



JULY 2021



Elkhorn livestock producer David Schellenberg says he reduced his herd at the start of the season in anticipation of a dry year, which he says he hasn't seen since the '80s.

## Elkhorn livestock producer says last week's rains are welcome but more is needed

BY SPENCER KEMP  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Ag producers across the Prairies have struggled under historic dry conditions this summer. Even with welcome rains last week, some producers are saying it is too little too late.

David Schellenberg owns a herd of around 100 pairs just southeast of Elkhorn, Manitoba.

He says that the conditions, while dry, have been manageable for his operations. Although he notes that he did have to reduce his herd at the start of the year.

"We run a small beef herd ourselves and then we do some custom grazing. We did reduce our custom grazing numbers because of the lack of rain last fall and we thought our rain capacity would be less," said Schellenberg, who says the rains were welcome just prior to restarting his rotational grazing.

"We do rotational grazing. We have been anxious about the lack of rain but both herds are on their last paddock for their last rotation and we'll be restarting the rotation,

so these rains that we have gotten now are very welcome and beneficial."

He says that he had to reduce his herd by around 35 pairs but is thankful he hasn't had to reduce his herd further.

"We had reduced our carrying capacity by around thirty pairs. Usually, we have about 100 to 135 pairs but this year we're keeping it down at around 100. We haven't had to sell any, we've just reduced the number of cattle we plan to graze."

Feed for cattle has been another ongoing issue. The dry conditions have some producers concerned about having adequate winter feed for cattle.

Schellenberg that in normal years he is often in a position to sell extra hay bales, but that is not the case this year. While he notes that he has enough to make it through the winter, his yields are down well below average.

"We just grow hay and pasture so our production is way down. We are done with our hay and our production was under one bale an acre, which is quite drastic. I think that our alfalfa crop is about a fifth of what it normally would

be," said Schellenberg, who says that in a regular year he often gets between three and four bales an acre.

While the rains are welcome for grazing areas, Schellenberg says it is unlikely that he will be able to do a second cut this year. He says that the rains have not been heavy enough in the area to make a big difference.

"This is very very beneficial. I know I had a friend who had asked me if we would be cutting a second crop of hay and I think the rains are coming early enough but they aren't heavy enough and the amount of rain just isn't enough. I saw the first field that we cut and the alfalfa was starting to bloom but it was only about three inches tall, so that means there isn't a lot of growth left," said Schellenberg.

In addition to feed, Schellenberg says there are concerns regarding straw for the winter. While he has carryover from the past year, he is unsure if it will be enough to make it through the winter.

He says he will continue to pray for rain and make the most of the difficult season.

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# Manitoba cattle producers facing uncertainty

BY SPENCER KEMP  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Livestock producers in Manitoba have been struggling with dry conditions this summer.

President of Manitoba Beef Producers (MBP) Tyler Fulton says the conditions have impacted all of Manitoba and have created conditions that have not been seen in years.

He says the dry conditions are already creating complications for winter feed.

"It's unlike anything most of us have ever seen before. The conditions are terrible across huge portions of the Prairies and for the most part, they continue to deteriorate further. We have regions where there is no current pasture and where they completed their winter feed production with less than 10 per cent of what they typically would be able to produce on that land. It's a dire situation in places. There is a bit of variation but most remarkable is the widespread nature of the drought. It spreads right from Northern Ontario all the way across the Prairie provinces and into BC. It feels like we are smack dab in the middle of it," said Fulton.

He says the Government of Manitoba expanded its ag programs to help producers deal with the current conditions.

Fulton says the Manitoba Government has been taking steps in the right direction to help producers that are struggling.

"Based on the urging of Manitoba Beef Producers about a month ago the province opened up a program called the Ag Action program, and that was one that really addressed the obvious concern over livestock watering systems and developing those resources. That's been in place for just over a month.

"The Manitoba Government also initiated an AgriRecovery Assessment the other week and so the actions being taken are pretty comparable across the Prairie provinces. We did see a difference in the way Saskatchewan handled it, they did double their zero thresholds for marginal crops that might be able to be baled for livestock producers," said Fulton.

"We need action to really incentivize the conversion of these marginal crops that aren't going to make grade this fall into livestock feed."

Fulton encourages both agricultural and livestock producers to work together during these trying times to make use of crops as feed for cattle that would otherwise be unused.

"It's becoming a widespread practice and it's really been a focus for Manitoba Beef Producers in addressing



MBP president Tyler Fulton says the current drought situation is one he has never seen before

the short-term requirements. We have a very limited window of opportunity to make use of these cereal crops that are drying up.

"We're hoping to see an extraordinary collaboration between agriculture producers and livestock guys to make use of these crops that just aren't going to make it. So that's been a big thing we've been stressing over the course of the last few weeks."

Although timely rains are needed by producers across the province, Fulton says that it is too late for many producers already affected by the drought.

"We're beyond that already. Those timely rains are already too late. I spoke with an individual from the interlake region in Manitoba who shipped 240 cows to market and that represented their total herd. That's where we're at in some of these areas, these animals are already going to market because there's no prospect for them to be able to source reasonably priced feed in their area and not being able to secure alternative feeds for the winter. It's such a heartbreaking and stressful circumstance that we've gotten into in some areas.

"If we could get some decent rainfall it would no doubt

help pasture conditions for the latter part of the season and maybe we would get a shot at growing some alfalfa that we would not otherwise get."

He says that he's been seeing more producers selling cattle.

"We are seeing it more and more and the reality is that in my lifetime I can't remember seeing such an urgent situation develop. The reality is that it does end up becoming an animal welfare emergency and if there's really no prospect to get feed then you need to be taking action ahead of that in order to address the fact that those animals will go downhill. We're still at the early stages of this, but in some cases, the die is already cast and those animals are already moving."

But the biggest concern on Fulton's mind is the stress and anxiety that producers in Manitoba are facing.

"There's an attribute of this story that is really concerning and that is just the stress and mental toll that's being taken on the operations that have been forced to make these tough decisions. What they're doing is they're really impacting the viability of their farms and ranches for the next two to four years, and for many of these operations that have farmed and ranches that land for two and three generations you can only imagine the anxiety that comes with knowing that it could be on your watch that you lose the farm. It's really a terrible situation," said Fulton.

Producers feeling the stress of the ongoing situation can call the Farm Stress Line at 1-866-367-3276.

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# Sask. Ag Minister Dave Marit says impact of dry conditions varies across the province

BY SPENCER KEMP

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Following recent efforts made by the Ministry of Agriculture and Government of Saskatchewan to help provide assistance to ag producers in Saskatchewan struggling with the dry conditions, Spencer Kemp with The World-Spectator reached out to Ag Minister Dave Marit for comments regarding the measures put in effect.

**Do you believe these measures will be enough to help get producers through the season, or is your department considering additional measures?**

This was a big first step and a huge step forward. By doubling the level of the crop insurance deductible for write-off was a step that really would trigger an opportunity for a lot of livestock producers to source feed. That's what this was really about, we have a livestock industry in this province that is a big part of this economy that can't source feed virtually anywhere. This isn't just Saskatchewan alone, this is Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, Montana, and the Dakotas, it's right through the whole midwest. It's a huge issue about trying to source feed for livestock and we felt this was a good mechanism to give that opportunity for the livestock sector to work with grain farmers to find ways and means to source that green feed.

**Did you consult with any ag groups before putting these measures in place? What was their input?**

This was something where my Ministry officials and crop insurance took a look at and obviously for me to do anything like this it would have an impact on the provincial treasury so I had to talk to my cabinet colleagues as well. We had a stakeholders meeting (Tuesday) with stakeholders from the grain industry and the livestock industry and pretty much everybody on the call, both from the grain side and the livestock side, said what we did was probably the most practical, common-sense approach

we could take to this issue.

**What have you heard from producers regarding the measures and conditions?**

It's a big area, it's a huge area. We're hearing from producers where grain producers have worked with livestock producers. We've worked with our crop insurance officials to make sure they can get out there as quickly as possible to do the assessment of the crop to see if they will fall below those thresholds, depending on what crop it is, and we've also put measures in place for farmers to do whatever they might have to do to put cattle on it and graze it off and to have part of that crop where it won't be impacted by livestock. So there are measures we've put in place to do this.

Of course, the other big one is the Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program where we expanded that side of it from the \$50,000 cap to the \$150,000 threshold for April 1, 2021, to March 2022. That just gives the opportunity for ranchers to find sources of water, whether it's trenching in or deep wells or whatever the case may be where they have to try and find good, long-term sustainable water sources.

**Do the current conditions appear to be affecting all parts of the province equally, or are there parts of the province that are more or less affected than others?**

There's a lot of places that are doing okay, but is it going to be a big crop? No. But in some places, it will be an average or above-average crop and some places will be below average.

I know that even on our own farm and the guys that rent our land, they told us it would be a slightly below-average crop. We've had good crops over the last five years, so they're still going to harvest a crop in some areas. In some areas, they're sitting pretty good. It varies across the province from where there is absolutely nothing to where there's not a bad crop. I spoke with a farmer the other day who's a



Ag Minister Dave Marit says that the effects of the dry weather are impacting producers across the province in different ways.

fair-sized operator and his crop, depending on whether it's pulses or cereals or canola, it varies. He said his cereal crops aren't looking too bad, his canola is going to be good, and his pulses aren't going to be bad either. So it varies across the province and it varies within a farmer's own operations.

Another thing that we did, and we were the first province to do so last Thursday, we sent a letter to the federal government seeking AgriRecovery and also for province-wide tax deferral for livestock too. We've done some measures that will hopefully trigger other opportunities for the livestock sector to get things done.

**Can officials quantify the expected impact of the dry conditions on this year's harvest at this point?**

It's pretty premature we really don't

know what the state of the crop is and I don't even think the grain industry is getting a handle on what is there and what is not there and we won't know until it's harvested because we won't know what the quality is.

**Have you experienced these conditions before?**

I haven't seen one like this since the '80s, and we're talking 35 to 40 years ago. I know there was some drought in pockets of the province in recent years, in the southwest and other parts as well, but I think for the most part to see this as widespread as it is, I haven't seen it since the '80s.

I know harvest is going to get underway in some parts of the province in the next few weeks or so, cutting peas and some lentils, so I just want everybody to be safe out there.

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# Manitoba ensures programs and services available to livestock producers managing water supplies during dry conditions

Manitoba Agriculture and Resource Development is reminding agricultural producers affected by dry conditions of the programs and services available to livestock producers. To date, low levels of precipitation and soil moisture have slowed the growth of pastures and forage crops and reduced water levels in dugouts in parts of Manitoba.

Tools and resources for producers to manage the water supply for their livestock include:

## Funding for management of surface and ground water sources for livestock on pasture

Canadian Agricultural Partnership funding is provided through the Managing Livestock Access to Riparian Areas beneficial management practice (BMP) under Ag Action Manitoba-Assurance. Eligible items include:

- water source development, constructing new or rehabilitating existing wells or dugouts;
- solar, wind or grid-powered alternative watering systems;
- permanent fencing to restrict livestock access to surface water and dugouts; and
- permanent pipeline development.

Applications for the next intake will be received beginning June 8 until 11:59 pm CST on September 1. Details on the BMP are available at [www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/canadian-agricultural-partnership/pubs/guidebook/ag-action-mb-program-guide-for-farmers.pdf#page=30](http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/canadian-agricultural-partnership/pubs/guidebook/ag-action-mb-program-guide-for-farmers.pdf#page=30) and answers to frequently asked questions are at [www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/canadian-agricultural-partnership/pubs/faq/bmp-503-faq.pdf](http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/canadian-agricultural-partnership/pubs/faq/bmp-503-faq.pdf). For information on how to apply, visit [www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/environmental-farm-plan/assurance-bmp.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/environmental-farm-plan/assurance-bmp.html).

## Well and groundwater resources

The Constructing and Sealing Water Wells in Manitoba guide provides information to private well owners on who can construct or seal a well, standards for well construction and information on well maintenance. The guide provides information when a permit, such as water use licence is needed and information on what needs to be reported to the Water Branch. It also outlines the well owner's responsibilities after the well is constructed. To view the guide, visit [www.gov.mb.ca/water/pubs/water/groundwater/publication/2017\\_constructing\\_and\\_sealing\\_water\\_wells\\_for\\_private\\_owners.pdf](http://www.gov.mb.ca/water/pubs/water/groundwater/publication/2017_constructing_and_sealing_water_wells_for_private_owners.pdf).

The Manitoba Well Aware booklet provides information on groundwater, water wells, water quality and water-well maintenance and can be viewed at [www.gov.mb.ca/sd/pubs/water/well\\_aware\\_en.pdf](http://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/pubs/water/well_aware_en.pdf).

The Water Branch can provide information on your current well if available and what the expectations might be for constructing a new well. Email your contact information, the legal land location and the information you are looking for (existing well information or groundwater potential) to [groundwater@gov.mb.ca](mailto:groundwater@gov.mb.ca). Feedback provided



may include aquifer depths, potential pumping rate, and if available the water quality in the area.

A listing of Licensed Well Drilling Contractors is also available at:

[www.gov.mb.ca/water/groundwater/wells\\_groundwater/well-driller-contractors/index.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/water/groundwater/wells_groundwater/well-driller-contractors/index.html).

## Watershed Districts

Manitoba's 14 Watershed Districts offer agriculture producers a variety of locally developed land and water stewardship programs to protect and improve watershed health. During dry conditions and where there are watershed health benefits, some districts provide incentive programs to assist producers with the development of livestock watering systems, water supply, pasture pipelines and riparian area fencing. Watershed Districts also assist producers with accessing funding for habitat protection, soil conservation, land restoration and water

management projects through the GROW and Ag Action programs. More information on Manitoba's Watershed Districts can be found at [www.manitobawatersheds.ca](http://www.manitobawatersheds.ca). More information on Manitoba's GROW (Growing Outcomes in Watersheds) program can be found at [www.gov.mb.ca/water/watershed/grow](http://www.gov.mb.ca/water/watershed/grow).

Producers can visit the Managing Dry Conditions section of the department website for information on managing dugouts and water quality at [www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/dry.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/dry.html). They will also find timely information about grazing practices and alternative strategies for sourcing feed during dry conditions.

Producers can contact their local ARD and MASC Service Centre, or call 1-84-GROW-MB-AG (1-844-769-6224) for more information on any of these programs and services, or go to [www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture](http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture) under Quick Links.



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# Todd Lewis welcomes provincial support, says producers continue to struggle with drought

BY SPENCER KEMP

**LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER**  
Historic dry conditions across Saskatchewan have prompted the Government of Saskatchewan to enhance support for ag producers.

Under the Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program (FRWIP) producers can receive funding for 50 per cent of costs related to dugouts, pipelines, and wells to a maximum rebate of \$50,000. FRWIP funding has been expanded to cover an additional \$100,000 at a 70-30 government-producer cost share. The initial \$50,000 will remain at a 50-50 cost-share.

Producers can also access a portion of their AgriStability benefit early, and producers enrolled in the program can access 50 per cent of their estimated final benefit.

Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC) is doubling the Low Yield Appraisal threshold values for customers who salvage their cereal or pulse crops as feed for livestock.

The Government of Saskatchewan has also called on the federal government to designate the entire province as eligible through the Livestock Tax Deferral program to aid producers who have had to liquidate part of their breeding herd due to the drought conditions.

Agriculture Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS) president Todd Lewis says that these measures provide an effective short-term solution to some of the issues brought forward by the drought.

"We're hearing that it's practical and helpful in the short-term and the crop insurance changes are practical and will prove useful for producers for both livestock and grain producers to be able to salvage at least some value out of those crops before they literally dry up, if they can get some of that crop baled up while the heat continues with no rain. They're deteriorating every day.

"We're hearing that producers are happy with that," said Lewis, noting that cattle producers in Saskatchewan were suffering due to a lack of feed brought on by the drought.

"Of course feed is very expensive now and for those producers looking for feed there is a shortage and because of supply and demand, even the salvaged crop is worth quite a bit of money. Cattle producers are still in trouble with feed being in such short supply. There are financial concerns out there and as the drought unfolds and as we get into the fall and winter months a lot of cattle producers will be facing difficulties with not having winter feed. The goal of everything we're trying to do now is that as many cattle as possible can stay on Saskatchewan pastures and ranches this fall and through the winter so we don't have too big of an impact on the overall herd next year. These measures are helpful, but there could always be more."

While the new measures have only recently been introduced, Lewis says that producers across Saskatchewan are already taking advantage of its benefits.

"Producers are pretty adaptable and uptake on a program like this will happen fairly quickly. I've heard of producers



APAS president Todd Lewis says the drought situation looks bleak for some producers

already using these options. The government can't make it rain but there are a lot of things they can do to help in this situation. These are just the short-term measures that have been taken now and as this drought unfolds there will be other opportunities for the government to lend a hand in other ways as well," said Lewis.

While the Government of Saskatchewan's enhanced supports eases some of the stress placed on producers, Lewis says there are still many obstacles to overcome noting that pests are becoming a problem for stunted crops.

"The pest situation, be it flea beetles or grasshoppers, in a lot of ways is related to the drought. If you have a healthy growing crop with grasshoppers or flea beetles eating at it versus a crop that is stunted and has gone almost into dormancy are two totally different things. It affects the yield and the damage that can be inflicted by these pests. The dry weather helps the hatched grasshoppers too, the survival rate for them is much better if the conditions are drier. So it's all related and pests have been an issue and we're hearing more and more that producers are having to go out to what little crop they have left and spray them down because they're suffering from not only the heat stress but also the pest stress as well. It is an issue and it's all related to the drought. Some of these things can be dealt with, like insecticide for grasshoppers, but Mother Nature is the best thing to control all of this. But we're just not getting much co-operation from her right now."

With a lack of feed due to the drought, some producers have begun to sell breeding cattle to help keep costs down.

Lewis says that while this is necessary for some producers to avoid financial

ruin, it impacts future herds down the road.

"The auction marts have sales this time of year and there's a number of fall cattle runs happening earlier this year, and it's actually a summer cattle run in some instances. There's an over-supply of cattle on the market and it's affected prices and more cattle are being sold that are part of the breeding stock. Years and years of genetics and building up herds are all at risk and if those cattle go to market they won't be producing calves next spring and in the next year and it'll have an impact on the Saskatchewan cattle industry. That's why it's so important to give cattle producers help and support right now just to maintain herds. It's a long-term question now if we're going to have not only the number of producers remaining after a crisis like this but also how many cattle are left in the system as well," said Lewis.

Additional long-term impacts of the drought include impacts on the economy as Lewis says there will be lower exports this year and producers will not be spending as much money.

"When farmers have money in their pocket they spend it and when they don't they quickly reign in their spending, which affects everything from truck sales to new equipment sales. The railroad is going to see a drop in business, there's not going to be nearly as much grain to export. It'll also affect the Canadian economy and our balance of trade. It's important to remember that one in eight jobs in Canada come from agriculture and a lot of agriculture is based in Western Canada. It's a ripple effect right across the entire economy, es-

pecially here in Saskatchewan. We'll see less consumer spending by producers and it'll have an effect right across the whole economy," said Lewis.

Lewis says that some areas across the province have been impacted more than others, but says the entire province is feeling the impacts of the ongoing, historical drought.

"There are pockets where some crops are better, but with the past heat wave everything was under stress and we lost yield across the province. Generally speaking, the South and East of Regina are doing better than the rest of the province.

"This is one of the most widespread drought situations we've had this century, even going back to years like 1988 and it most certainly is a historical drought when compared to years like 1961 and 1988. This one is particularly bad when you look at the length of it and the number of acres affected."

Even with enhanced supports in place, Lewis says that it is too late for some producers. He says that the dry conditions will lead to reduced yield and says that it is producers could see as little as 50 per cent yield through harvest.

"Sadly in a lot of cases the die has already been cast, a lot of crop is lost and there are places in the province where the combine won't be coming out of the shed because the crop is just that poor. We're going to have reduced yields and our best guess is that everywhere we're going to be 25 per cent light on the crop and the concept of having only 50 per cent of the crop is on the table so it's a situation that hasn't happened in many years but there are programs like crop insurance which will certainly be utilized this year. Producers have invested in crop insurance and that's why they carry it, so we'll see some payouts and AgriStability payouts as well. But it's going to take more than one year to get out of some of the holes that are being dug with the lack of yields and certainly on the livestock side where things are looking pretty bleak in some areas," said Lewis.

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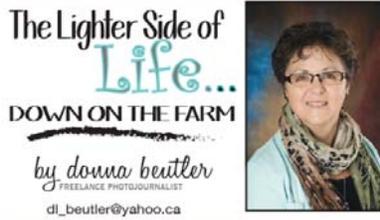
# Finding comfort in family while the crops deteriorate

The image is ingrained in my mind. A farmer standing about a hundred yards out into his deteriorating spring wheat crop, hands on his hips, his dog at his side. Just standing there, perfectly still. What made it so poignant is simply that sense of loss that seemed to emanate from him. Watching your crop die off is downright tough to see. It was a heartbreaking moment and I couldn't help but feel his pain. I happened to be north of Regina that day and after countless crop checking trips at home with my hubby and seeing some of our own deteriorating crops, I could totally relate to that lone farmer standing in his field knowing that no amount of rain now is going to bring it back.

Ironically, as I write this, July 20, 2021, it is raining—at least around Whitewood. It's too late for some crops in our area I know but it was sure sweet to get a bit of rain just the same. After several no-rain weeks combined with extreme heat, the humid, damp days were most welcome.

Of course drought has a depressing effect on farmers who grow grain and raise livestock, but on the flip side, this summer did bring us something we have been sorely lacking—togetherness! A lifting of the lockdown in July 2021 has offered us some wonderful opportunities to reconnect with family and friends and it felt quite wonderful to have a backyard barbecue with family and to get together with neighbours and friends for some great visits. We have also been able to enjoy some time at the lake. There is no better place to be on a hot day than out in the boat and last week, after several fishing excursions out to our favourite fishing spots, us "girls" suggested to the "boys" that instead of fishing just this one time, that perhaps going for a cruise around the lake would be nice. "Now why would we do that?" one of the twins (10) asked as we pushed the boat out from shore. The twins very quickly had their rods and hooks ready and could hardly wait for Gramps to start up the motor before dropping their lines.

And sure enough, we had hardly started trolling along when one fisherlad caught one, then their sister, then Gramps, then the other twin. Perhaps there is a reason Fishing Lake carries that name lol!



Of course by the time we had caught our limit, barely 20 minutes out, Grandpa was thinking about the cleaning he was going to have to do before nightfall. All I was thinking was getting up to cruising speed for that tour around the lake I had been asking for. As for the story about the fish that got away, we have one of those too. With rod bent waaayyy over, I wasn't sure whether to grab the net or the camera and catch it all on video. "Oh no! That was a big one," one excited twin called out as the ginormous walleye fell off the hook before I could net it. A collective groan filled the boat, but as true fishermen/women, we didn't let that dampen our spirits for long.

In between trips to the lake, on our back-at-home days, we have had the pleasure of the company of the grands, including most recently, our youngest two (seven and five). I love mornings and when I hear their little footsteps coming down the hall I get so excited to see them. "Good morning!" I say with a big grin and a big hug. Yesterday, the response to my greeting was this: "Why are you so happy in the morning, Grandma?" Ahh, to come up with a good answer to certain questions is sometimes tough.

Now when it comes to bedtime, the process takes a long time. Last night, our grandson (seven) asked for ice cream for his bedtime

snack. Grandpa went out to the garage and pulled out some vanilla ice cream and put some in a bowl for him. "Vanilla?" he said. "There are other kinds in the freezer you know." (Who knew he knew). And so began the listing of the choices and bringing in all the choices from the freezer. Once we had them all lined up on the counter, and he took it all into consideration, he said: "Actually, I think I won't have ice cream. I'll have something else for snack." Ahh yes, there is quite a process at bedtime that involves prolonging it every single time. Did I think the younger generation had changed since I raised my own kids?

It's hard to believe we are half way through what lake time we have and we must soon turn our thoughts toward harvest. The anticipation and excitement of the season is tempered this year by knowing the once promising-looking crops have definitely taken a hit in this drought. Regardless, we will tackle the job as always and put everything we have into it. And we hope all our farmer friends out there can take all the uncertainties of the year in stride and continuing doing what they do best—bringing in the harvest safely and carrying on the great (but sometimes stressful) business of farming!

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# Preparing for farm transition

## Is your farm in transition?

The answer is yes. Without knowing anything about your operation or family situation, farm business specialists will tell you that your farm is in transition - it's unavoidable. Markets change, technology changes, and you're changing too. The only constant in farming and life is change.

Recognizing that you, your family and farm business are on a moving train is the first, and sometimes hardest step in the farm transition process. Things are happening, whether you acknowledge it or not. But being aware of your farm's evolution puts you in control.

Be honest about where you're going. A preparation mindset is the first empowering step on a pathway to transition.

## Planning early gives you more options

It's common to put off discussions about the future. But without a plan, your family will be left with assumptions about how a transition might play out. Many scenarios can put your planning on pause:

- You have a hunch that the kids are divided on what to do with the family farm, and you're afraid that the topic will tear the family apart.
- You're unsure you're ready to leave and give up control of day-to-day operations or major decisions or whether your successors are prepared to assume that responsibility.
- You're ready to take over, but sense that your parents have no intention or plan to retire.
- You don't know where to start because it's overwhelming.

You can't prepare for transition if everyone involved is walking around with a different vision of how it might unfold. Two farms may look similar on paper but may choose different paths. If you feel your family is unique, you're right. But there are creative solutions that other farm families have used that you can learn from to make even the stickiest situations work. And many of the best strategies take time. Putting off the discussion just gives you fewer options and leaves you unprepared for unforeseen developments.

## Make preparation a priority

You can plan a farm transition - or it can be forced on you. Unexpected death or illness can force hard decisions that may not be the best for farm and family. Farm transition planning that starts at a funeral is a worst-case scenario. Start now when you're not in crisis. More time creates options and provides business clarity.



1. Have a conversation with yourself  
Whether you're the senior generation looking to the next phase of your life, or a young person wanting to plan a future on the family farm, start with self-analysis and write down your thoughts.

**Senior partner:** Recognize you may have to relinquish some control and management, and that your working lifestyle will change through the transition process. Letting go is hard for many farmers, but mentorship and sharing management is key to business continuity.

**Upcoming generation:** Think about your future plans. You may be looking for a quick handover of control and assets, but a slow, phased approach to transition may be more realistic.

**For all involved:** Being able to have difficult conversations will help your family and business thrive. Ask yourself the hard questions at the beginning, and be prepared to share your thoughts openly as a family and business. It also helps to put yourself in the other person's shoes. And rehearse talking about tough things—knowing how you feel and being able to articulate it clearly allows you to be more open and understanding.

*Continued on Page B10*

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# Sask enhances support for producers dealing with dry conditions

Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister David Marit recently announced that Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC) will implement measures to address dry conditions impacting producers. Effective immediately, changes will be made to allow low yielding crops to be put to alternate use to support the livestock sector. The Government of Saskatchewan is also making changes to temporarily increase the maximum funding a livestock producer can receive from the Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program (FRWIP) for dugouts, wells and pipelines.

"Our livestock sector is facing tremendous challenges sourcing feed, as well as some challenges in securing access to sustainable, quality livestock water sources," Marit said. "Agriculture is a vital part of our provincial economy and we are taking steps to support producers through this extended period of dry, hot conditions."

"I want to encourage grain producers to work with neighbouring livestock producers to make feed available. SCIC is working with customers to ensure damaged crops, intended for harvest, can be put to an alternate use such as silage, baling or grazing."

When crops are severe-



ly damaged and the appraised yield falls below an established threshold level, the yield is reduced to zero. In response to the feed shortage this year, SCIC is doubling the Low Yield Appraisal threshold values for customers who salvage their cereal or pulse crops as feed, without negatively impacting future individual coverage. For example, the previous established threshold for barley was seven bushels per acre. For Crop

Insurance customers wanting to utilize a grain crop for feed, the threshold will now be 14 bushels per acre. In this case, a zero bushel yield would be used for the claim and the original 14 bushels would be used to update future coverage.

Customers are asked to contact their local SCIC office before they graze, bale or silage any damaged crops to discuss their options. Crop Insurance coverage will not be negatively impacted if custom-

ers chose to divert grain crops to feed. Livestock producers can gain access to feed sources from Crop Insurance customers who choose to put their crops to a use other than harvest. Producers are encouraged to contact their neighbouring operations to set up arrangements.

Presently, under FRWIP, costs related to dugouts, pipelines and wells are funded at 50 per cent of eligible costs, to a maximum rebate of \$50,000 over the

life of the program.

For the period April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022, the maximum rebate for livestock producers only will increase to \$150,000. The first \$50,000 will be based on a 50-50 cost-share and the remaining \$100,000 will be on a 70-30 government-producer cost-share.

FRWIP and Crop Insurance are both offered through the federal-provincial Canadian Agricultural Partnership agreement.

The Government of Saskatchewan has also formally requested the federal government designate the entire province as eligible through the Livestock Tax Deferral program, for all Saskatchewan producers who may need to liquidate part of their breeding herd due to feed or water shortages.

The AgriStability Program provides an option for producers looking to access a portion of their benefit early. Through the interim benefit, producers enrolled in AgriStability can get 50 per cent of their estimated final benefit.

The Farm Stress Line is available for support. The Farm Stress Line is a confidential service, available 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week, toll-free at 1-800-667-4442. Calls are answered by Mobile Crisis Services Regina, a non-profit, community-based agency and there is no call display.

Government continues to monitor the situation and engage with stakeholders and federal-provincial-territorial counterparts.

SCIC is here to help during this difficult time. Producers can contact their local SCIC office, call toll-free at 1-888-935-0000 or visit [www.scic.ca](http://www.scic.ca) to review available options and ensure decisions are not delayed.

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# Relief coming to Manitoba producers affected by severe drought

Producers in Manitoba facing severe drought conditions can expect relief with several initiatives announced by federal Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Minister Marie-Claude Bibeau and Manitoba Agriculture and Resource Development Minister Ralph Eichler.

"Our government is working around the clock with the provinces to help farm families coping with extreme weather conditions exacerbated by climate change," said Bibeau. "The support through the Hay Disaster Benefit is one way we are helping Manitoba producers, who are under tremendous stress, to get through this crisis and toward a sustainable future."

The first of the initiatives, available through Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation's (MASC) Hay Disaster Benefit, will provide an additional \$44/tonne (for every tonne below coverage) to insured forage producers to help offset the additional cost of replacement feed and transportation due to the severe shortage of forage throughout the province. The benefit was last triggered in 2019 when over \$5 million was paid on close to 1,200 claims. Typically, the determination of payments for this benefit would not be made until January, once the majority of claim and harvested production report data is processed.

"We recognize that this has been an extremely difficult year for many producers with the lack of precipitation and extreme heat," said Eichler. "With pastures drying up and minimal sources of feed for livestock, it's important to

give producers the resources they need to secure feed to maintain their herds. All livestock producers play a critical role in our food supply and provincial economy, we're proud to support them with early release of this benefit."

MASC is also applying a quality adjustment factor to appraisals on crops that are being put to alternate use under the AgrilInsurance program. A 60 per cent adjustment factor to in-field appraisals will be applied on small grain cereal crops (all varieties of wheat, oats, fall rye, barley, and triticale). Reducing the appraisal of claims by 40 per cent reflects the expected reduction in quality resulting from the drought conditions. The full yield appraisal will be used to calculate future coverage, which provides producers who repurpose their crops for livestock feed an added benefit. This reduction will apply retroactively to producers who have already put their cereal crop to an alternate use this year.

Under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, AgrilInsurance premiums for most programs are shared 40 per cent by participating producers, 36 per cent by the Government of Canada and 24 per cent by the Manitoba government. Administrative expenses are paid 60 per cent by Canada and 40 per cent by Manitoba.

Discussions are also underway to expedite the completion of the Agri-Recovery Assessment process and the implementation of a Livestock Tax Deferral to assist impacted livestock producers.



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# Preparing for farm transition

Continued from Page B7

2. Follow up on your personal plan with others

Once you've settled on a plan in your mind, it's time to start talking with others. Your first conversation should be with your spouse. Farm transition specialists regularly meet 70-year-old farm wives who loved the farm but feel they've done their time. They want to move off-farm and live a different life in retirement.

Husband and wife need to be on the same page. Whether you're looking to step away from the farm, or get more actively involved and eventually take over, don't assume you know what your spouse is thinking or that you have a clear picture of their dreams for the future.

Much of farm transition planning is unravelling assumptions. "I assumed this is what you wanted," can be the opening line to an emotional discussion. Unspoken expectations are the silent killers of transition plans. Agriculture has a history and very common pattern of assumed succession. Either the parent assumes a particular child will farm, or a child thinks they'll get the farm—but they've never had a conversation about it.

3. Schedule regular, intentional family meetings

Invite everyone to a relaxed setting where they can share their ideas but make it clear that it's a business meeting. Separate business and family for this discussion. Invest in building a vision for the transi-

tion plan. Spend more time talking about hopes and dreams than balance sheets. Save the lawyer and accountant for another day. Instead, find out what people want for their future. Invite everyone (including spouses) to share their thoughts. You all don't have to agree - the goal is to reach clarity and understand everyone's position.

As you set up future transition meetings, designate a special time apart from regular conversations. Day-to-day operations tend to overshadow long-term strategic planning. Farm transition requires everyone's full attention.

Consider booking quarterly strategic meetings only focused on farm transition activities, especially during the planning stages. Give everyone around the table a job by making them accountable for part of the agenda, whether it's research or leading a topic discussion.

Allow time between meetings for reflection and research and to consider what others are saying. Some people think better out loud, but others need time to process. Scheduled meetings ensure the process doesn't stall. Don't be afraid to bring in an outside facilitator to ensure the meeting stays focused and productive.

These three steps are not about finalizing a transition plan. They're to prepare everyone for the process. Introspection, comparing visions with spouses and conversations with the family sets the stage for successful transition planning.



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# New Research Chair at USask will help maximize environmental, economic benefits of forage crops

A new Beef Industry Integrated Forage Management and Utilization Chair will be established at the University of Saskatchewan (USask) to connect the study of soils, plants, animals, economics and ecosystems to tap into forage crops' full range of benefits.

"The Chair will help to address concerns raised for a number of years by producers searching for expanded forage management information," said Matt Bowman, chair of the Beef Cattle Research Council (BCRC) and a producer from Thornloe, Ontario. "We need the science in order to better manage complex forage systems, implement effective utilization strategies, and understand the associated environmental benefits created through the dynamic soil-plant-animal interface."

Funding for the research chair will be provided from a variety of sources. Industry contributions include \$2.5 million from the Beef Cattle Research Council (BCRC) and \$1 million from the Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association (SCA). The governments of Canada and Saskatchewan will provide \$750,000 through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership. The Global Institute for Food Security (GIFS) at USask will contribute \$320,000.

"The role of rangeland and forages in our ecosystem cannot be taken for granted," said Marie-Claude Bibeau, federal minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food. "Rangeland plants increase the resilience of the ecosystem and create natural benefits such as carbon sequestration and soil stabilization, as well as for pollinators. This new research chair position will help further our understanding in these areas."

"This research chair will work with partners from across the province to develop practical tools for producers," Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister David Marit said. "This investment will help grow the livestock sector and bring us closer to achieving the goals outlined in Saskatchewan's Plan for Growth, including our target to increase livestock cash receipts to



sources at USask, as a joint appointment between the Department of Plant Sciences and Department of Animal and Poultry Science. Among key roles will be to ensure USask is at the leading edge of research on use of forage in the beef industry, connect expertise in the field locally, nationally, and internationally, and grow funding support for research.

"This is a great opportunity for GIFS and the Plant Phenotyping and Imaging Research Centre program that we manage on behalf of USask, as it gives us the opportunity to work together with partners—government, industry and USask's College of Agriculture and Bioresearch—to deliver value to the agriculture and food sectors," said GIFS Chief Executive Officer Steven Webb. "This collaboration will help us advance the sectors in a manner that is economically, environmentally and socially sustainable."

The international search will begin this summer and USask anticipates filling the position before the end of 2021.

The Canadian Agricultural Partnership is a five-year, \$3 billion investment by Canada's federal, provincial and territorial governments to strengthen and grow Canada's agri-food and agri-products sectors. This commitment includes \$2 billion for programs cost-shared by the federal and provincial/territorial governments that are designed and delivered by provinces and territories.

\$3 billion."

A 2012 assessment concluded lack of research and development investment in the Canadian forage industry meant advances in forage had not kept pace with developments in other crops. The beef and cattle industry is increasingly seeing forages as a high-value feed source.

"Saskatchewan is looking to increase crop production and livestock cash receipts as a means of economic growth. This new chair will create momentum to meet this objective, and support the agricultural industry worldwide," said USask Vice-President Research Baljit Singh. "Strengthening this sector and bolstering food security is a focus of USask as we provide research the world needs."

There's growing recognition that forage crops play a critical role in nutrient

cycling, carbon sequestration, promoting biodiversity, and protecting wildlife habitat. The livestock industry believes the value of these environmental and ecological benefits complement forages' economic impact.

"Forage production and utilization is the foundation of beef cattle productivity and competitiveness," said Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association Chair Arnold Balicki. "After years of advocacy it is gratifying to see this position created via partnership between producers, government, USask and GIFS."

The new research chair will be located in the College of Agriculture and Biore-



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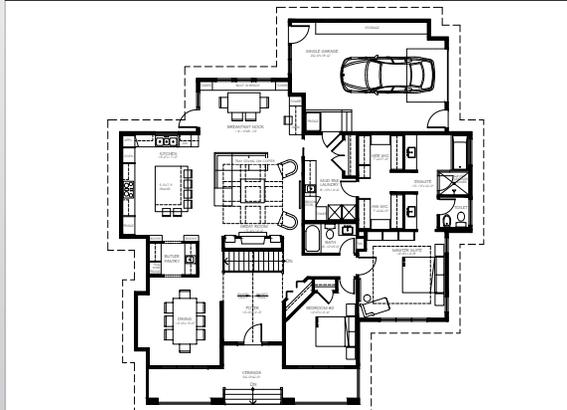
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# Farm Stewardship Program supports cow-calf producers in protecting surface water

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"I feel for the many Saskatchewan producers dealing with moderate to extreme drought conditions across much of the province this year," Canada's Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Marie-Claude Bibeau said. "Together with our provincial counterparts, we are working to build a sustainable future for our farm families, because we know farmers are on the front lines of climate change. Producers can now access this program which will help them to protect their valuable water sources and support their adoption of sustainable management practices."

"As stewards of the land, producers take their responsibility to protect water sources seriously," Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister David Marit said. "This program will provide additional funding for Saskatchewan cow-calf producers and assist them with making improvements to their operations."

The Farm Stewardship Program provides Saskatchewan producers funding to implement BMPs in three priority areas—water quality, climate change and biodiversity. The new BMP will encourage beef producers to implement surface water protection on cow-calf operations.

The Farm Stewardship Program is funded through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a five-year, \$3 billion investment by federal, provincial and territorial governments to strengthen and grow Canada's agriculture, agri-food and agri-products sectors. This includes a \$2 billion commitment that is cost-shared 60 per cent federally and 40 per cent provincially/territorially for programs that are designed and delivered by provinces and territories. More than \$155 million of this funding comes from the Government of Saskatchewan.



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# Barrel racing event in honor of Jacey Lee

BY KARA KINNA

March 4, 2021 was a tragic day for the family and friends of Jacey Lee. The seemingly healthy 25-year-old went to bed at her home in Spy Hill on March 3 but didn't wake up the next morning.

Her mother, Michelle Fredbjornson, says the doctors think Jacey passed away from an adult version of SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome) known as Sudden Adult Death Syndrome (SADS) or Sudden Unexplained Nocturnal Death Syndrome (SUNDS) when it happens in adults while they sleep.

While the death left a sudden, unexpected and gaping hole in the lives of those who knew Jacey, Fredbjornson says Jacey's spirit and love of life was so strong that something needed to be done to commemorate her. The 25-year-old was deeply passionate about many things—music, family, friends, hunting, woodworking—but her love of barrel racing, horse riding, rodeo, and rounding up cattle were so strong that she lived and breathed the cowgirl life.

For that reason, the Jacey Lee Memorial Race will be held in Spy Hill on Saturday, August 28 in memory of Jacey.

Organized by Fredbjornson with lots of help and donations from family, friends and acquaintances—people who knew and loved Jacey—the event will consist of Open 5D, Youth 3D, and PeeWee barrel racing with prizes up for grabs in each category.

"The barrel racing is an event where family, friends and competitors can come and enjoy a sporting event that Jacey loved to compete in. This is a day to honour her, share some memories, have some laughs and watch people have fun barrel racing," says Fredbjornson.

"Jacey was my greatest fan. She made me step out of my comfort zone and believed in me, and now I love competing in barrel racing."

Fredbjornson says her daughter was one of those rare people who was good at almost anything she tried.

"She was 25 and she was very talented in anything she did. She enjoyed working with cattle, she enjoyed riding her horses, she'd build wooden tables, she loved to hunt—she was a trophy hunter. She was passionate about music and loved to sing.

"She grew up at Virden and Spy Hill community pastures, that is where she spent most of her childhood and adult life riding horses, checking cows.

"In Grade 5 she started in the Manitoba High School Rodeo Association and competed there along with the Manitoba Rodeo Association. She was always riding, checking cows, she enjoyed fall roundup, bringing cows home, practicing in the arena all the time, going on trail rides. She was very active.

"Her celebration of life was held at our ranch and we put out her saddle and her deer horns that she had. We had pictures of everything and it was very well done.

"She loved watching her niece learn to ride. Anything a boy could do she could do, that is always what she said. She just had a gift for everything she did, and she loved to do it."

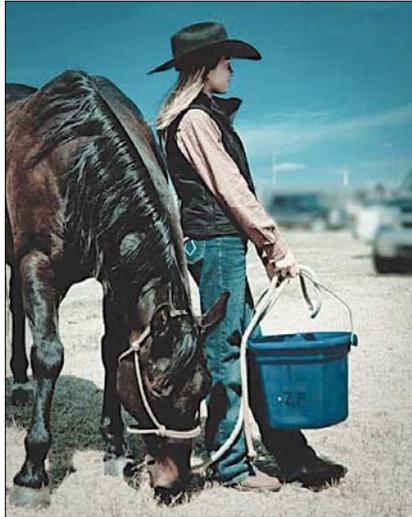
Fredbjornson says the Jacey Lee Memorial Race was her idea after Jacey passed away.

"It was my idea to honour her passion for doing barrels and for all of her friends and family to get together in a way of honoring her and giving back to all her friends and competitors in prizes and donations," she says.

"She was a very fun person and she really liked to get people going and doing things, and she started me barrel racing a few years ago. She pushed me out of my comfort zone many times."

Since announcing the event Fredbjornson says there has been an overwhelming amount of support for the event, and people from all over Saskatchewan and Manitoba signing up to participate in it. She says that's because Jacey was so well known in the rodeo world, and because it's a close-knit group.

"It's a family," she says. "People support each other in that world, it's close. She knew tons of people all over Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Her dad has rodeoed his whole life. Rodeo families have a special bond. There



Jacey Lee loved horses, barrel racing and hunting, among many other things.



have been so many people contact us to enter that I don't even know.

"She was young so she had lots of rodeo acquaintances from all over, she was a likable person, she had friends everywhere."

Fredbjornson says the event on August 28 is meant to be a fun day.

"This Race is for all levels of competitors," she says. "It will be a 5D, top five in each D come back to the short go. The winner of the saddles will be the top two that run closest to their first run.

"We are so very thankful for all the donations and sponsorship that has been coming in to make this day a success.

"There are buckles for the winner in each D in the open and youth. Then there will be prize and a cash payout.

"PeeWees have a buckle for fastest run along with some great prizes for everyone.

"So there will be lots of different unique prizes. There's short go for the saddles and in the short go the winner of the saddle has to run closest to their original time. So it doesn't mean you have to be the fastest time, it just means the most consistent run wins the saddle, and there are two saddles that have been donated.

"We want to give back to everyone. There will be prizes for people that are just coming to watch. We want to make it reach out to everyone and we're so thankful for the support from everyone that's come in to honor her.

"We will have opening ceremonies and we will do them in honour of Jacey. I did her eulogy so I will probably read what I wrote at her eulogy. We have a flag that has been made and my granddaughter will probably carry the flag. And there will be the Cowboy Prayer and O Canada.

"And she was a prankster too, so we have a lot of good little fun things. For example, the first 20 knocked barrels will each get a bottle of wine—just different things like that.

"So there will be lots of fun prizes, lots of Jacey prizes. Anything she loved she was very passionate about and there's so much gratitude in my heart for all the donations and volunteers and everything that people are doing to make this day a great success.

"A lot of friends and family are all pitching in and the Spy Hill Sports Committee has been amazing and they're working with us and they will have the canteen and beer gardens on site. Friends from the town are just willing to volunteer and help in any way they can."

Fredbjornson says her daughter would be pleased to see the event take place.

"She would be so honoured. She wasn't shy, but she didn't like to be put on the spot, so now she's on the spot and she's shining and she'd be pretty honoured that the support is coming from places all over."

While nothing can replace the loss of a daughter, Fredbjornson says holding something like this in Jacey's memory does provide some comfort.

"I feel like I'm keeping her spirit alive by having this to just really honor her, what she liked and what she did. And it gives me a purpose.

"I started thinking about this after she passed—what can I do to honour her? And I can't give her her wedding day, but I can give her barrel racing."

Fredbjornson says the Jacey Lee Memorial Race will likely become an annual event.

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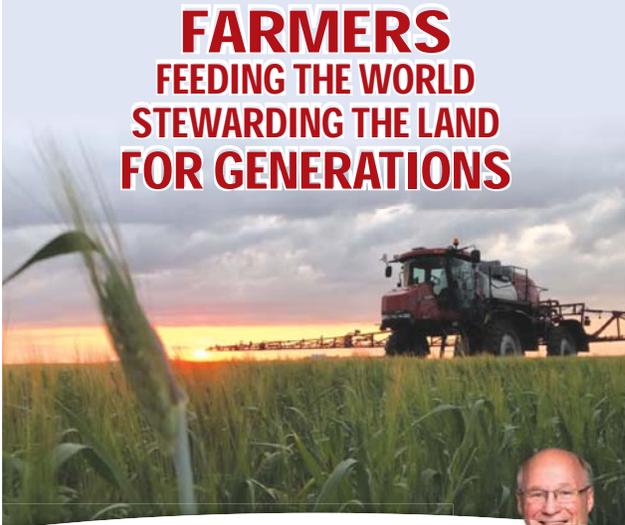
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# Farmland values influenced by many factors

For most farms, farmland is the biggest asset, and in recent decades, land values have appreciated steadily, making it a great investment. In many cases, the increase has contributed more wealth to the farm than the income derived from the production.

Beginning farmers wonder how they'll ever be able to afford to buy land. Retiring farmers wrestle with how to transition the farm to the next generation when so much value is in the land base. Everyone wishes they could know what farmland values will do in the future.

The annual FCC Farmland Values Report tracks and highlights average changes in cultivated farmland values—regionally, provincially and nationally. Using a system based on benchmark farm properties across the country, it provides important information to help producers manage risk and make informed business decisions.

Over the past decade, the biggest increases in the national value of farmland came in 2011 to 2014, at over 14% in each of those years. In 2013, the increase was more than 22%.

Since 2015, national increases have been more modest with 2019 pegged at 5.2%. However, the FCC Farmland Values Report recorded a great deal of variability across the country. While Alberta had a 3.3% increase in 2019, Prince Edward Island's farmland prices increased by 22.6%.

The variation in prices within a specific region can be huge. For instance, in B.C.'s Okanagan region, 2019 farmland prices ranged from a low of \$9,500 to a high of \$163,800 an acre. The value range represents 90% of the sales in each region and excludes the top and bottom 5%.

Price variation within a region comes from different use options and suitability, parcel size, quality and location. The FCC report highlights the factors affecting prices in each region.

## Supply and demand

Land values follow the laws of supply and demand. A shortage of available land in a region (low supply) and many farmers interested in buying land (high demand) are factors contributing to higher prices.

Since farmland prices in almost all regions of the country have steadily increased for many years, there is sometimes an assumption that land prices will never decline. However, land prices fell in many regions from the early 1980s to the early 1990s due to low farm gate returns and record-high interest rates.

## Interest rates

Interest rates have hovered near record lows since 2010. Low interest rates favour increased farmland values.

With low interest rates, mortgage payments are more affordable, allowing buyers to pay a higher land price as long as they have the down payment and can demonstrate repayment ability.

Low interest rates also make land an appealing investment compared to investment bonds or GICs (Guaranteed Investment Certificates).

## Outside investor influence

Non-farmer investors influence land prices, particularly in scenarios where they

anticipate a strong return on investment. However, in most land markets, the main factor is competition from farmers looking to expand their operations.

When investors own a significant amount of land in a region, they can impact the land rental market. Local producers usually end up farming the land even though they don't own it.

## Relationship between prices, rental rates and farm income

Land prices and cash rents for land are both influenced by the farm revenue generated from that land. However, prices and cash rents can sometimes move in opposite directions, and the relationship between the two can be very different in different regions.

Consider land that's selling for \$3,000 an acre and is cash renting for \$100 an acre. The rent provides an annual return of 3.3% before the payment of property taxes.

Now consider land with a value of \$10,000 an acre with a cash rent of \$200. That's an annual return of just 2% before property taxes.

For an investor, the annual return is more attractive on the lower-priced land in this example. Of course, an investor would also consider which property has the most significant opportunity to increase in value.

The bottom line is that land prices, cash rents and farm revenue will tend to move together over time. But there are periods when one of these variables may not match the pattern of the other two. Market adjustments can take time, and past relationships in these variables can evolve based on the outlook of the farm economy.

## The productive value of land

You'll sometimes hear someone proclaim, "That land is so expensive that it will never pay for itself." The net farm revenue you can derive from a parcel of land may not make the mortgage payment on its own. Revenue from other land or off-farm revenue can be required to afford that new parcel of land.

Does that make buying land a bad deal? There are two revenue considerations with land—the revenue from what you produce on the land and the wealth generation if the value of land continues to appreciate.

As a farmer, you can be cash poor while being asset rich. Revenue and cash flow can be a struggle while your net worth continues to increase courtesy of the land you own.

## When is farmland overpriced?

To determine if land is becoming more expensive in relation to the income it generates, a price-to-revenue ratio is often used. Analysts take the average farmland price per acre in a region and divide that by the average expected receipts per acre.

To calculate the expected receipts, a standard crop rotation is assumed, and the average crop prices and average expected yields are used.

There's no "ideal" value for the ratio as the mix of crops, the region and the outlook for crop revenues all influence. According to FCC analysis, the price-to-reve-

nue ratio has been rising since 2014 and is now above its historical average. That means affordability has been declining relative to farm income, and that land is expensive from a historical standpoint. But this is not necessarily indicative of future land price declines. The higher ratio can be sustainable if buyers and sellers believe in stronger future growth in farm revenues, continued low interest rates, etc.

## Making land purchase decisions

If you're a field crop producer, you need access to fields, and you can either rent the land or own it. Most producers have a combination of both.

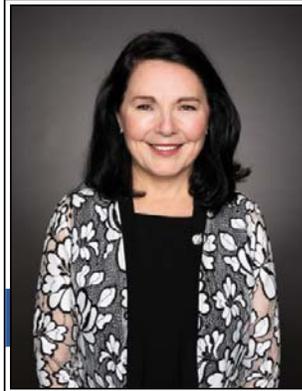
Farmland has always appeared too expensive, but waiting for prices to drop has been an unsuccessful strategy for many decades.

Farmland often carries an emotional attachment, particularly if it's land that has been in the family for many

years. While passion is commendable, it's unwise to let emotion govern farm-

land purchase decisions. Be clear on your short and long-term goals and objec-

tives and crunch the numbers for a detailed financial analysis.



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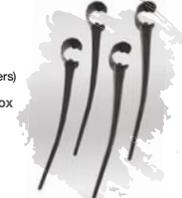
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# Rain will help maintain yields through the heat

## Harvest right around the corner for some crops

Crops remain extremely stressed from the lack of moisture and continue to advance quickly due to the heat and dry conditions throughout the growing season. Many parts of Saskatchewan saw a break in the heat with clouds and smoke from fires moving in, providing crops a slight reprieve from heat stress. Any rain received now will not help increase crop yield but it will help maintain yields through the heat.

Provincially, 51 per cent of fall cereals, 52 per cent of spring cereals, 50 per cent of oilseeds and 49 per cent of pulse crops are at their normal stages of development for this time of year. Many cereal crops that have headed out are not developing kernels and some producers have elected to cut these crops as greenfeed. There is a significant shortage of livestock feed, so the government is encouraging producers to consider alternate uses for crops that will not develop.

Rainfall varied throughout the province last week with many regions receiving from nil up to 75 mm. The Redvers area received the most rainfall with 75 mm, the Kisbey and Stoughton areas received 34 mm and the Kindersley area received two mm.

Cropland topsoil moisture is rated as eight per cent adequate, 39 per cent short and 53 per cent very short. Hay and pasture land topsoil moisture is rated as six per cent adequate, 31 per cent short and 63 per cent very short.

Haying continues in the province with 22 per cent of hay crop cut and 61 per cent baled or put into silage. Hay quality is currently rated as eight per cent excellent, 51 per cent good, 32 per cent fair and nine per cent poor.

Hay yields are well below normal and most producers are unsure if a second cut will be possible this year. Low hay yields and quality are causing concerns over the amount of feed available to carry cattle over into the winter. Estimated average dryland hay yields at this time are 0.70 tons per acre for alfalfa and alfalfa/brome grass, 0.60 tons per acre for other tame hay and wild hay and one tonne per acre for greenfeed. Estimated average irrigated hay yields are 1.79 tons per acre for alfalfa, 1.67 tons per acre for alfalfa/brome grass and 1.23 tons per acre for greenfeed.

Crop damage last week was attributed to localized hail, strong winds, lack of moisture, heat and grasshoppers. Many producers are assessing the benefit of spraying for grasshoppers in fields that are very poor in condition and are considering cutting them as greenfeed.

Farmers are busy haying, doing yield assessments through SCIC, researching their options around water infrastructure and some have already begun prepping their harvesting equipment.

In response to the feed shortage this year, Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation is doubling the Low Yield Appraisal threshold values for customers who salvage their cereal or pulse crops as feed, without negatively impacting future individual coverage. Customers are asked to contact their local SCIC office before

they graze, bale or silage any damaged crops to discuss their options. Additionally, the Government of Saskatchewan is making changes to temporarily increase the maximum funding a livestock producer can receive from the Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program (FRWIP) for dugouts, wells and pipelines for agricultural use. This change will be in effect for the April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022, time period. The maximum rebate for livestock producers during this time period will increase from \$50,000 to \$150,000. The first \$50,000 will be based on a 50-50 cost-share and the remaining \$100,000 will be on a 70-30 government-producer cost-share. Producers can contact the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377 for more information.

### Southeast Saskatchewan

In Southeast Saskatchewan crops are advancing so quickly in the region that some producers are indicating that harvest of some pulse and cereal fields is right around the corner. Hot temperatures in the forecast will further deteriorate crops and some producers have already cut multiple crop fields for green feed. Crops in the region range in development and condition; many areas of the province are struggling under heat and moisture stress while other areas like the southeast portion of the region continue to receive crop saving rain and have pockets of very good looking crops.

Scattered rain showers were received across much of the region, with the Redvers area receiving 75 mm. The Kisbey and Stoughton areas received 34 mm of rain, the Weyburn area 18.5 mm, the Moosomin area 12 mm and the Whitewood area 10 mm.

Topsoil moisture conditions last week declined from the previous week even with several rain showers appearing across the region throughout the week. Cropland topsoil moisture is rated as 21 per cent adequate, 56 per cent short and 23 per cent very short. Hay and pasture land topsoil moisture is rated as 13 per cent adequate, 39 per cent short and 47 per cent very short. Crop District 1B is reporting that 31 per cent of the cropland and 63 per cent of the hay and pasture land is very short topsoil moisture at this time.

Haying operations continue in between rain showers. Livestock producers currently have 26 per cent of the hay crop cut and 52 per cent baled or put into silage. Hay quality is rated as four per cent excellent, 52 per cent good, 39 per cent fair and five per cent poor. Overall, hay yields are far less than average and many producers do not expect a second cut at this time.

Most crop damage this past week was due to dry winds, lack of moisture and heat. Grasshoppers continue to be of concern and some producers are applying insecticides to fields that are worth spraying.

Producers are busy haying, doing yield assessments, applying pesticides and getting equipment ready for harvest.

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1mil x 30' x 5000' White	\$110 each / \$107 each (on pallet of 45 rolls)
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##### Silage Film Committed 7 Layer Blown Film

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60' wide	\$3.63 per linear foot
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# Whitewood/Chacachas 21st Annual CCA

# RODEO

## August 20 & 21, 2021

### FRIDAY

#### CCA Rodeo

Beginning at 7 p.m.

#### Muttin' Bustin'

During Rodeo Intermission

#### Slack

Following main rodeo

#### Beer Gardens

5:30 p.m. to 2 a.m.

DJ - Cordell Ginnis - Music following main performance

### SATURDAY

#### Pancake Breakfast

Beginning at 8 a.m. - Rodeo Grounds

#### Farmers' Market

Beginning at 4:30 p.m.

Call or text Corinna at 306-735-7737

to book a spot

#### CCA Rodeo

Beginning at 7 p.m.

#### Wild Pony Races

15 Years & Under - During Rodeo Intermission

#### Beer Gardens

4:30 p.m. to 2 a.m.

DJ - Cordell Ginnis - Music following main performance

### SATURDAY

#### Steak Supper and Rodeo - \$30

4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Includes 8 oz. New York Striploin (cook your own) baked potato, salads & drink ticket.

Tickets must be pre-ordered by August 15th.

Call or text Jennalee at 306-735-7136 to purchase your tickets.



### KIDS ACTIVITIES

Saturday at 4:30 p.m. including bouncers, sandbox treasure hunt, games and petting zoo (Saddle Ridge Bengals) behind grandstands at rodeo grounds



## ADMISSION:

Weekend Pass: \$20.00

1-Day Pass: \$12.00

7-12 Year Olds: \$6.00/Day

6 & Under: FREE



Located on the Service Road east of Whitewood, SK along the Trans-Canada Highway

# Producers need to see more drought support from federal government: APAS

The Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS) is pleased to see the Government of Canada offering additional support for producers who are facing a relentless drought. However, APAS says these measures don't go far enough in offering assistance to producers in the province who are in some way impacted by this drought.

"Producers are scrambling to secure feed and water for their livestock," APAS President Todd Lewis said. "The state of Canada's supply chain is at risk right now, and these measures don't do enough to ensure producers will be able to recover from this year and ensure the supply chains does too."

On Thursday, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada an-

nounced early designation of the Livestock Tax Deferral provision to assist cattle producers who have to sell a significant amount of their breeding herd due to lack of feed supply.

APAS says the early designation stops short of needed enhancements to the program, which include eligibility for yearlings and other classes of cattle as well as an extension of the deferral period from one to five years. APAS also takes issue with the area designated for eligibility which excludes 47 per cent of RMs in Saskatchewan.

"Our concern is that the entire agricultural region of Saskatchewan is not included in this provision when all livestock producers are seeing production shortfalls and record-high feed prices," Lewis said. "The high price and the lack of feed will result in many producers not in these regions still being forced to sell off breeding stock or, in some cases, the whole herd. We need to ensure that all producers are given the flexibility to manage their taxes during

this difficult time."

APAS is requesting the Government of Canada undergo fast consultation with producer groups in its AgriRecovery assessments.

Thursday's announcement from the Federal Government included calls for provinces to make changes to Agri-Insurance and APAS recognizes the Government of Saskatchewan has already made changes to help expedite the conversion of insured crops into greenfeed and other feed supplies.

APAS is reiterating its call for an increased AgriStability compensation rate from 70 per cent to 80 per cent, along with an extension of the enrolment deadline.

"During this extreme drought, it's very important that governments continue to work together and provide additional support to producers," Lewis said. "The wait and see time has passed. We need help now because many crops are too far gone."



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➤ **Kids' Activities**

➤ **Antique Tractor Pull**

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306-745-7428

➤ **Beer Gardens**

➤ **Pancake Breakfast**

9 a.m. - 11 a.m. both days

➤ **Church Service**

August 15 at 10 a.m.

**For more information contact**

**Jeff: 306-740-8025**



# FCC supports Western Canadian producers impacted by hot, dry weather

Farm Credit Canada (FCC) is offering a customer support program to farmers and ranchers across western Canada who are facing production challenges due to adverse growing conditions.

Many parts of Western Canada haven't received any significant rainfall through the spring and summer months. Extreme heat and dry weather have already reduced the potential yield of many crops. The unfavourable weather has also stifled pastures and hay production in many areas.

"We are watching the weather situation very closely and are talking to customers daily," said Michael Hoffer, FCC President and CEO.

"We already know that several ranchers are feeling the impact, while grain and oilseed producers are watching their crops deteriorate in the fields," he said. "If these

conditions persist, many operations could face cash flow challenges, so we want our customers to know we're ready to support them and find solutions."

"Our customers work hard to grow high-quality food for consumers at home and abroad, so they deserve our support when facing circumstances beyond their control," Hoffer added.

FCC will work with customers to come up with solutions for their operations and will consider additional short term credit options, deferral of principal payments and/or other loan payment schedule amendments to reduce financial pressures on those impacted by unfavourable weather.

"Producers across Western Canada are doing their best during difficult circumstances. Our government is working very closely with FCC, provincial partners and

stakeholders to respond as quickly as possible to the drought in Western Canada," said Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food. "During these challenging times, Farm Credit Canada is rolling out their customer support program to help farmers with solutions that address their unique financial challenges."

Customers in Western Canada are encouraged to contact their FCC relationship manager sooner rather than later to allow for the most flexibility in discussing options available to them. Customers can do this by contacting their local office or the FCC Customer Service Centre at 1-888-332-3301.

In addition to working with customers to support any financial concerns, FCC also reminds those who may be struggling to seek support for their mental well-being. For a list of mental health resources, visit FCC Wellness.



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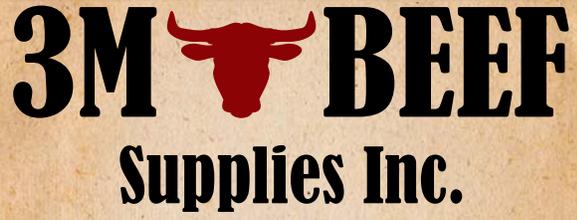
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11 AM - 4 PM  
Across from the Lake Store

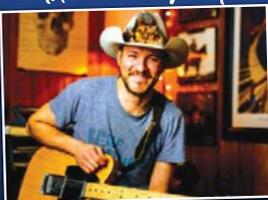
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# Online-timed Antique/Restoration Cars, Parts, Antiques & Collectibles Auction for Keith & Denise Neufeld—30 years of Collecting Dispersal

Carnduff, SK

Bidding starts: Fri. Aug 13 @ 9am

Biddings ends: Sun. Aug. 22 @ 1pm—soft close

**Vehicles:** 2008 Dodge Magnum SRT8, 100,050km, leather, auto trans., 6.1L Hemi, over-sized calipers, only 25 sold in Canada; original 1972 Plymouth Roadrunner w/ air grabber hood; 1967 Dodge Dart GT; 1930s Chevrolet Standard bodies; 1950 Chevrolet Fleetline Deluxe to be re-assembled; Early 1910s Ruby pickup; 1941-1949 IH KB-1 pickups; 1950 Austin Truck; 1967 Mercury Cougar; Dodge 440; 1950s Pontiac 2 & 4 doors; 1950s Chevrolets—2 & 4 doors; 1946-47 Plymouth Special Deluxe; 1940s Fargo pickup; 1926 Ford A Coupe; 2000 Chrysler Intrepid SE, 1972 Chrysler New Yorker & 1958 Chevrolet Apache truck w/ active hoist & more



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Online-timed Antique & Collectible  
Auction for Bill & Gisele Harding  
Boissevain, MB  
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Bidding Ends: Sun. Aug. 29 @ 7pm—  
soft close

Online-timed Antique Collection  
Reduction Auction for Dollard Mailhot  
Dunrea, MB  
Bidding Starts: Sept. 3 @ 9am  
Bidding Ends: Sept. 12 @ 7pm—soft  
close

Online-timed Antique Tractor &  
Stationary Engine Auction Pt. 2 for  
Est. of Ron Beddome  
Minnedosa, MB  
Bidding Starts: Fri. Sept. 17 @ 9am  
Bidding Ends: Sun. Sept. 26 @ 1pm—  
soft close

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