

Mariah Roy with Hebert Grain Ventures submitted this photo of a harvest sunset in the Moosomin area.

That's a wrap

Farmers wrap up harvest with lots of bushels, but low grain prices

BY NICOLE TAYLOR

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Harvest in Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba is done. A lack of extreme heat this summer and timely rains led to one of the nicest crops in years,

and timely rains led to one of the nicest crops in years, with farmers bringing in lots of bushels, although their enthusiasm for the crop was somewhat tempered by low grain and oilseed prices.

"We seeded canola, wheat, and oats in the Atwater, Bangor and Stockholm area," says Blake Duchek. "Yieldwise all the crops were above average. We had most of our wheat done before the first significant rain in September. We only had a couple of days left and the rest (of the crop that came off) was down-graded after the rain. Those crops had gone down to a number three. The other crops weren't affected by the weather. It was one of our best years that we've had in the last 20 years.

"We had 12 to 13 inches of rain over our farm, and a

cooler summer. The canola kept blooming longer, and the crop was actually a bit later than usual because it didn't want to ripen up and die off. Overall, a cooler growing season and lots of moisture at the right time contributed to a nice crop. The moisture spaced out nice and evenly, instead of having six inches all at once which doesn't

help."

Duchek says they wrapped up harvest over two weeks ago before the first snow that hit the Esterhazy region on the Thanksgiving weekend.

Mark McCorriston has land north, west and east of

Moosomin.

He says he saw big yields this year, making for one of

the nicest crops in their farm's growing history.
"It was one of the better yielding crops that I have ever grown to date, and that includes barley, wheat, and canola," he says. "The yield was excellent and the quality of the wheat that was taken off before the rain was all Num-

ber 1 and it weighed up good and it was excellent before that week and half of rain.

that week and half of rain.

"Everything was good on the grain side of things except for the actual price of grain. Canola is as low as it was 10 years ago, same with wheat.

"When I took over from my dad and started farming in 2014 and on my own, that's what I was selling wheat for, the same as I am today. It's \$6.50 a bushel. It's kind of disappointing even though I had the best yield of wheat crop that I've had to date. I've made way more money in the past off growing two-thirds less of a crop and selling it for a fair price. it for a fair price.
"So it is bitter sweet. We've got all these bushels, but it's

not worth what it should be.

"Everything has changed so much. Post Covid the price of fuel is basically one-and-a-half times, parts are probably three times what they once were 10 years ago.

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FCC report

Canadian farmland values rose 6.0 per cent in first half of 2025 FCC report

Canadian cultivated farmland values rose by an average of 6.0 per cent in the first half of 2025, according to the mid-year farmland values review by Farm Credit Canada (FCC).

This marks a modest acceleration compared to the first half of 2024, which saw a 5.5 per cent increase. Over the 12 months from July 2024 to June 2025, there was a 10.4 per cent increase, representing a slight increase compared to the previous 12-month period (January to December 2024) with a 9.3 per cent increase.

ber 2024) with a 9.3 per cent increase.

This growth reflects a complex mix of market forces and regional dynamics, with some provinces surging ahead while others remaining flat. Manitoba led the country with an 11.2 per cent increase, followed by New Brunswick (9.4 per cent) and Alberta (6.6 per cent). Saskatchewan matched the national average at 6.0 per cent, while Quebec (2.6 per cent), Prince Edward Island (2.3 per cent), and Nova Scotia (1.0 per cent) posted modest gains. On-



tario and British Columbia recorded no change, highlighting the uneven nature of the market.

"Demand for farmland remained strong in the first half of the year regardless of lower commodity prices," said J.P. Gervais, FCC's chief economist. "Buyers continued to invest, driven by long-term confidence in the agriculture sector and the limited supply of available land. While growth is uneven across provinces, the overall trend points to promising growth opportunities in agriculture."

Despite notable gains in certain regions, over the past six months, the overall range of sale pric-

es per acre has increased only modestly. Provinces that experienced strong growth in recent years are now seeing a softening in farmland prices, while regions with previously more modest increases continue to see solid gains. Overall, the market appears to be stabilizing. Gervais noted that farm

Gervais noted that farm cash receipts fell 1.6 per cent in 2024, mainly due to a drop in grain and oilseed revenue, while livestock receipts rose. In early 2025, grain and oilseed receipts increased slightly, though results vary by crop and region. Looking forward, receipts for grains and oilseeds are expected to decline overall in 2025 by 6.0 per cent. Easing interest rates and healthy farm balance sheets should provide underlying support to farmland values. Yet the farm economy may reflect a more cautious environment in the second half of 2025 and 2026 when it comes to the demand for farmland.

"The interplay between interest rates, farm revenues and expenses, and constrained land availability will continue to shape the trajectory of farmland values," Gervais added.



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That's a wrap

Farmers wrap up harvest with lots of bushels, but low grain prices

** Continued from Page B1

"Everything has gone up except for the price of grain.
I'm grateful that we have all these bushels, but still it doesn't really look that great on the spreadsheet.

"The number one factor is the spat with China over the electric vehicles. I'm not sure how many people even want electric vehicles in Canada, but I would assume only a small percentage of them would want Chinese built ones and it's effecting every farmer in Western Canada because canola is probably the number one crop in every-one's rotation that they focus on, and it's like we're selling canola for \$20 a bushel or \$18, which is tolerable, not have the bash but here they worked in earstellar \$12 or breaking the bank, but now it's marketing canola at \$13 or \$13.50. Again I feel really bad for other parts of the prov-ince that didn't grow the bushels because that's what's going to keep up us carrying onto next year, because we had an excellent crop. But if we didn't have that, then we would be dire in straits for sure."

Like other farmers, McCorriston credits more temper-

ate summer weather and timely rains with the excellent

crops.

"We did get one big shot of rain and it affected some of my crops in the Rocanville area because it is so flat. So we had a few drowned out spots, but overall we got enough rain instead of an abundance of rain where it pools and drowns out areas. Nothing hurts your yield and your overall profit more than seeding the crop, taking care of the crop and then investing anywhere from \$400 to \$450 into it and then it drowns out and you get zero in return. So a lot of it was just timely rains and also not to much

"In our farm's history—my dad started here in '76—I think canola possibly wasn't the highest I have ever grown, but wheat and barley were record setters for the McCorriston farm forever.

"The sad part is doing some penciling and trying to fig-ure it out. Wheat is looking at \$6.75 to break even at best even with each bushel and then it's a lot of extra work too. "You got all this grain and I really feel bad for the guys

tou got all unis grain after that rain. The spread on feed from Number 1 isn't as big as it has been in the past, so it's the loss of weight that really effects it because you have that much more product to equal a bushel.

"This could have potentially been a home run year and

now it's looking like just enough to keep you in the swing for another year.

Craig Roy farms near Moosomin, and said that the yield his crops gave was above average, but the low grain

yield his crops gave was above average, but the low grain prices brought the profit down to that of an average year. "The prices have pretty much been down across the board. The wheat has been in a slump for quite a while, and that's when the China tariffs hit, so that really took the shine off of canola prices," he said. "What's hurting the wheat is that there really hasn't been any major production problems. The U.S. had a good crop, many other countries had an above average crop. So right now, even thought it can change really quickly, there's an abundance of wheat on the market. It had risthere's an abundance of wheat on the market. It had risen a bit because of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, so that caused a bit of a wheat spike. Now that that's kind of cooled off and Russia is exporting again, the price has slid back down

Prices aside, Roy says that the crop this year had ideal growing conditions all throughout the season.

"We seeded in real good conditions, we got some good June rain, and we had subsoil moisture in July and Au-gust when it did get dry. The crop was able to hang on through the hotter, drier weather. A lot of the cereals were off when the rainy weather hit, so there was some downgrading, but about three quarters of the cereal crop was off. It affected canola but not quite like it does the cereal

He says that this year's crop was one of the best in terms of yield he's ever had.

'We've had years with more production, but this year we we take years with more production, but this year would definitely rank in the top 10. You can never really align high production with high prices, though, but that's the way it is. Take a look at coffee, there are some issues with the raw commodity, so the prices go up. As for the tariffs, the government has to do something to offset the losses that some farmers are going to be facing, or be able to fix some of these relations. to fix some of those relations

"If you asked me to sum up the year in one word, I would say average. Production was above, prices were below, so it all kind of evens out."





lan Langley submitted this photo of harvesting late at night.



Saskatchewan engages with Mexico and the United States on agricultural trade and development

Agriculture Minister Daryl Harrison will lead a trade mission to Mexico to strengthen our trade, research and investment ties with some of Saskatchewan's long-standing Mexican partners and to help companies and industry organizations in the province maintain and strengthen their relationships with Mexican stakeholders.

ers.

The mission will reinforce the province's international reputation as a reliable supplier of high-quality food, feed and value-added commodities. The mission will also promote research, investment and other collaborative opportunities in Saskatchewan's value-added sector.

tor. "Mexico continues to be a vital partner for Saskatchewan, particularly in the agriculture sector," Harrison said. "This mission will open new avenues to promote provincial agriculture export interests, bolster relationships with stakeholders and advance discussions with Mexico on priority agriculture issues."

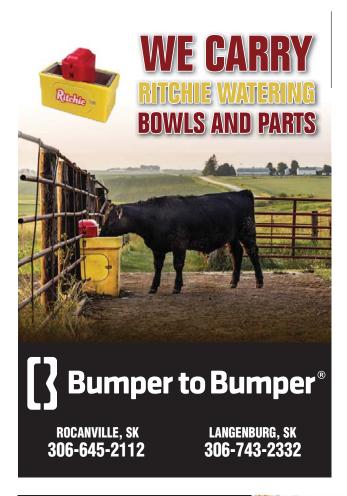


As part of the mission, Minister Harrison will be participating in the 2025 Tri-National Agricultural Accord, being hosted in Morelia, Michoacán, Mexico. This annual meeting is a premier opportunity to engage with the United States (U.S.) and Mexico and elevate Saskatchewan's profile with these two important trading partners. Topics this year include preparing for the Canada-U.S.-Mexico Agreement review in 2026, celebrating the International Year of the Woman Farmer coming up in 2026, and discussing animal disease preparedness, among other topics.

Mexico is a priority market for Saskatchewan, rank-

Mexico is a priority market for Saskatchewan, ranking as the province's sixth-largest export destination in 2024 with \$592 million in agri-food exports, which accounted for 93 per cent of Saskatchewan's total exports to Mexico.

> Daryl Harrison, Minister of Agriculture







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Harvest is over, let's take that combine home now

Let's face it – we've all done it! And Thanksgiving is a perfect time to save those leftovers and once the kiddos have gone to bed, sneak some goodies and quietly eat them by the light of the microwave. I chuckled when I heard a mom of four youngsters say this in her quest to ensure she got best dibs on the the post-thanksgivingmeal goodies.

I tried something this Thanksgiving that I have never even heard of before and it totally blew my limited-sugar eating plan. Was it worth it? Absolutely! My daughter's mother-in-law grew up on sour cream pie made with real cream. Think raisin pie only one hundred times better. I was almost vibrating when I finished my piece of pie that first night (sugar rush), only to go back the second night where leftover pie was being offered and once again, I induled. And not constitute the hight of the microwards. dulged. And not secretly by the light of the microwave either. In broad daylight in front of the entire other side

of my daughter's family. And not one bit ashamed was I!!
Sometimes our Thanksgiving meals are eaten in the field around tables set up on a flat deck trailer with the combine and truck operators taking quick breaks to eat their turkey and ham and pumpkin pie. Thankfully, this year, all that rig-a-ma-roll wasn't necessary as we finished harvest Oct. 1, well in advance of Thanksgiving meal

And I have to be honest that last day - I was a little emotional. Who, me? A couple of things had happened, one being I jiggered up my knee. Bursitis they said. What kind of 'tits' I asked the doctor. AKA housemaid's knee (from kneeling too much). Well that certainly wasn't what caused my knee to scream in pain (or was that me screaming?) when I bent it. My guess is that climbing all over the combines to clean windows was what caused the problem, one that saw me shirk my duties and not bother to clean windows at all on that last day.

And so it was on Last Day (with little sleep for sev-And so it was on Last Day (with inter steep for several nights), I headed out on a parts run (yeah, even the last day had to give us the gift of a breakdown), dreading hauling Last Day's meals in the field procedure. As I walked (well, limped) up to my truck, our neighbours walked by and said, "Don't make supper tonight. We have it covered." Now, for this farm gal who hauls food out to the field twice a day, those were the sweetest words I had heard all harvest long. And yeah, a tear slid down my cheek as I headed off to Moosomin for parts. Yup, we

have the bestest neighbours ever.
Fast forward to the Last Supper (okay, not that one) and our last tailgate meal of 2025. Nothing beats enjoying lasagna that you didn't even have to make! A few last laps around the field and then it was time – time to take that combine home and I dutifully switched on my flashers and followed behind. No big deal, right? Until I pulled into the driveway at the farm, still following behind. That's when the tears began to flow. To be fair, I didn't shed tears of sorrow at being done, that I can guarantee you. But I think it was just a combination of gratitude for a meal I didn't have to make made by someone who didn't need to do that along with a sense of being proud of the work our entire team had put into bringing in the crop. This was likely all mixed together with a bit of exhaustion (or a lot as the case may be). Whatever it was, I



was glad to see the combines parked, ready for the next day's cleaning. And while I am not crying anymore (some three weeks later), I have yet to get any relief for whatever that 'itis' problem is that I have.

One day in the middle of harvest, our landline phone rang as I was packing up supper. It was some agriculture research company asking for Wayne. I love when you tell research company asking for Wayne. I love when you teil them he isn't home how they ask what time they could reach him. Long pause. Me, not him. I say, "we are harvesting." He says, "Yes I realize that, when could I call back and speak to him?" What do you even say to that?

I love listening to Deanne Frieders (This Farm Girl Cooks) with her "I Don't Care" videos. The ones that say things like ... "We're harvesting. I'm tired. I don't care if you have eaten 36 sandwiches so far this harvest - here's

you have eaten 36 sandwiches so far this harvest – here's #37.' Or 'I don't care if there are soybeans and corn at odd places in my house. I bring my work home with me.' And on they go. What I especially love about this gal is that when she talks about 'tailgate meals' it's not the partying kind of meal – it's real life down on the farm kind of tailgate meals. So committed is she to her job as a farmer, farmer's wife, she has published cookbooks called "Table to Tailgate' and 'Meals in Motion.'

The 'writer' in me, such as it is, doesn't usually write about 'end of harvest time' other than for these ag columns but this year, I just had to put something into words. Did I mention I was unusually emotional this time around? And so, in part, talking about how grateful I am to 'live down on the farm' this is what it said Some things I know about life on the farm – it's never

been glamorous

And 'well-paid' isn't a term I'm familiar with in my role

But this life is our bread and butter, sometimes for better and sometimes for worse but we are in together, somehow making it work
"Mostly it's hard work and dusty work at that

It's breakdowns and frustration and parts nowhere to

It's sometimes too hot, too cold, too windy or too wet

It's super early mornings and long, drawn out nights
"There are times I wonder what time he'll get to bed at

night and if meeting him at the combine during our early morning servicing routine counts as quality time together There are the 'here's a sandwich' moments as you

throw lunch up the combine steps and many are the tail-gate meals that are cold before the last guy gets to dish up

his plate, or even the first guy for that matter
There are too many cinnamon bun moments and not near enough vegetable ones

"And yet, amongst it all God gives us these beautiful sunsets and wonderful times of being together and working together – as a team

There are next-generation farmers gathered around the

tailgate enjoying the long-held tradition of 'supper in the field', there are laughs over an "oops" moment and excitement in moving to the next field, one field closer to

And then there's this incredible feeling of being part of this team that makes it all happen and takes us toward the finish line in one crazy race against time ..."

Farm life has it challenges and its joys, its crazy seasons and its downtimes and it's not really something easily described in a few words. But what it is for those whose workplace is in the field and whose mealtimes are out-doors standing at the tailgate of a truck full of old fence-posts and gas cans is a life built on hard work, long hours, a few tears, uncertain pay, some good laughs and a whole lot of amazing sunrises and sunsets.

Wayne leaves our tiny home on the farm during around

sunrise. I follow a bit later with my trusty window washing kit and as he fuels and services the machines, I water the windows down so to speak. It's date time every morning! We are in our grungiest old clothes and our conversa-tion is limited to his shout, "Start the combine and lower the header" or my "Look at the amazing colours of the sunset this morning!" and sometimes even a "How many water bottles can one driver go through in a day?" Okay, so I say that to myself as I toss a thousand bottles down to the ground.

This fall I survived both harvest and the move of our oldest granddaughter to the city. I historically have a tough time with moves because of the flood of memories that overwhelm me at times. This gal spent a lot of time with us growing up, many times riding shotgun in the combine with her baby sister on the floor, cooler bags filled with bottles. Never at a loss for words, she kept me filled with bottles. Never at a loss for words, she kept me entertained for acres and acres. She still does. I text her the other day and said, "I got an email from Manitoba Fisheries for you. I can't figure out why an email for you came to my address. You haven't even fished in Manitoba." "Grandma," she said, "it wasn't for me, it was for you." My response? "But my name isn't 'Hunter." I am sure with a shake of her head and a roll of her eyes that Loyald not see she said, "If's a comprise," Dear Hunter." I could not see, she said, "It's a generic "Dear Hunter" letter, Grandma. As is 'Dear Hunter/Fisherman.'" Long pause. Uncontrollable laughing now (on my part). "Got it, Hunter," I respond, still dying of laughter at my stupidity.

And sometimes it's those ridiculously funny moments where we recharge and step back and realize that laughter is truly good for the soul.

Here's trusting you had a safe and successful harvest, fellow grain farmers, along with some really good belly laughs from time to time. Until next time, I hope whatever knew two hour this time of two is a valence where ever keeps you busy this time of year is a welcome change from those long hours in the field.



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Saskatchewan Farm Security Regulation amendments strengthen ability to enforce Act

Agriculture Minister Daryl Harrison announced the Agriculture Minister Dayl Harrison anionized the passing of regulatory amendments helping to ensure Sas-katchewan farm land is Canadian owned and strengthen-ing and clarifying the Farm Land Security Board's (Board's)

powers to enforce regulatory compliance.

Amendments to The Saskatchewan Farm Security Regulations, which support The Saskatchewan Farm Security Act, remove the exemption for the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board (CPPIB) to own Saskatchewan farm land and provide further clarification on the Board's abilities to issue monetary administrative penalties for specific contraventions of the Act and regulations.

"Our government is working to ensure that Saskatchewan farm land remains in the hands of Canadian owners and supports the needs of Saskatchewan producers," Hartison civil

rison said.

"These amendments ensure the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board will no longer be able to own farm land and clarify the situations where monetary penalties can be

applied to farm land owners in contravention of the Act." In 2015, the Government of Saskatchewan amended the Act to prevent pension plans from owning Saskatchewan farm land. However, at the time, CPPIB was given

ewan farm land. However, at the time, CPPIB was given an exemption allowing it to continue to hold only the land it owned at that time, approximately 167,000 acres. Since then, CPPIB has divested itself of these holdings and now owns no farm land in the province. The new regulatory amendment removes the exemption and prevents CPPIB from acquiring any farm land in Saskatchewan in the future, consistent with other pension plans.

Also, in 2015 the government amended the Act to pro-

Also in 2015, the government amended the Act to provide the Board additional tools to enforce compliance with farm land ownership rules, including the ability to levy administrative penalties of up to \$10,000 for each contravention of the Act. Today's amendments further clarify the specific situations where the Board may levy a penalty. Some examples include:

 A non-Canadian resident or corporation who acquires more than 10 acres of farm land in the province;
 A Canadian-owned corporation that becomes non-Canadian owned and does not divest itself of holdings over the 10-acre threshold:

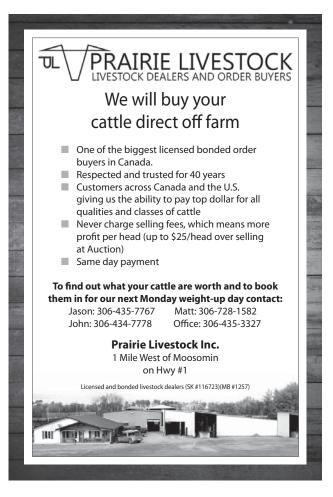
 A person who acquires farm land on behalf of a non-Canadian resident or a non-Canadian owned corporation

where that purchase would be in violation of the Act, and

• A person who has been granted an Exemption to the Act and fails to comply with a term or condition of the exemption order.

Extensive consultations were held before the 2015 Act amendments. On October 6, 2025, the Ministry of Agriculture announced the formation of a Farm Land Ownership Advisory Committee to consult with industry stakeholders and provide recommendations on strengthening the province's farm land ownership framework. The Committee's rappet is expected by version tee's report is expected by year-end.







B7

Manitoba government extends rent freeze for ag crown lands

The Manitoba government is extending the rent freeze for Agricultural Crown Lands (ACL) forage leases into the 2026 growing season, continuing its commitment to making life more affordable for producers, Agriculture Minister Ron Kostyshyn announced today.

"Manitoba producers are the backbone of the provincial compared and the control of the provincial compared producers are the season in the decidence of the provincial compared producers are the season in the control of the provincial compared producers are the season in the control of the provincial compared producers are the season in the control of the provincial compared producers are the season in the control of the provincial compared producers are the season in the control of the provincial compared to the control of the provincial control of the producers are the provincial control of the producers and the control of the producers are the provincial control of the producers and the provincial control of the producers are the pro

cial economy and our government is committed to keep-ing life affordable for the hard-working Manitobans who put food on our tables," said Kostyshyn. "Continuing this rent freeze provides financial stability for producers and reflects our commitment to affordability."

The current rate of \$3.66 per animal unit months remains the lowest ACL rental rate in Western Canada.

mains the lowest ACL rental rate in Western Canada.

"This announcement is a relief for Crown land users and gives us some certainty after a year of severe challenges," said Brent Benson, cattle producer. "From extreme weather to the uncertainty of trade markets and feed supplies, some producers struggled to keep their family ranches operational without having to make decisions that could affect their sustainability or viability. We

family ranches operational without having to make decisions that could affect their sustainability or viability. We look forward to working with the Manitoba government as we move toward a system of fair and predictable rental rates as well as policies that encourage young producers to enter the industry, an important component to ensuring the long-term sustainability of the family ranch."

The ACL program supports approximately 1,750 lease-holders across Manitoba who rely on Crown lands for grazing, haying and cropping activities. These lands are a vital public asset, supporting the livestock sector, advancing sustainable land use, and respecting treaty and Indigenous rights, the minister noted.

Alongside the rate freeze, the Manitoba government has launched the first phase of a public engagement process to help shape the future of the ACL program. Through an online survey on EngageMB, Manitobans can provide feedback on three areas: lease allocation methods, limits on the total amount of land a single leaseholder can hold, and renewal options for modern leases.

"Manitoba Beef Producers appreciates the consultations about various aspects of the Agricultural Crown Lands Leasing Program to ensure it is responsive to the needs of the cattle sector," said Matthew Atkinson, president, Manitoba Beef Producers. "We strongly encourage beef producers to make their views known during this important engagement process as it will help shape the future of the program."

beef producers to make their views known during this important engagement process as it will help shape the future of the program."

This survey represents the first phase of public engagement in the ACL program review. Feedback gathered will help inform proposed regulatory updates and program improvements. Further consultation with stakeholders, including leaseholders and Indigenous communities, will follow before final decisions are made, the minister said. Feedback collected through the survey and consultations will inform final program adjustments and regulations will inform final program adjustments and regulations.

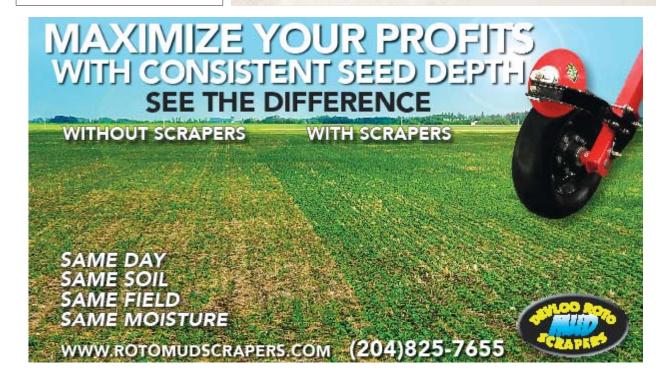
tions will inform final program adjustments and regula-tory updates, anticipated for implementation in 2027, the

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minister added.

Manitobans interested in sharing their views are ento couraged to visit https://engagemb.ca/ag-crown-lands to complete the survey by Nov. 24









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Here's how agricultural productivity benefits all Canadians



BY BETHANY LIPKA, BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE ANALYST

Agricultural productivity growth in Canada is stagnating
After peaking in the 1990s and early 2000s at around 2% per year, productivity growth in Canadian agriculture has stagnated. This slowdown threatens our ability to meet future demand for food and Canada's competitive-

ness in the global food system.

Productivity is a key indicator of how efficiently inputs – like labour, equipment, land and feed – are converted into outputs. Sustained productivity growth is essential for achieving long term sustainability, profitability and resilience in the

agricultural sector.

We all benefit from a healthy agriculture and food system

FCC Thought Leadership estimates that restoring annual agricultural productivity growth to the historic level of two percent, which was achieved in the 1990's and early 2000's, could boost farm incomes by up to \$30 billion over the next decade. However, the benefits extend far beyond the farm gate. Agriculture is a cornerstone of Canada's economy, with the agriculture and agri-food sector accounting for 1 in 9 jobs and roughly 7 percent of national GDP in 2024. Revitalizing productivity growth in agriculture could generate significant spillover effects – enhancing Canada's overall economic health, food security, and national wellbeing.

Beyond the farm: economic benefits of boosting agricultural productivity growth

An infographic depicting the estimated aggregate economic impacts of returning to 2 percent annual agricultural productivity growth from 2023 to 2032. FCC's Thought Leadership team used Statistics Canada's input-output multipliers to estimate the spill-over

effects of increased productivity growth in agriculture, to understand the opportunities for the overall economy. We estimate that the GDP impact of this agricultural productivity growth would closely mirror farm income growth nearly dollar-for-dollar.

This boost in agricultural productivity growth would also support the creation of an estimated 22,920 new jobs, also support the creation of an estimated 22,920 new jobs, and generate \$12 billion in labour income. These employment benefits will spill over from primary agriculture into adjacent industries, and represent expanded opportunities throughout the entire value chain, from equipment manufacturing and input supply to transportation and value-added processing. Revitalizing productivity growth in agriculture also promises a cascade of additional economic and social advantages for all Canadians. It promotes food security and healthy rural communities. It also enhances the resilience of our food system in the face of growing global challenges associated with volatile growing conditions and shift-

es associated with volatile growing conditions and shift-ing terms of trade.

Seizing the opportunity

Multiple factors contribute to the current slowdown in Canada's agriculture productivity growth, including underinvestment and slow uptake of new technologies. Addressing these challenges represents a generational economic opportunity, both on and off the farm. A recent report by FCC Thought Leadership explores the role of invovation in enhancing productivity growth in Canadian agriculture and provides some key recommendations for how to catalyze investment and innovation into the future. There is no one-size-fits-all solution. A portfolio of ture. There is no one-size-fits-all solution. A portfolio of solutions is needed to reignite productivity growth, in-

- Increase investment in R&D and commercialization, both at home and abroad
- Foster innovation across the sector, by supporting strategic partnerships and building capacity
- Harvest low-hanging fruit by encouraging adoption of existing under-utilized technologies on farms

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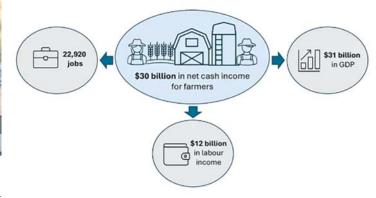


Figure 1: Estimated aggregate economic impacts of returning to 2 percent annual agricultural productivity growth - 2023 to 2032





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Minister of **Agriculture announces** Saskatchewan Farm **Land Ownership Advisory Committee**



Agriculture Minister Daryl Harrison has appointed a Farm Land Ownership Advisory Committee to provide feedback which aims to strengthen Saskatchewan's

farm land ownership legislation.
The committee will meet with key stakeholders in October and November. After initial consultations are complete, the committee will provide a summary of feedback received. The Government of Saskatchewan will then review the find-

"Our government wants to ensure that legislation meets the needs of Saskatch-ewan farm land owners," Harrison said. "This committee's work will help inform the decisions we make regarding farm land ownership in our province."

The Farm Land Ownership Advisory Committee will consist of three members:

- Ken McDonald, Chairperson; Deron Kuski, Committee Member;
- and
 Curt Chickoski, Committee Member.

"I am pleased to be a part of this committee which has been struck to review all aspects of farm land ownership in Sas-

katchewan," McDonald said. "Farm land ownership is an important issue to the people of this province, and it is our task to review current regulations and to make sure that managing this valuable asset remains a priority

mains a priority."

Saskatchewan farm land is one of the province's most valuable assets. The province's farm land ownership framework is comprised of The Saskatchewan Farm Security Act and The Saskatchewan Farm Security Regulations. As the nature of farming and business continues to evolve, the Government of Saskatchewan wants to ensure the legislative framework.

evolve, the Government of Saskatchewan wants to ensure the legislative framework regarding farm land ownership meets the needs of the people of Saskatchewan. The Farm Land Security Board will continue to monitor and enforce Saskatchewan's farm land ownership legislation, while operating independently of government. The Board enforces The Saskatchewan Farm Security Act, which specifies individuals and entities that are eligible to acquire an interest in farm land including. acquire an interest in farm land, including Canadian citizens, permanent residents of Canada, and corporations that are 100 per cent Canadian owned and not publicly







Preparing for retirement: Redefining your needs and purpose

Preparing for retirement is a pivotal moment in one's career, including for farm business owners. It may be a period of mixed feelings, as discovering new purpose in life after a fulfilling career is not a simple challenge. In fact, statistics show that 60% of farmers are worried about their finances as the big day approaches, while half have no succession plan in place.

This stage can be influenced by many factors, whether you've worked in agriculture or in another field: your physical health, your financial situation, your relationship as a couple, your passions outside work, and even your re-lationship with the next generation (related or not). Obsta-cles such as family conflict, marital problems, a social life centred around the farming community or gaps in financial planning can affect your peace of mind.

Starting this transition, even while continuing some professional activities, brings its own set of challenges. According to Desrosiers, "The most important thing is to redefine your identity as a person. If work has defined your whole life, which is often the case in farming, you'll need to make sure the skills that made you a successful business owner don't get in the way when you retire. Moving from the 'driver's seat' to the 'passenger seat' can be unsettling and frightening, in terms of both your ego and the time you now have to fill."

Explore new pathsBeyond the grief and anxiety that can accompany the end of a life cycle, Desrosiers stresses the importance of constructive reflection. This includes reviewing your values, renegotiating the division of labour with your spouse, accepting a shift in thinking and stepping out of your comfort zone. It's also the perfect time to explore new horizons and pursue new passions. Retirement isn't a permanent state; it can last anywhere from 10 to 40 years, so it's always changing. "We have to come to terms with the end of our professional identity as we have known it," she points out. Making a list of your professional accomplishments in order to cultivate pride and awareness of how far you've come can be extremely helpful.

Communication, planning and flexibility
Creating a program of activities will help you structure projects and establish new routines. And of course, if you're in a relationship, be sure to share it with your partner to align your expectations and goals. Retirement is a time of opportunity and growth, not idleness. Careful preparation is essential to avoid pitfalls such as depression or feelings

of emptiness or loss of control.

of emptiness or loss of control.

Keep an open mind and start thinking about the compromises you're willing to make for your spouse, the younger generation and your friends. If you decide to continue helping out on the farm, figure out how many hours you'd like the part in Do you have the accept to keep up the page? like to put in. Do you have the energy to keep up the pace? Do you also need to consider caring for your grandchildren on a daily basis to help ease the burden on the next generation once you've retired? Make sure you've identified your

boundaries and needs in this new phase.

The transition to retirement is all about self-respect and balance. Between moments of relaxation and new learning, you also need to be able to step back and find space for your passions – physical activity, volunteering, etc. – while retaining some decision-making freedom. "In the end, this new stage is entirely up to you!" concludes Pierrette Des-



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Abundant supplies and improved livestock sectors boosting Canadian feed demand



BY LEIGH ANDERSON, SENIOR ECONOMIST

Cattle are being fed grain while out on pasture

Cattle are being fed grain while out on pasture

Different regions across Canada experienced a mix of growing and weather conditions, which affected crop and forage production in various ways this year. Crop production is expected to be slightly higher than last year while overall forage production
is expected to decline. Most cattle producers are adjusting to lower forage production
by making use of feed alternatives. An abundance of feed grain supplies and improving profitability in the livestock sector are expected to support strong feed demand and
sales. In this report, we present the feed outlook through winter and lay out implications
for the Canadian livestock industry and compensate sectors. for the Canadian livestock industry and commercial feed sectors

Regional feed and forage production
Areas in western Canada had adequate rainfall and warm temperatures, increasing crop yields, while on the other hand, eastern Canada had a hot and dry summer, which is lowering yields. However, recent heavy rain in western Canada has raised concerns for unharvested crops. Many cereal crops, especially wheat, may be downgraded to feed quality. Overall despite regional differences, total crop production is still expected

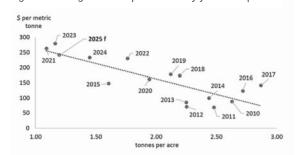
to rise slightly.

While Canada's overall crop production is expected to increase, hay and pasture con-While Canada's overall crop production is expected to increase, nay and pasture conditions in western Canada were below average this summer as rainfall came too late to support strong hay growth or grazing. However, the recent rainfall has brought relief to drought-affected areas in the Prairies. The moisture has helped extend grazing and may continue to support late-season forage growth. Ontario and Quebec saw good first hay cuts, but cool and wet weather affected quality in some regions. In the Atlantic provinces, warm and dry conditions supported better haying progress early in the season. Hay remains the main winter feed for cattle, but farmers are increasingly turning to alternatives like corn and harley silage, along with corn grazing. In eastern Canada

alternative like corn and barley silage, along with corn grazing. In eastern Canada, drought conditions led some producers to harvest grain corn early for silage. The good news is that silage yields were generally strong, adding to the availability of affordable feed grains for winter feeding. More winter wheat acres also resulted in a larger supply of straw, making it a more affordable feed option to blend into rations heading into

For those looking to purchase additional feed, it's important to note that hay markets are highly regional, driven by local supply, demand, the feed grain market and trans-

Figure 1: Strong relationship between hay yields and prices



portation costs. But because hay yields are below average, prices are likely to rise and remain elevated until springtime. For example, Alberta is currently expected to produce about 15% less hay than last year. Given the historical relationship between yields and about 15% less hay than last year. Given the historical relationship between yields and prices (Figure 1) prices heading into the winter-feeding season could be slightly higher than in 2024. The upside for cattle producers facing feed shortages is that hay prices are also influenced by the feed grain market, particularly U.S. corn. The USDA is forecasting a record corn crop, which is expected to keep feed prices low in Canada. As grain prices decline, they could help keep a lid on hay market increases. Hay price and yield relationships in other provinces show similar patterns. Feed supplements are a valuable tool for managing low-quality forage and feed grains, and when straw is utilized in feed rations. The commercial feed sector is an important part of the feed industry in Canada and plays a large role in many livestock sector feed rations.

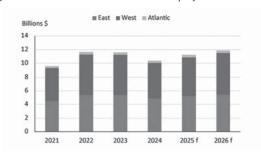
sector feed rations

Canadian commercial feed sales projected to increase

Canada's livestock sector has faced years of tight feed supplies and high costs. Expensive feed grains have hurt profits for producers and feed mills alike. In 2022, commercial feed sales hit a record \$11.7 billion due to rising grain and oilseed prices. Sales dipped last year and are expected to reach \$11.2 billion this year, with a projected rise to \$11.9

billion by 2026 (Figure 2). However, these numbers depend heavily on feed grain prices, especially corn, and could be revised down if prices fall. Most of the feed sales growth is expected in western Canada, driven by poultry expansion, while dairy and hog sectors are expected to stay stable or grow slowly. Commercial feed sales in the cattle sector will depend not only on overall feed demand, but also on the need for additives and

Figure 2: Canadian commercial feed sales projected to increase



supplements to improve the quality of lower-grade feed available on cow-calf and feed-

Expanding poultry sector is an area of growing feed demand

Canadians' strong demand for chicken and eggs is driving this momentum. Broiler production is expected to rise sharply in the second half of the year, with recent quota production is expected to rise sharply in the second half of the year, with recent quota allocations averaging over 7% above base. However, avian influenza remains a major risk. The industry has underproduced relative to its allocation over the past year due to lower chick placements and disease outbreaks. Despite these challenges, this year's production targets are well above normal. Egg layer production has also seen steady growth since last year. In June, western Canada saw a nearly 14% increase in the number of laying hens compared to the same time last year. Part of this growth is due to the region recovering from the impact of avian flu in the previous year. The expanding poultry sector remains a growing area of opportunity for the feed sector.

Dairy and hog sectors stable feed demand
Despite the dairy herd size remaining unchanged, milk production has increased, driven by strong demand for dairy products. Marketing boards have responded by issuing additional quota and incentive days to boost supply, which has contributed to improved dairy profitability. Dairy feed demand is expected to remain stable.
Canada's hog sector is showing signs of recovery after several challenging years. As of July 1, the national hog inventory dipped slightly to 13.8 million head, with eastern Canada seeing a larger decline than the West. Despite this, recent improvements in hog prices and lower feed costs could lead to modest herd growth next year. Continued gains in productivity with more piglets born per sow could also support herd growth in the coming year. So, feed demand from the hog sector could rise if herd sizes increase.

Strong cattle price and abundant feed supplies supportive of herd rebuilding

The latest national cattle inventory numbers showed that as of July 1 the national beef herd size ticked upward for the first time since 2021. A continuation of strong cattle prices and easing feed costs could encourage more herd rebuilding.

In August, feedlot placements were 12.2% lower than last year, and this trend will be important to monitor as the fall calf run ends. If feedlot placements continue to trend lower, it could point to increased heifer retention. While that may mean less feed demand at feedlots in the short term, it suggests more on-farm feeding now and potentially higher feed demand in the years ahead.

Feedlot margins remain tight, but cheaper feed grains are helping. With plenty of feed

Figure 3: Feedlots have incentive to feed cattle to heavier weights



grains available and record cattle prices, feedlots have an incentive to continue feeding cattle to heavier weights to improve profitability (Figure 3). This could lead to improved

Bottom line
Abundant feed supplies and improving profitability in livestock sectors are boosting confidence among producers. Cattle prices have reached record highs, and signs of herd rebuilding are beginning to emerge. Dairy and poultry production quotas are also growing. Even the hog sector, which has faced challenges, is starting to recover thanks to improved prices. The abundance of feed grains, which is helping keep feed costs manageable, means producers are well positioned heading into winter. With livestock profitability remaining strong, feed demand is expected to stay supported. The outlook is positive for both the livestock and feed industries. We'll keep an eye on how the North American feed grain harvest finishes up, along with updates in Canada's livestock sector, and will share more detailed outlooks early next year.

USask research explores the science of the bovine gut

Researchers uncovering surprising findings from comparing heifers' digestion behaviours



GrowSafe feed bunks are used to continuously monitor individual feed intake of study heifers at the USask Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence.

BY JOANNE PAULSON

It's a classic scene on any prairie vista: the placid cow moving its great jaw, chewing forage for what seems forever.

Most denizens of the Prairies grasp

that this chewing, known as rumination, is an important part of complex bovine digestion. But what even scientists have not understood is how important.

Dr. Gabriel Ribeiro (PhD), associate

professor in the University of Saskatchewan's (USask) College of Agriculture and Bioresources (AgBio) and Saskatch-ewan Beef Industry Chair, set out to in-vestigate what seems to be a relatively simple question— why do some cows digest fibre better than others—in a fourpart study conducted with master's candidate Megan Dubois.

The results were far from simple. Indeed, they proved not just interesting

but somewhat surprising.
Ribeiro and Dubois learned that cattle with higher digestible-fibre intake had better feed efficiency—an animal's abili-

Ribeiro had seen a huge variability among animals in his previous research, and this most recent study was intended to advance understanding of the animals' physiology and rumen (first stomach of a cow that receives food or cud) microbiology, to see if there were, for

example, specific ruminal microbes that would explain those differences. But better feed efficiency was not the only parameter Ribeiro and Dubois were

testing for.
"When we started this project, we when we started runs project, we didn't have any focus on methane or greenhouse gases," he said. "We were really focused on understanding why some animals digest fibre and do better on low-quality diets and high-forage diets than others."

As they moved forward with the project, they decided to also address rising concerns from society over how beef cattle affect the environment, to see wheth-

tle affect the environment, to see whether greenhouse gas emissions—notably methane—could be reduced.

"Our previous thought was if these animals eat more fibre and digest it better, we expected that they would produce more methane," Ribeiro said.

However, when they measured methane they did not see that Rather the

ane, they did not see that. Rather, the total enteric methane produced per

day was the same amount as the other group's, but when expressed per kilo of feed digested, they produced less meth-

"And if they gain more weight, that would mean less methane per kilo of beef," Ribeiro said.

'We were quite surprised at that."

Sixteen heifers

Ribeiro and Dubois began the study with 64 black Angus crossbred heifers, all from the same herd to reduce varia-

Then they selected the top eight (most efficient) which are and digested fibre the best, along with the bottom eight (least efficient). The study was performed at the USask Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence.

In her research, Dubois saw that the

top heifers which ate more and digested fibre better, ate more quickly and gained

"We have some ideas about why this is happening," Ribeiro said. "We did see some small changes in the rumen microbiome and did measure that in our previous work, but they are not large or drastic changes."
So, they also looked at the heifers'

chewing behaviour. Indeed, the better-performing animals spent more time chewing (i.e. ruminating) that diet.

The researchers were also interested to see if these differences would hold up when the animals were fed diets with high amounts of grain content, which

they did.
"That kind of helps explain why they digest fibre better because by ruminal the better better because by ruminal the better because by ruminal the better because by ruminal the better better better because digest nore better because by ruminating it more, chewing more, it helps break down the fibre and helps microbes in the rumen digest that fibre," Ribeiro said.

"We also think because they eat more,

there might be faster transit throughout the digestive tract, so there's less oppor-tunity for microbes (i.e. methanogenic archaea) to produce methane.'

He noted that producers are pressured to reduce methane production, but most available strategies are expensive and do not provide financial benefits to the farm or ranch.

"Whenever we propose new technolo-gies, we have to make sure it solves a problem but doesn't just add costs to the producer," Ribeiro said.

The study was funded by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), Beef Cattle Research Council (BCRC), Aberta Beef Producers (ABP), and Saskatchewan Cattle Association (SCA).

Continued on page B19 🖼





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Applications now open for the 2026 Agriculture Student Scholarship

The governments of Canada and Saskatchewan are pleased to announce that applications are now being pleased to announce that applications are now being accepted for the 2026 Agriculture Student Scholarship. There are four awards available: a grand prize scholarship valued at \$6,000 and three runner up scholarships at \$3,000 each.

"Young people are the future of Canadian agricul-ture, and their passion and fresh ideas are essential to its long-term success," Federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Heath MacDonald said. "That is why I am so ased to support initiatives like the Agriculture Student

pleased to support initiatives like the Agriculture Student Scholarship, which will encourage innovation and help prepare the next generation to lead our sector forward." "Each year, we are proud of the passion and drive our young leaders continue to display," Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister Daryl Harrison said. "The Agriculture Student Scholarship celebrates young talent and encour-

ages future leaders in our world-class agriculture sector.' This year's theme is solutions to challenges in agriculture. Scholarship applicants are encouraged to explore in-

novative farming practices, new technologies and creative ways industry can solve current and future challenges facing the industry. The scholarship encourages applicants to share their personal perspectives on the future of

cants to share their personal perspectives on the future of agriculture in Saskatchewan.

"There are so many careers and opportunities in agriculture and I want to bring more awareness to them," 2025 Agriculture Student Scholarship grand-prize winner Abbey Norek said. "Trying to get more young people involved in spreading awareness about agriculture and improving public perception is important."

Students are invited to submit a creative three-minute video or 1,000-word essay discussing solutions to challenges in agriculture. Scholarships will be awarded to

Saskatchewan students in Grade 12 and/or recent high school/GED graduates entering agriculture-related post-secondary studies in fall 2026.

The deadline for applications is March 1, 2026. For more information on the Agriculture Student Scholarship Program, visit: Saskatchewan.ca/ag-scholarship.
This award is funded through the Sustainable Canadian

Agricultural Partnership, a 5-year (April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2028), \$3.5 billion investment by federal, provincial and territorial governments to strengthen competitiveness, innovation, and resiliency of Canada's agriculture, agri-food, and agri-based products sector. This includes \$1 billion in federal programs and activities and a \$2.5 bil-lion 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 terri-







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USask researcher honoured with top pulse crop award

University of Saskatchewan (USask) researcher Dr. Tom Warkentin (PhD) has been awarded the Canadian Pulse and Special Crops Trade **Association (CPSC) Industry Appreciation Award for his significant** contribution to Canada's pulse and special crops industry





Above left: Dr, Tom Warkentin. Above right: Carl Potts, Executive Director of Saskatchewan Pulse Growers, Murad Al-Katib, President of the board of directors of the Canadian Pulse and Special Crops Trade Association, Dr. Tom Warkentin, Julianne Curran, Vice President, Market Innovation, Pulse Canada.

The award is presented annually to an individual, com-

The award is presented annually to an individual, company or organization that has made significant contribution to Canada's pulse and special crops industry.

Warkentin is a renowned plant breeder at the Crop Development Centre (CDC) within the USask's College of Agriculture and Bioresources.

He leads the Field Pea and Soybean Crop Breeding and Genetics program as the Ministry of Agriculture Strategic Research Program (SRP) Chair. His research is centered on developing high-performing pea and soybean cultivars tailored for Western Canada and northern U.S. regions.

With a strong foundation in both conventional and ge-

With a strong foundation in both conventional and ge-nomic breeding techniques, Warkentin aims to enhance crop resilience, disease resistance, and end-use quality. His work is instrumental in meeting the evolving needs of the work is instrumental in meeting the evolving needs of the agricultural sector, particularly as demand for plant-based protein continues to rise globally. Through his breeding efforts, he ensures that farmers have access to varieties that are not only productive but aligned with industry standards for food processing and nutrition.

A man standing in a green field, wearing a colourful shirt Carl Potts, Executive Director of Saskatchewan Pulse Convers Mused Al Keith President of the beard of directors.

Simt Can Pous, Executive Director of assistational Pulse Growers, Murad Al-Katib, President of the board of direc-tors of the Canadian Pulse and Special Crops Trade Associ-ation, Dr. Tom Warkentin, Julianne Curran, Vice President, Market Innovation, Pulse Canada.

Market Innovation, Pulse Canada.
A key focus of Warkentin's research is increasing protein concentration in field peas, a trait that is vital for the expanding plant-based food industry. As peas become more common in products like meta alternatives, protein drinks, and sports supplements, his work supports both the efficiency of protein extraction and the nutritional value of these products.

His breeding program also addresses major agronomic challenges, such as root rot in peas—a disease that signifi-

cantly affects crop yields in Western Canada. In addition to his contributions to pea breeding, Warkentin is advancing soybean development for short-season climates, having already released a new variety and con-tinuing to build a robust breeding pipeline. His efforts are helping to secure the future of sustainable agriculture in

regions with limited growing seasons.

Warkentin joined USask as an associate professor in 1999 and advanced through the university tenure system reaching full professor in 2008.





USask research explores the science of the bovine gut

№ Continued from Page B16



Dr. Gabriel Ribeiro (PhD) and master's student Megan Dubois presenting a poster from the study at the 2025 American Society of Animal Science - Canadian Society of Animal Science Annual Meeting in Hollywood, Florida.

To be continued

The study was completed last year and now Dubois sis writing the results paper. She will defend her master's thesis next month and start her PhD to follow up on the project by looking at larger numbers of animals and try to connect them

with genetics.

"There are a lot of things that genetics drive that could be causing those difcould be causing those dif-ferent phenotypes to come out. I'm not quite sure what we're looking at, but there is something there. We just don't have the numbers yet," she said. While few studies have been done that support their findings, Ribeiro said that a recent meta-analysis

that a recent meta-analysis study (a study summariz-ing data from multiple research studies) from Europe found similar results.

"With that, we are plan-ning to do a lot more work in this area, hopefully, if we get all the funding in place that we are working on now," Ribeiro said.

Funding from the Agri-culture and Agri-Food Can-ada's Agriculture Methane Reduction Challenge and industry funds from the BCRC and the Alberta Re-sults Driven Agriculture Research (RDAR) are al-ready in place for this future The next step will be to understand the better-per-forming heifer phenotype and look at it in a larger

group.
"The main problem we have is to do that deep work, we need to get more phenotypes and those are very expensive to get," Ribeiro said

Ribeiro plans to build a research team around this study. He has already re-ceived support from pro-fessors and researchers Dr. Bart Lardner (PhD) and Dr. Greg Penner (PhD), and Dr. Mika Asai-Coakwell (PhD) (geneticist), all in the Ag-Bio college, and Dr. Robert

microbiologist) from AAFC in Lethbridge, Alta. He also hopes to connect with the genetics team at the Univer-

sity of Alberta.

"We need a lot of brains together to think about what's going on, what it means," Ribeiro said. "And to think toward the future. What do we do next? "By selecting those heif-ers that can eat and digest

fibre more efficiently, we think there's an opportu-nity to reduce the cost of production and increase profitability. So, I think for the producer, that's super important."

Down the road, producers themselves could select for these positive traits, he

"We're trying to find an "We're trying to find an easy way to identify those animals and create the technology for producers to make it easy to identify this phenotype, perhaps by DNA testing a blood or hair sample."

For cattle producers, the

sample."
For cattle producers, the research could ultimately be herd-changing. By selecting for hungrier heifers that eat faster and spend more time ruminating, you could produce heavier cattle at a push leaver cost and with much lower cost and with lower methane emissions.

Thank you to all of our hardworking farmers, ranchers and agri-businesses!

Daryl Harrison MLA for Cannington



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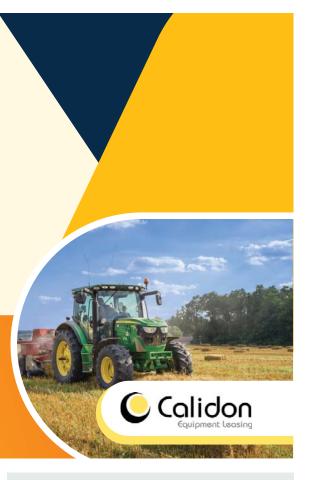


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