	AMMONIUM PHOSPHATE (\$/TONNE)	AMMONIUM NITRATE (\$/TONNE)	POTASH (\$/TONNE)
2021-22	560	780	870	250
2022-23	1180	1200	1630	470
2023-24	1230	1310	2010	760
2022-23 +/- 5-yr avg	121.8%	72.6%	87.8%	80.4%
2023-24 +/- 5-yr avg	92.5%	58.6%	57.8%	121.0%

Sources: Alberta Farm Inputs, World Bank, FCC calculations

Average Canadian fertilizer prices are set to break last year's record-setting increases for all four types (Table 2). That can be tied directly to low distillate stocks hampering production. U.S. distillate stocks (for example, diesel and heating oil) declined in September, October and November of 2022 to levels not seen since the 1950s, pushing diesel prices significantly higher. Global supplies will likely tighten further with the EU embargoes on imports of Russian diesel starting in February 2023.

Bottom line

While current prices reflect continuing tight supply/demand balances for many major crops, prices received later this year are forecast lower. That's almost certain to happen if production in 2023 is close to historical trends and assuming no major demand shocks. But as crop prices weaken throughout the second half of the 2022/23 crop year, crop input prices may not retreat as much from their highs. The scenario speaks directly to producers' bottom lines, underscoring the need for well-planned risk mitigation strategies.

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For third consecutive year: Record agri-food exports for Saskatchewan

Saskatchewan's agriculture industry has posted a third consecutive year of record agri-food exports, with a total value of \$18.4 billion for 2022.

The leading agri-food export commodities in 2022 were canola oil, non-durum wheat, canola seed, lentils, durum and dry peas.

The top five international market destinations were the United States, China, Japan, Mexico and Algeria.

"Saskatchewan's agriculture industry is a model for reliability and innovation, as these export figures show," Agriculture Minister David Marit said.

"Saskatchewan producers continue to make an impact both inside and beyond our borders, as a driver of our provincial economy and as a worldwide leader in sustainable agri-food production. These numbers demonstrate our progress toward the \$20 billion agri-food export target in the 2030 Growth Plan."

In addition to Saskatchewan's primary production, higher-value processed products are a key contributor to the province's exports.

With canola oil as Saskatchewan's top agri-food export and canola meal the seventh-leading, products like these provide an opportunity to reach the 2030

Growth Plan target of increasing agriculture value-added revenue to \$10 billion.

Saskatchewan's agri-food exports are the second highest in Canada, behind Ontario which exported \$23.8 billion in 2022.

Increases in agriculture exports continue to contribute to Saskatchewan's strong economic growth,

as merchandise exports saw a 23.8 per cent increase in December 2022 compared to December 2021; this was the second highest increase among provinces, seasonally adjusted.

Total merchandise exports for 2022 were valued at more than \$52 billion, an increase of 41.7 per cent since 2021.

"It is clear that Saskatchewan

has what the world needs, and these impressive numbers demonstrate that," Trade and Export Development Minister Jeremy Harrison said.

"Our products have made significant gains in both traditional and new markets, which means opportunity for greater investment and a higher quality of life for the people of our province."

Saskatchewan's total exports have grown by more than \$20 billion since 2012.

The province has established trade and investment offices around the world which will be key to continue growing trade by focusing on our strengths

and supporting Saskatchewan companies seeking investment and promoting trade.

The province said it looks forward to continuing to expand exports, opening new markets and sharing Saskatchewan's story on a global scale.

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Premier advances Sask's relationship with India

Premier Scott Moe will lead a trade and investment mission to India to promote closer ties between the two jurisdictions in the areas of critical mineral and natural resource development, agriculture, post-secondary education and sustainability.

"Saskatchewan has been working alongside India for many years and I'm proud of the relationships we've built in that time," Moe said. "I'm excited to share Saskatchewan's innovative solutions with India and focus on the trade and investment opportunities that exist now and into the future."

India is an important partner for Saskatchewan and export numbers are impressive. The province opened a trade and investment office in New Delhi in March 2021 focused on growing exports, attracting investment, and strengthening relationships with partners.

In 2022, total exports to India were valued at \$1.4 billion. More than 50 per cent of lentils imported into India originate in Saskatchewan—and with a population of more than 1.4 billion people, the opportunity for growth is considerable.

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Global Institute for Food Security at USask attracts top talent

In an increasingly competitive market for bio-manufacturing talent, the Global Institute for Food Security (GIFS) at the University of Saskatchewan (USask) has attracted top science and business professionals to lead its expanding engineering biology technology platform.

GIFS has announced two new members who will lead the innovative engineering biology platform: Dr. Megha Bajaj (PhD) will lead the platform's business unit; and Dr. Ben Scott (PhD) will build the science team and develop the platform's technological capabilities.

Bajaj joins GIFS as the engineering biology business lead. She recently worked at Innovate Calgary, the technology transfer office and business incubator of the University of Calgary. She holds a PhD in cell and molecular biology from the University of Alberta and brings extensive experience building intellectual property strategy and the commercialization of new technologies.

"I look forward to contributing to the growth of this one-of-a-kind technology platform, and helping our clients rapidly scale the discovery, development and delivery of more nutritious and sustainable crops and food products," said Bajaj.

Scott comes to GIFS from the Concordia University Genome Foundry and is founder and president of SynBio Canada, a national not-for-profit working to promote synthetic biology training and research. He joins GIFS as the engineering biology platform lead and will be responsible for growing and developing the exclusively agriculture and agri-food focused engineering biology capacity at the institute.

"GIFS has a growing reputation for delivering world-class research services, such as data management and analysis, gene sequencing, and plant resilience. I look forward to helping expand GIFS technology and talents to grow Canada's engineering biology capabilities," said Scott.

Engineering biology

combines automation, biology and computational tools to significantly accelerate the design, build, test, and learn cycle to decrease the amount of time it takes to discover and develop innovations using biological applications.

This distinctive blend of technologies is helping fuel the estimated \$4 trillion global biomanufacturing industry, which, alongside a wide variety of health, materials, consumer goods, and energy related improvements, has the potential to aid the production of crop health products, help make plants more nutritious and resilient to biotic and abiotic stress, provide new ways of processing and preserving food, and create entirely new foods.

The agri-food and agriculture-focused platform at GIFS is part of Canada's



Dr. Megha Bajaj (PhD) and Dr. Ben Scott (PhD) will lead the innovative GIFS engineering biology platform.

growing biomanufacturing capacity, which has attracted talent from around the world and significant government and industry investment.

The combination of these technologies and the institute's agri-food and agriculture focus is one-of-a-kind in Canada, and means GIFS is well-placed to play a critical role in the country's ability to continue to lead the world in sustainable agriculture and global food security.

"We are thrilled to have these two talented leaders join GIFS," said Dr. Steven Webb (PhD), chief executive officer at GIFS.

"Our engineering biology platform makes Saskatchewan the focal point in Canada for this type of agri-food and agriculture innovation, growing the province's profile as the hub for delivering biomanufacturing services to support the agri-food and biotechnology sectors. The experience and talent Megha and Ben bring to GIFS will help develop this capability."



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“If you are a grain farmer, that picture says it all . . .”

As I was scrolling through my FB feed earlier today, I came across one of those “I have been chosen to post a ‘finding joy in life challenge’ photo, no explanation,” posts and there it was—a night-time picture of a semi unloading grain at a bin on a Saskatchewan farm alongside a tractor, lights on, powering the auger that took the grain from the beneath the trailer up into the bin.

If you are a grain farmer, that picture just says it all—long days and longer nights in the effort to bring in the fruits of our labour all while (hopefully) staying one step ahead of the weather. Working day after day until the only word left is this: “done!”

Talk about a feeling of nostalgia as I began to write this column, so thanks for your post MK! Because of all the steps and the challenges every one of us as grain farmers goes through to get to the ‘end’ which really isn’t an ending but rather a moment to regroup before carrying on with life down on the farm, I am reminded of a time when ‘the end’ was near and I was at my wit’s end shall we say.

Many years ago, literally 35 plus or so, when my kids were little, our farm family which included my parents-in-law, my hubby, hubby’s baby bro (but old enough to drive lol) and our hired hand had reached the end of a long drawn-out harvest.

We were down to the last couple of fields but we had reached those short October days—you know those days when nights come way too quickly and the moisture means you can no longer keep the combines growling along?

This was, quite possibly, the last day, the last night of harvest and the last night of meals in the field.

My mother-in-law had made a crock pot of soup and I told her I would go along with her, or rather she could come along with me and we would head out to the field in our old three-speed half ton, the one without power steering and not quite enough room for the five of us, let alone the required three car seats.

We piled in, leaving the farmyard later than we should have knowing darkness would come all too soon and made our way some 20 miles and three creeks away, down grid roads and prairie trails.

Grandma struggled to keep the soup steady between her feet while holding a toddler; I struggled to steer that miserable truck to the right going down the hill and left back up the hill as I changed gears repeatedly in the process, knocking the littlest one in the head every time or so it seemed.

By creek #3, I was getting frustrated and the baby was



now asleep which only made her harder to hang on to. At last, though now dark, we arrived and I pulled into the field. We had arrived!

As I swung the truck to the left and then to the right, I had this sinking feeling—there were no combine lights, no grain truck lights, no nothing.

Just blackness. I looked at my mother in law and said, “They finished already and took the south way home to avoid the creeks, didn’t they?”

And indeed they had. We worked our way back through the creeks (fortunately the water levels were low at that time of year) and prairie trails, no power steering, constantly changing gears and now all three kids were sleeping and bouncing around in that old rough half-ton.

Did we take the south, but longer, creek-free way? Oh no, we took the north, but shorter way of course. And there on the last twenty acres of crop were my guys — right across from my house where we had left from a mere hour before.

We pulled up to where my brother-in-law sat in the grain truck and asked him if he was ready for supper.

“Nope,” he said, “the guys are finishing up here and we need to go out to the field we were on before this and bring dad’s half-ton home. We can eat at the house after.”

And in he hopped behind the wheel, pushing me to center seat as the six of us in a truck meant-for-three began the trek back, the same way we had just gone.

By now, Grandma had two sleepy kids sitting on her knee but her feet never left that crock pot of soup! The soup was cold of course by the time we actually got around to feeding everyone, but hey, we were DONE

and done has the power to obliterate the memory of any prior (and in hindsight in this case, minor) challenges we have faced.

This past month I have had the opportunity to spend some time away from home and away from all things ‘farm.’

Also, away from the cold and the snow—the part of home I don’t miss. To the land of cacti I hear from the grands now and then (though the twins haven’t kept me updated on calving numbers).

Some of the kids are competing in skating and hockey and curling and are mastering their gymnastic and dance skills and we can cheer from afar. I have sent them pics of “our desert view” complete with cattle, horses, coyotes, rabbits, quail, doves and other birds that call the desert their home and I have told the twins that Grandpa feels quite at home in his desert home because there are cattle to check right out back of our place, though he wonders how many cattle a person can run on a section of rather barren desert.

During my time in the Mesa area, I have never been so aware of how deeply imbedded farm-life is within me.

Cacti-laden sunsets are indeed beautiful but not long after arriving at our beside-the-desert home outside of Mesa, we were ready to leave the city behind and do some day-tripping through nearby ‘farmland’—not the endless stretch of Saskatchewan prairies we call home, but rather bits and parcels of land where cotton fields lay, interspersed with irrigated alfalfa fields, orange groves and Walgreens.

Well perhaps, that’s not quite accurate, but in the Pheonix area, you can very quickly be in ‘farm’ country and then hit miles of suburbs, box stores and multi-acres of RV resorts.

It’s been nothing but a delight to see other parts of the continent on our trip south — the Dakota and Kansas plains, the red rocks of Sedona; the artsy ‘old-town’ streets of places like Cottonwood; the mountains and valleys of Pine and Payson, but in the words of our Saskatchewan neighbour down here in Gold Canyon on a beautiful Arizona night as we watched the sun set over the cactuses behind our temporary home, “There’s truly nothing anywhere that can match a Saskatchewan sunset.”

And I could not agree more! And as I close off, I know I am not the only one who appreciates the beauty of places other than home, but one thing I know — we live on the most amazing and beautiful prairies of Saskatchewan, Canada and you just can’t beat that!

Local businesses and organizations will once again be supporting the event through our tradeshow booths.

Throughout the past two decades the Moose Mountain Ag Day has brought together speakers presenting on a wide range of agricultural topics. To celebrate the 20th anniversary the event will take part over the early evening and include a wonderful catered meal.

We are excited to announce this year’s speakers will include:

- Opening remarks from Daryl Harrison, MLA for Cannington.
- Lana Shaw, Research Manager with the Southeast Research Farm, will talk about the many beneficial research projects they are undertaking this year.
- Our keynote speaker is Paul Martin with Martin Charlton Communications. Paul is a widely recognized business spokesperson who will be presenting on the agricultural sector. Paul always brings with him an ability to inform his audience through a review of the past few years and what opportunities may lie ahead.

MARCH 24, 2023

Prairie Place - Arcola, SK

Doors & Tradeshow Open at 4:30 p.m.

Opening Remarks/Presentations begin at 5:15 p.m.

TICKETS:
\$25

Includes catered meal prepared by Weir's Catering
Register by Phone: 306-848-2857

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: 5 P.M. ON MARCH 10, 2023
Tickets must be purchased in advance to secure your meal & seat

Agenda

4:30 pm	Doors Open & Tradeshow Begins	6:30 pm	Supper <i>Catered by Weir's Catering</i>
5:00 pm	Cash Bar Opens	7:00 pm	Showing of CCA's <i>Guardian of the Grasslands</i>
5:15 pm	Opening Remarks <i>Daryl Harrison, MLA Cannington</i>	7:30 pm	Paul Martin <i>Martin Charlton Communications</i>
5:30 pm	Lana Shaw <i>Southeast Research Farm</i>	8:45 pm	Tradeshow/Event closes

10 DAY SALE



For one day everyone will get their
**FURNITURE, ACCESSORIES,
AND MATTRESS SETS**
FREE!
excluding appliances & electronics

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD - MONDAY, MARCH 6TH, 2023

Due to the nature of this sale, we feel a brief explanation is essential. At closing on Monday, March 6, 2023 we will tally the 10 days of sales on all furniture, accessories and mattresses, excluding appliances and electronics, and divide by 10 to get the average daily sales. The day which is the closest to this daily average, without going over it, will be the day for which all purchasers will receive their purchase amount back, taxes excluded. In the case of credit card purchases, we will issue a credit immediately. We are tremendously overstocked right now. We must reduce our inventory. To ensure we do, we will even give it away for one day!

10 DAY SALE

Save big time for 9 days,
SHOP FREE
for one day!

SALE RULES:

1. All sales must be paid in full or approved financing.
2. Credit cards accepted.
3. Sale starts Thursday, February 23rd and ends Monday, March 6th 2023.
4. All qualifying purchasers of furniture, accessories, and mattresses, on free day will be notified and receive their full refund excluding taxes
5. Commercial sales, appliances and electronics excluded in tallies and free day.
6. All taxes excluded in tallies and refunds.
7. No returns or substitutions for these 10 sale days.
8. All sales are final for these 10 sale days.

10 DAY SALE QUALIFYING PURCHASES: FURNITURE, ACCESSORIES, AND MATTRESSES

SOLID WOOD QUEEN BED HEADBOARD, FOOT BOARD & RAILS
VARIETY OF STAIN COLORS & STYLES.
MADE IN CANADA



WAS \$1699.99 - **NOW \$1149.00**
or

IT COULD BE YOURS FOR FREE!!

STATIONARY FABRIC LOVE SEAT



ONE ONLY
WAS \$1669.99 - **NOW \$969.00**
or

IT COULD BE YOURS FOR FREE!!

QUEEN SIZE MATTRESS



700 POCKET COILS BY SERTA
WAS \$899.99 - **NOW \$549.00**
or

IT COULD BE YOURS FOR FREE!!

5 PIECE APARTMENT SIZE DINING SET



WAS \$1049.99 - **NOW \$749.00**
or

IT COULD BE YOURS FOR FREE!!

COMPUTER DESK WITH STORAGE



WAS \$629.99 - **NOW \$449.00**
or

IT COULD BE YOURS FOR FREE!!



WALL HUGGER RECLINER
IN GREY FABRIC
WAS \$899.99 - **NOW \$599.00**
or

IT COULD BE YOURS FOR FREE!!

STATIONARY SOFA GREY LEATHER MATCH



ONE ONLY
WAS \$2399.99 - **NOW \$1499.00**
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IT COULD BE YOURS FOR FREE!!

SOLID WOOD SIDE SERVER WITH STORAGE
ONE ONLY



WAS \$1599.99 - **NOW \$949.00**
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IT COULD BE YOURS FOR FREE!!

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IT COULD BE YOURS FOR FREE!!

STATIONARY SOFA IN GREY FABRIC



MADE IN CANADA
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WAS \$1769.99 - **NOW \$1099.00**
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IT COULD BE YOURS FOR FREE!!

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IT COULD BE YOURS FOR FREE!!

MATCHING STATIONARY SOFA



IN GREY FABRIC
MADE IN CANADA
ONE ONLY
WAS \$1719.99 - **NOW \$1049.00**
or

IT COULD BE YOURS FOR FREE!!

QUEEN SIZE UPHOLSTERED BED HEADBOARD, FOOT BOARD & RAILS



WAS \$1699.99 - **NOW \$1399.00**
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