



Crops south of Moosomin on June 25.  
 Ashley Bocek photo

## Farmers hoping for sun

**BY DONNA BEUTLER**  
 It has been a wet year so far for farmers in the area, and combined with the cooler than normal temperatures, it is providing some challenges, especially when it comes to spraying.

"The biggest challenge in June was the moisture and the

biggest challenge during seeding was the cold weather," Mark McCorriston told The World-Spectator. McCorriston is a mixed farm operator who farms in the Moosomin, Fairlight and Rocanville areas. Wheat and canola are his main crops as well as barley for the livestock operation.

"We've lost lots of acres due to moisture and some has

yellowed off," he said of this year's crops. "Canola is a bit delicate to start and some acres didn't come up. The rain has been relentless and the damage is basically done. We'll see it when we harvest," he added.

*Continued on page C4*

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DOMINATING THE FIELD FOR FIVE YEARS IN A ROW



Left: Chris Hack pictured with sons Fred and Dennis in 1958. Center: Dennis Hack in the field in 2023. Right: Dennis' grandson John on the tractor in 2026.

# Four generations of farming, one tractor

BY DONNIE MATICHUK

Farmers have access to very advanced technology for their fields today, but a family from the Rocanville area is celebrating technology from a different era.

Heather and Tim Graham, who run Cornucopia Gardens near Rocanville on Highway 8, use a tractor in their garden that has been used by four generations of their family. Cornucopia Gardens said that they are proud to have been using the 1951 International W4 for all these years.

"On the farm with the cattle, it was a never-ending source of work. We only had square bales—that was before round bales came around—and it was a very physical job.

"Dad happened to be on the tractor that day, and Mom took a picture, so there's the proof that four generations have used that tractor on the land," said Dennis Hack, father of Heather Graham.

"The land is still being used to this day, which is very cool some seventy-five years later. Of our three kids, two are still actively farming and using that same

tractor on the same land."

Hack says that he is proud to have had a role in the story of the old machine.

"When I first saw the picture of our grandson John on the tractor, I felt proud and thought it was really special. I think it must be quite a unique story, especially that the tractor is still running so well. It's had very little modification over the years, we put a hydraulic system in and built a three-point hitch for it. It's still very usable with all the equipment in the garden."

He said that the tractor has stayed working well with very little work compared to what you would think.

"It's pretty special that it's survived this long and has been used by so many people in the family. It's had some work done on it, but it's surprising how little. Another thing that is kind of neat is that it's only ever ran on Co-op brand oil, so in my opinion you can't knock Co-op oil."

Hack says that surprisingly, the machine is working harder than it did back then.

"It's been a wonderful little tractor ever since Dad bought it, and it's served us well ever since then. Back then, it was smaller than what we were using in the fields, so we used it to pull the bale racks, like you see in the photo. Today, it probably gets more work than it did years ago because it gets used in the garden so often. You'd think it wouldn't get used as much as it got older, but it's only getting more work."

He says that the tractor has stayed mostly unchanged from when it was first purchased, and that it is an example of how long well-built equipment can last.

"A lot of farms today don't have a tractor that's more than 18 months old with all the new bells and whistles. Seeing this old machine still running as well as it is makes me proud to have used it.

"Lots of people say that if it's in such good shape, we should give it a new coat of paint and restore it. I think that that is something we could do, but I agree with my daughter Heather. She says that she couldn't imagine the tractor looking any different than how it's looked for the last seventy-five years."



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# Farmers hoping for sun and moderate heat after excessively wet start to growing season

Continued from Page C1

Spraying this year has been hard on the equipment, and along with getting stuck on occasion, it has been stressful, according to McCorrison. Some of the other stressors are the high diesel prices as well as higher input costs at the same time as grain prices are low. This all makes profit margins tight.

"We need above average yields to make the wheel turn around," McCorrison said. "From a livestock point of view, pastures and hay crops are looking good and prices for cattle are good."

Meanwhile, for McCorrison and others who are growing grain, it has been important to take a window of opportunity when you get it.

"I enjoy what I do," he said, "and will keep my fingers crossed because we need an above average crop this year."

McCorrison went on to explain that the worst thing now would be excessive heat. "The plants are rooted along the surface because of the ongoing rain," he said. "If we get hot July and August temperatures and no moisture, the crops will burn off."

"The cool wet weather sucks," Darren Davis who farms north of the Whitewood told the World-Spectator. "It is way too wet at the moment," he added, something that many farmers can relate to.

Davis, who seeds about 7,000 acres of wheat, winter wheat, barley, oats, canola and soybeans, feels that in about five per cent of the seeded acres, there is 100 per cent loss due to too much moisture. As well, he estimates another five per cent have been damaged, but says it is hard to say just yet, and it will all depend on what happens in the next week or two.

As for seeding the 2026 crop, that went really well on the Davis farm, but the challenges began when it came to spraying, especially getting it done at the right time.

"It has definitely been more challenging this year," Davis went on to say, "but over the 25 years I have been doing this, I have never seen a drought, though I have seen it wetter than this."

Hebert Grain, who employs upwards of 30 people during busy times, seeds about 40,000 acres in southeast Saskatchewan including the Moosomin, Fairlight, Redvers and Whitewood areas with their primary headquarters located in Moosomin and Fairlight.

According to VP of Grain Operations for Hebert Grain Ventures Jeff Warkentin, their operation has been fighting the wind and rain to try and get the spraying done but is now at about 85-90 per cent complete.

Hebert Grain Ventures produces canola, malt barley, spraying wheat, yellow peas and fall rye.

"Disease is definitely going to be prevalent with all the moisture," Warkentin told the World-Spectator. "Some acres are drowned out but that's offset by the moisture we have," he added.

Predicting potential yields at this point in time (end of June) is not easy to do and most farmers are hoping for good weather heading into July.

Wendy Leeds, agronomist with Sharpe's Soil Services



Crops south of Moosomin on June 25.

Ashley Bocek photo

in Moosomin, says it's hard to say just yet, but hopefully farmers will see average yields this year.

"The moisture is feeding the crops, but they need sunshine and not too much heat now," Leeds said. "The roots are not deep and too much heat would hinder the crops."

She says forecasts right now predict a moderate July, temperature-wise.

"There will certainly be some loss of acres as farmers were able to seed pretty much corner to corner this year and some of those acres will be drowned out now," she said. "I'm pretty optimistic and it's certainly too early yet to write it off."

"June is the month of Saskatchewan's most precipitation," Leeds said of Environment Canada's 30-year average. So, with June being considered the 'rainy' month, on average, this area is at about 120 per cent of normal.

"Where the average is about six to seven inches of rain

for here, this year is more like seven to eight inches," Leeds explained. "The ground is amazing at soaking up the moisture, but what we are missing this year is sunshine and warmth. We are definitely experiencing abnormal temperatures."

That being said, farmers will hopefully see some warm, sunny July days. Too much heat in July will only hinder the crops, according to Leeds, because the roots are not deep. Getting rain on repeat keeps the roots shallow, so some 25 to 26 degree days would be a lot better than super hot temperatures. And with the crops flowering in July, the yield could be adversely affected if temperatures climb excessively high.

As for fungicide, this is going to be a high-fungicide year, and in order to lessen the chance of disease in this year's crops, Leeds said airplanes are expected to be used for applying the fungicide.

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# FCC to support National Food Security Strategy

FCC will support the Government of Canada's National Food Security Strategy through a new \$1 billion Agri-food Project Finance Fund, aimed at kickstarting agri-food infrastructure across the country.

The new fund will help finance initiatives that expand domestic processing capacity, strengthen supply chains, support farmers and contribute to economic growth and long-term food security for all Canadians. It will mean more affordable food that is more reliably available in Canada.

FCC is currently developing the program, engaging industry stakeholders and assessing market needs. Additional information regarding eligibility, proposal processes and timelines will be announced in the coming weeks.

Much of Canada's agricultural product is exported for processing into the food that hits grocery store shelves in Canada and around the world. Limited processing capacity is a widely acknowledged gap in the country's agriculture and agri-food sector.

At the same time, projects to build the



infrastructure that would further processing in Canada are often considered unsuitable for traditional lenders and investors.

Through the Agri-food Project Finance Fund, FCC will help address the clear

market gap for small to medium size, strategic agri-food projects that are often deemed too complex or difficult to finance via conventional lending alone.

As the needs of the Canadian agricul-

ture and food industry change, FCC continues to adapt its support, creating more solutions that limit roadblocks that can stand in the way of progress.

The Agri-food Project Finance Fund is a separate \$1 billion fund that complements FCC's existing commitment to invest \$2 billion into Canadian food and agriculture innovation by 2030 through its investment arm, FCC Capital.

That commitment was further strengthened by an additional \$5 billion pledged by a coalition of private sector investors. FCC is also a founding partner of the Agriculture Innovation, Validation, and Adoption Network (AIVA), helping accelerate the adoption of new technologies and solutions that support long-term success.

Together, these commitments are a direct response to market needs and contribute to building a more resilient Canadian agriculture and food industry, creating more opportunities for producers and a more resilient supply chain, increasing productivity and making food more affordable for Canadians.



## Strychnine distribution begins through Sask's Strychnine Stewardship Program

Distribution of two per cent liquid strychnine has begun under Saskatchewan's Strychnine Stewardship Program, giving agricultural producers access to an important tool for the integrated management of Richardson's ground squirrel.

"I am encouraged to see the first deliveries of strychnine arrive in Saskatchewan," Agriculture Minister David Marit said. "Strychnine is an important tool Saskatchewan producers can use to protect crops and pastures from continued gopher damage. I remain hopeful that we will see strychnine reinstated permanently in the future."

Producers in eligible regions of Saskatchewan who have completed the mandatory online training and met all stewardship program requirements can purchase the product at participating rural municipality (RM) offices. Supplies are limited, so producers should contact their RM regarding access, as delivery timing and available inventory may vary by location. Additional supplies are expected throughout the growing season. A current list of RMs participating in the Strychnine Stewardship Program is available at: [saskatchewan.ca/rgs-control](http://saskatchewan.ca/rgs-control).

At this time of year, strychnine application is not recommended as abundant green vegetation makes the bait less effective. The next recommended application window is from July 15 to September 1 once vegetation starts to dry down.

In regions where strychnine is unavailable or not registered, producers are encouraged to use alternative registered rodenticides, as well as biological and cultural controls for Richardson's ground squirrel control.

The Strychnine Stewardship Program includes significant measures to protect species-at-risk. Measures include a species-at-risk assessment of every proposed strychnine treatment site to determine whether additional risk mitigation measures are required to protect species-at-risk. If species-at-risk cannot be managed through additional measures, including delayed application and enhanced monitoring, application will be prohibited.

All strychnine users must also conduct an in-field species-at-risk assessment and document the implementation of risk mitigation measures. Site monitoring is required

for a minimum of four weeks following application with once-a-day monitoring in the first week.

For full details on the Strychnine Stewardship program, including training, forms, signage and alternative controls, see: [saskatchewan.ca/RGS-control](http://saskatchewan.ca/RGS-control).

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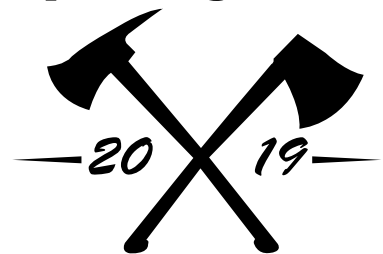
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# Rain, rain go away

You know what it feels like to see dark clouds roll in when you need a good rain, only for it to pass by without a drop of moisture falling. But not this year! Even a small, slightly grey cloud will drop buckets. I get it, we should never turn the rain away, but oh! What a challenge it's been for farmers to get the spraying done. And let's not even talk about the ruts or getting stuck because that's a bit of a sore spot for many farmers. I don't even want to think about those ruts, dry and hard come harvest, for swathers and combines to hit.

As for cutting grass (the big thing in my little world), you basically need to do it between rain drops. If there happens to be a break in the clouds, you gotta get out there and get it done. The twins (15) are doing an amazing job of keeping things trimmed up at the farm and my moments on the mower out there are few and far between. There's not much I am OCD about, but I do love nicely cut green spaces so kudos to my farm boys on a job well done.

I did venture out to my mom's farm one day to cut her rather substantial farmyard, a portion of which I once used to cut with a push mower a lifetime ago. Those are days I choose to forget, at least as far as cutting grass goes! I roared along in fairly good speed at Mom's because I could see the odd cloud moving around in the sky but with fingers crossed, I thought maybe, just maybe I would get the yard done without getting wet. As I sat under a tree through the first little shot of rain, I could see the cloud was passing over and sure enough, away I went once again. An hour or two later, with a very small portion of lawn left, the clouds let loose and I just kept rolling. I was not leaving a 600 square foot patch uncut, especially right against the front of the house. My text to my brother, as it was his machine I was using that day, went like this: "Used your zero-turn at Mom's. Rained during the process. Needs cleaning." The man of few words, at least in the world of texting, responded with: "K."

Speaking of "OK," that was not what I said when my credit card wouldn't work one day. I had even paid more than the statement balance, so I knew there couldn't possibly be a problem. And I sort of went into panic mode knowing how many things are paid monthly on that card. I phoned in to tell them I had even paid more than what was due. And therein was the problem. Both hubby's card and mine were "locked" by the credit card company due to that overpayment. Really? Who knew? Obviously everyone but me. My conversation with the gal on the other end went like this: "I paid more than what was due," I said. "Yes, and that's why we locked your cards," she said. "So why?" I asked. "How do we know that you are not laundering money?" she said. My response? "Because, I don't know how to launder money." I don't think she thought I was funny and I wasn't actually trying to be. And the only solution was to have my bank rescind my payment. Which I did, only to find out that the credit card company could take six to eight weeks to put that money back in my bank account. In the end, it was put back in in about two to three weeks. All I can say is the time spent on the phone sorting it all out was painful. Needless to say, I will never pay a cent more than what I owe ever again!

One rainy afternoon (has there ever been a non-rainy afternoon so far this year?), I was watching a Tik Tok video featuring nothing but a grey-haired farmer watching a load of grain being unloaded and all it said was this: "I don't know which is harder - doing the work or watching the work being done." And that really hit me, especially as hubby and I inch closer to



retirement. As you age and your body allows you to do less, everything you've done all your life will one day not be done by you anymore. As we see our son and his boys tackling so much on the farm and we see ourselves stepping back to some degree, we can so totally relate to that little video.

We finished seeding near the end of May, on a Friday. On Saturday, we loaded our truck and enclosed trailer for a trip north to the fishing camp. On Sunday we headed out, coolers and fishing rods packed, for a week-long stay. To be fair, we were going to cook for a crew of about a dozen so the fishing rods were 'just in case.' And wow, were we glad to get out with our grandsons and friends and get in a little fishing on the side. As for the twins and their friends, some of the fish they caught were huge. The smiles don't get any bigger than when they catch a 'big' one! Even a huge walleye caught right here near home (Round Lake), netted the biggest grin from one of the twins the other day. Master Angler, here we come!!

We welcomed some American guests to camp up north, including an 85-year-old retired farmer. He retired last year after years growing mint on his Indiana farm. He was a wealth of information and had been coming to Pine Point Lodge on Lake Athapapuskow for 15 years. On this his 16th trip, he spent virtually every day, all day, out on the lake, while I, the cook, took an hour every afternoon for a little siesta! This gentleman told me he would send me some mints and I asked him if they would come chocolate covered. "Chocolate?" he said. "No, no chocolate, just mints." Well, that's disappointing but hey, I will take the Indiana mints!

One day when our son and the twins, their friend and the Indiana gentlemen (two of them) decided to 'climb the cliffs' and head off to the 'walleye lake,' we were asked to prepare some sandwiches for their day away from camp. Our son placed two coolers filled to the brim with water bottles on the counter and the 'kitchen staff' prepped six sandwiches. Since the lettuce I had washed was still a bit wet, I put it in a baggie instead of directly on the ham sandwiches. I also threw a few cookies into a baggie. With the water bottles re-arranged a bit to accommodate the sandwiches, we placed all six sandwiches into one cooler and in the other cooler, along with the water bottles, I placed the bag of lettuce and the bag of cookies. Much later that day, when the Indiana gentlemen returned to camp, they were grabbing up pre-supper snacks like they hadn't eaten all day.

"We split up when we reached the walleye lake," one of them said, "and we got the cooler with the bag of lettuce and the bag of cookies but no sandwiches." My heart sunk. Big 'oops' moment in my mind but they

took it with a good chuckle and then checked out the appetizer table in the dining room. Appetizers never tasted so good to them the whole week I am sure!

Well, we survived seeding, cooking at a fishing camp and spraying. I am not even remotely thinking about harvest, although the weird looking little wheeled cart with a hunk of wood across the top of it still sits in my kitchen loaded with "to-go" bowls and plates for the field and slow cookers across the top. Presumably my mind is saying, 'never mind the cluttered look of this temporary kitchen addition, just leave it there until harvest is over.'

Remember earlier how I said I wasn't OCD about much, other than the lawn/yard? Well, there is one other area that I am a bit obsessed with, although to be totally fair, time doesn't always allow me to keep up with it to the standards I try to set for myself. It is the vehicle interiors. Particularly my car and my truck. The farm trucks are technically not part of my consideration, though I do give the main farm half ton a good clean inside the cab on the last day (or day after) of harvest. I have nearly every cleaning product there is available for cleaning vehicle interiors, plus I have a tool kit full of brushes, cloths, steam cleaner, lint rollers and so on. What I hate though is rolling that great big old shop vac out every time I clean (and that is sometimes a lot).

On Father's Day, hubby, wonderful fellow that he is, made us a yummy breakfast before he headed off to work at the farm! And I took him out for supper though I did use the cash he had in his wallet to pay for it. But before you think I don't ever think of him as I should, I have to tell you about his Father's Day gift. I was at the Coop Hardware store to buy a couple of pieces of 1x4 for a project I had in mind when I saw a DeWalt corded/cordless shop vac the size of a hand-held tool box. I was intrigued. Not only was it \$11 less than Amazon's price, it would be perfect for hubby and for only \$197.00! Imagine cleaning the combine with that little unit - no cords required!

And so, on a whim, I grabbed it, took it to the til, almost reverberating with excitement over this most wonderful gift for my hubby. And then, when the young gentlemen rung the item through the til, he said it was \$147 and I told him there must be something wrong, the price should be \$197. And so he said, "You grabbed it off the 25% table," at which time I looked back and noticed the big sign that said, "25% OFF ALL ITEMS ON THIS TABLE." Imagine me missing that little tidbit of information. I couldn't wait until the following day to present my gift to hubby, mainly because I wanted him to open it so I could use it that very day. And use it I did. And oh wow, that is the handiest thing since sliced bread, so there you go - if you are looking for the perfect gift for yourself, pardon me, for your partner, it's got to be one of these DeWalt shop vacs. And no I don't sideline for DeWalt, so this is just my honest opinion.

So impressed was I that I went back later that day and bought the other one for my son. I charged it to his farm account, took it to him and said, "Happy Father's Day, Son, keep your eye on your Co-op bill come the end of the month." He figures with auto steer, he'll have lots of time to keep the cab clean all harvest long! So, there you go, gift ideas are the bonus to this month's column.

Happy summer season to all our farmers and friends. We'll see you back here next month. Stay safe and keep the hip waders and mosquito repellent at the ready!!

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From left to right: Ray Kyle riding Teddy, Macee Kyle on Casper, Kipton Kyle on Ricky, Shayda King riding Zanatar, and Shoni King on Bill. They are pictured in front of the original hitching post by the Prairie Memories Museum in Fillmore.



Kipton Kyle started the journey on his horse Ricky for the Prairie Pony Express.

# Going back in time with a Prairie Pony Express

BY STEPHANIE ZOER

In 1890 a Pony Express was formed to deliver mail from Missouri to California. Horses and riders would speed from one spot to the next and hand off the mail bag for the next rider to continue with. There were strict rules in those days. No liquor could be consumed while riding and they had to wear a red shirt and blue pants. This form of mail delivery took 10 days and is usually done with 11 riders. This mail route lasted for 18 months. A year later the telegraph took its place.

At the Kyle residence in Fillmore, Codee Kyle home schools her children. At the beginning of the school year in 2025, Kipton, the middle child, wanted to do a project on cowboys and their history and began to do research. During this time Kyle started seeing posts on Facebook about Pony Expresses being done in the United States. This intrigued Kipton, Tanner, and Macee to look further into this adventure.

They began to collect information about the rides and thought it would be nice to do a ride that would take them to Fillmore. The Kyle family lives south of Tyvan on a small ranch and her husband Ray rides for a local community pasture. They would need to contact the municipalities, Ministry of Highways, and begin organizing letters to send out.

Their plan was to ride along Highway 33 from Francis to Fillmore, making multiple stops along the way, so they could switch riders and hand over the mail bag, just as it was done in the past.

Kyle said it was a big learning experience, not only for the kids but for herself and it was more than they had anticipated. They needed permission from three

communities, four community halls or rinks, three rural municipalities, and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Highways.

It was an exciting moment when they received the permission from all of them and the wheels—or should we say hooves—started rolling. Word was sent out on the need for riders to take part in the event that was held on June 6. Kyle said the ride was going to take place, rain or shine. The only thing that was going to stop it was lightning or a tornado.

The morning of the ride, the skies opened up and the rain came down. It was delayed for 45 minutes, and the first rider hit the road with the mail bag that Ray Kyle had made. This mail bag held 150 letters. Tammy King was the volunteer first responder, and her two daughters, Shoni and Shayda King, were part of the ride.

As the ride came close to Fillmore, the riders all joined and rode into town, going to the original hitching post at the Prairie Memories Museum. They made a stop at the Fillmore Care Home where 130 letters were dropped off, much to the enjoyment of the residents.

The ride took six hours over 45 kilometres, which included the 10 stops that they made.

"The riders were awesome and the horses did great," said Kyle. "Traffic on the highway was super courteous and spectators along the trail were so welcoming. So many people were involved to make this a success."

They ended at the Fillmore rink, which was opened with a canteen for anyone wanting to come and check out the historical display that was made. "It was such successful day," Kyle said.



Above: Macee Kyle rode Casper to the Well Road Station during the Prairie Pony Express.

Below, left: At the Top-Notch Station, Team Klein was there to greet the riders with Buck and Beauty harnessed to the sled.

Below: From left to right, Shoni King riding Bunny delivered letters to Cutter, Conrad, and Colt Buckingham at the Tyvan Station.

Codee Kyle photos





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- 6<sup>pm</sup> Rodeo with Bull riding under the lights
- Intermission Noemy Coeurjoly, Roman Riding Act followed by Sheep Scramble
- Wild ponies following rodeo performance
- 9<sup>pm</sup> Saturday night - DJ Platinum Music in the Beer Gardens

## SUNDAY

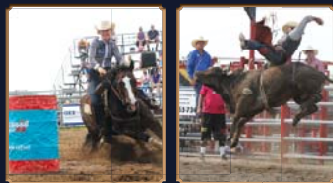
- 9<sup>am</sup> Pancake Breakfast at Kennedy Friendship Centre
- 11<sup>am</sup> Cowboy Church Service at the Rodeo Grounds
- 2<sup>pm</sup> Rodeo
- Intermission Noemy Coeurjoly, Roman Riding Act followed by Sheep Scramble
- Wild ponies following rodeo performance



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# What happens to Canada if CUSMA is not renewed?

The Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA) is currently being reviewed, with its future hanging in the balance. Related uncertainties, compounded by earlier tariffs imposed by the U.S., have already hurt Canada's economy, as evidenced by delayed investment and weak hiring by firms. In this Economic and Financial Market Update, we look at possible CUSMA scenarios and what those could mean for the economy going forward, including the Bank of Canada's policy rate.

## U.S. tariffs are hammering the Canadian economy

Statistics Canada recently estimated that



about 16% of Canada's GDP and 12% of jobs depend on the production of exports destined for the U.S. So, trade negotiators know very well what's at stake as they

attempt to strike a deal to renew the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA).

In fact, we already got a taste of what life could be without protections

afforded by CUSMA. Exporters of autos and parts, steel, copper and aluminum products are still struggling to deal with sectoral tariffs imposed a little more than a year

ago by the White House by virtue of Section 232 of the U.S. Trade Expansion Act of 1962. That, coupled with confusion about CUSMA compliance, has caused exports of non-energy goods and overall business investment to decline. Those challenges contributed to the contraction of Canada's real GDP in three of four quarters since U.S. tariffs were imposed (Figure 1), while employment

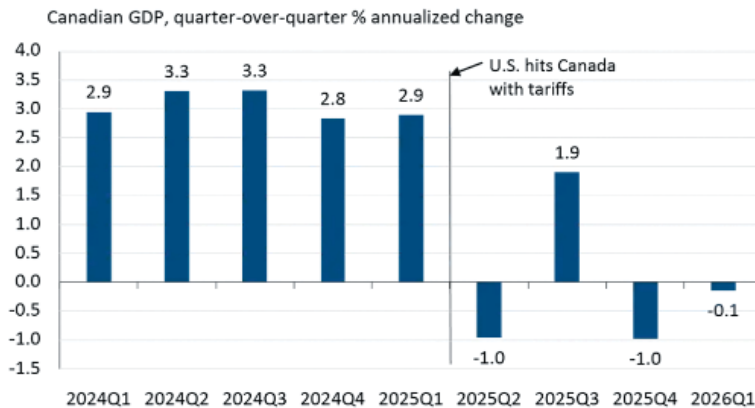
has also stagnated.

It's too early to say if the C.D. Howe Institute, the arbiter of business cycles in Canada, will refer to this current rough patch as "recession", whenever it makes its pronouncement. But semantics aside, there's little debate that this is a significant slowdown.

While growth likely bounced back in Q2 (based on the GDP increase reported by Statistics Canada for April), it's unclear if that rebound can be sustained in the second half of 2026. For instance, consumers, restrained by a weak labour market and the resulting softness in real disposable incomes, continued to tap savings to maintain their lifestyles, with the savings rate falling again in Q1 to 3.5%, the lowest in two years. That can't be sustainable, especially if employment prospects do not improve.

Continued on page C13

Figure 1: Economy has slowed markedly since U.S. tariffs were imposed



Sources: Statistics Canada, FCC Economics

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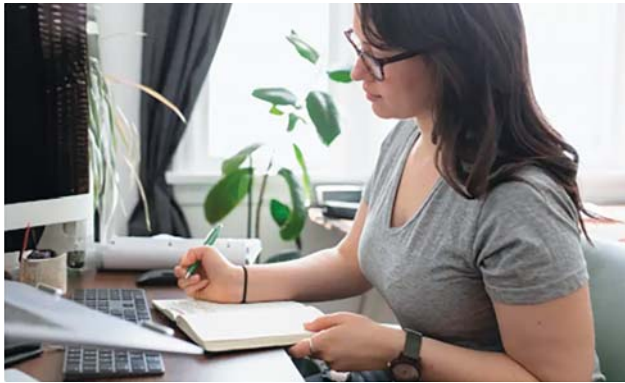
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# Why your farm background is important to your business plan



By Trevor Bacque and Rebecca Hannam

A business plan is a crucial document for any company, including farms. It acts as a roadmap that explains who you are, how your farm operates and your finances.

One section, the company background and history, is part of introducing a solid business plan, but farm business owners often overlook it.

Taking time to write out this information may seem less valuable than setting goals or calculating financial data; however, it's a critical component of the document. That's because some people reading your plan—such as lenders, investors or strategic partners—may not be familiar with you or your farm business. Don't discount the deep history of your family's farm, says Nicholas Clermont of Soma-Detect.

"This area adds a lot of credibility to a farm in general," Clermont says. "Many farms date back multiple generations, and the people know how to run a successful business. It alleviates a level of risk to potential partners as they see you successfully navigate the challenges of operating a farm."

Continued on page C14

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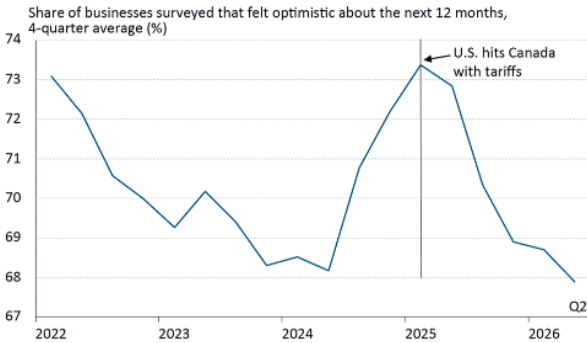
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# What happens to Canada if CUSMA is not renewed?

<sup>ES</sup> Continued from page C9

The stagnation of overall investment is also unlikely to end considering continued trade-related uncertainties and persistently weak business confidence (Figure 2). The economic outlook is further muddled by ongoing CUSMA negotiations.

Figure 2: Optimism is relatively low according to Survey of Business Conditions



Sources: Statistics Canada, FCC Economics

## CUSMA hangs in the balance

Indeed, the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement, which came into effect on July 1, 2020, included a 16-year “sunset clause”, meaning the trade deal will expire in 2036 unless the three countries agree to extend it after a joint review every six years. We’re now at that six-year mark, which explains why markets as well as businesses and households across North America are holding their breath.

An extension of the agreement for another 16 years (to 2042) and removal of tariffs, are ideal from an economic standpoint because that would provide clarity to businesses and governments, facilitating planning and the deployment of capital. But considering the apparent nationalist bent of this White House, we believe this scenario has a low probability of materializing.

Another low probability scenario in our view is the outright termination of the agreement by at least one of the three countries (presumably the U.S.), with a six-month notice. Given how integrated supply chains are in North America, this scenario would unleash unprecedented economic disruptions, which U.S. politicians will be keen to avoid ahead of November’s mid-term elections.

We believe the most likely outcome is something in the middle of the two above-mentioned scenarios. One example of that could be the refusal by the U.S. to agree to a clean extension of CUSMA, which would trigger mandatory annual reviews, while keeping some tariffs in place e.g., the above-mentioned Section 232 sectoral tariffs. This would mean CUSMA remains in effect under the original 16-year term (expiring in 2036), with

tariffs on some sectors, and a requirement that the three trade partners meet every year to resolve grievances.

While better than outright termination of CUSMA, this “In the middle” scenario is still fraught with challenges for Canada not only due to the continued drag of U.S. tariffs on some sectors, but more notably because annual reviews would create uncertainties for businesses and potentially curtail long-term investments. Indeed, without guarantees that American tariffs won’t change for the worse in the future, exporters eyeing the vast U.S. market may be reluctant to build new production facilities in Canada.

Continued on page C15<sup>ES</sup>

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Table 1: What options do trade negotiators have?

Scenarios	Probability	Outcome
CUSMA is renewed, tariffs eliminated	Low	GDP boost
CUSMA is terminated	Low	Economic downturn
“In the middle” scenario (e.g., tariffs + annual CUSMA reviews)	High	Uncertainties persist, leading to slow GDP growth

Source: FCC Economics

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# Nutrition For Every Stage

# Why your farm background is important to your business plan

Continued from page C12

## Why telling your story matters

Count on the reader of your business plan to know nothing about your farm, so it makes sense to explain the origin.

Your farm history can go a long way in illuminating values, character and commitment.

The farm's history, along with your personal experience and qualifications, strengthens the other components of the business plan, including the sales and marketing of your products or services. Clermont encourages owners to include their management capabilities and pertinent training or education. Consider the story of the farm business to be like a resume, and an excellent way to highlight your values, character and commitment to the farm.

This is your opportunity to create that narrative and direct the reader to your motivations and intentions, Clermont adds.

## What to include

To begin writing your company background and history, consider these steps.

### 1. Dig into your roots and provide a brief historical timeline

Where and when was the farm founded? When were major assets acquired? If you're not the company's founder, indicate when the transition of ownership and management took place.

### 2. Outline the business ventures that worked out and those that did not

Briefly explain why major farm business decisions were made and what the outcomes were. What are your key achievements? What has changed since you started? Are there key values you wish to retain?

Clermont is a firm advocate for transparency and says that adding such details only strengthens the case for gaining a partner.

"The ones that are very vocal and clear about what they want to achieve and how to do it are the most successful," Clermont says. "The ones with hidden expectations or agendas are where it becomes difficult. If everyone knows

where we are going, then everybody around that farm can give those recommendations to help achieve the goals."

### 3. Describe your current business

How does your farm fit within the current market? What are your farm's current major initiatives? What solutions do you provide to your customers? What significant changes could impact the operation?

Clermont explains that talking about these ideas shows a level of market understanding. It demonstrates proactive steps to plan for a successful farm future, while also acknowledging that any good

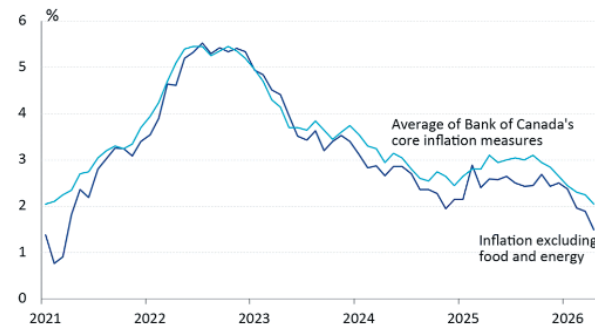
business plan will be adjusted over time.

When creating a business plan, not all questions may be just the right fit for your farm and your situation. Choose the questions that best tell your farm story and answer the ones that draw the picture you want your readers to see, advises Clermont.

## Bottom line

Your business plan is where you secure critical partnerships. Don't overlook the power of injecting history, successes, failures and future goals into the plan to showcase your future-focused mindset.

Figure 3: Core inflation rates are at a 5-year low



Source: Statistics Canada, FCC Economics

Summary of forecasts of key economic variables

	2025				2026				2027				ANNUAL AVERAGE		
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2f	Q3f	Q4f	Q1f	Q2f	Q3f	Q4f	2025	2026f	2027f
<b>GDP growth, quarter-over-quarter % change, annualized</b>															
Canada	2.9	-1.0	1.9	-1.0	-0.1	2.6	2.6	1.4	1.0	1.1	1.4	1.3	1.9	0.9	1.4
U.S.	-0.6	3.8	4.4	0.5	1.6	2.4	1.9	1.4	1.5	2.0	2.3	2.0	2.1	2.0	1.8
<b>Inflation, year-over-year % change, quarterly averages</b>															
Canada (Food CPI)	1.3	3.4	3.5	4.6	5.5	3.2	2.4	1.6	1.4	1.9	1.9	2.1	3.2	3.2	1.8
Canada (Total CPI)	2.3	1.8	2.0	2.2	2.2	3.0	3.0	2.9	2.9	2.3	2.1	2.0	2.1	2.8	2.3
U.S. (Total CPI)	2.7	2.5	2.9	2.7	2.7	3.9	3.7	3.6	2.7	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.7	3.5	2.3
<b>Key policy rate, %, end of period</b>															
Bank of Canada overnight rate	2.75	2.75	2.50	2.25	2.25	2.25	2.25	2.25	2.25	2.25	2.25	2.25	2.89	2.25	2.25
U.S. Fed federal funds rate	4.50	4.50	4.25	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.50	3.00	3.00	3.00	4.34	3.75	3.22
<b>Government of Canada key bond rates, %, end of period</b>															
2-year	2.46	2.59	2.47	2.58	2.82	2.86	2.81	2.75	2.70	2.65	2.60	2.55	2.57	2.79	2.66
5-year	2.61	2.83	2.74	2.96	3.09	3.14	3.10	3.05	3.01	2.97	2.93	2.89	2.79	3.08	2.97
10-year	2.97	3.28	3.17	3.42	3.46	3.49	3.46	3.43	3.41	3.38	3.35	3.33	3.19	3.46	3.38
<b>Exchange rate, end of period</b>															
USD per CAD	0.70	0.73	0.72	0.73	0.72	0.73	0.72	0.73	0.73	0.74	0.74	0.75	0.71	0.73	0.74
EUR per CAD	0.64	0.62	0.61	0.62	0.62	0.63	0.62	0.64	0.64	0.65	0.65	0.66	0.63	0.63	0.65

Sources: Bloomberg, FCC Economics

# What happens to Canada if CUSMA is not renewed?

Continued from page C13

## Outcome of CUSMA negotiations could impact interest rates

The Bank of Canada knows it cannot influence those trade dynamics and the resulting structural changes to the economy. But it can certainly use monetary policy to smooth out economic cycles, while aiming for stable inflation. The central bank recently hinted at how it could react to an unfavourable outcome on CUSMA: "If the United States imposes significant new trade restrictions on Canada, we may need to cut the policy rate further to support economic growth."

But absent an escalation of U.S. trade restrictions, the likelihood of a reduction of the overnight rate this year by the central bank seems to be quite low. In fact, the Overnight Index Swap market is pricing in some probability of an interest rate increase by the Bank of Canada later this year.

And that's because of the energy shock stemming from the U.S. war in the Middle East, and related surge in prices of gasoline and fuel oil. The headline inflation rate has indeed climbed by a full percentage point since February's cycle trough to reach a two-year high of 2.8% in April. And the central bank has warned that it could tighten monetary policy to quell inflationary pressures, which may well have swayed market expectations.

## Economic slack is keeping underlying price pressures under control

But we remain skeptical about the need to raise the overnight rate this year. Economic slack, or excess supply, has developed after several quarters of weak growth, and we think that will help keep Canadian inflation manageable. True, the annual inflation rate will continue to rise in coming months because of the energy shock, but we expect it to stabilize and remain below 4% through the second half of the year, before dropping off in 2027 (see Summary of forecasts of key economic variables, at the end of this report).

The Bank of Canada is well aware of how headline inflation can be temporarily skewed by energy, and that's why it tends to also look at "core" measures of inflation, which exclude volatile items. Those measures offer a more accurate picture of underlying price pressures in the economy.

Turns out that those underlying price pressures are well contained. In April, the major measures of core inflation fell to a five-year low (Figure 3). Note this isn't only due to year-over-year comparisons, because more recent trends in core prices have also been very mild e.g., the three-month annualized rate of the CPI excluding food and energy was a meagre 0.3% in April, the lowest in almost six years. Those low numbers for core inflation should not surprise anybody considering the above-mentioned excess supply situation prevailing in Canada.

Simply put, ample economic slack buys the Bank of Canada some time, which it will welcome as it assesses the impacts on the economy of the energy shock and ongoing CUSMA negotiations. As such, assuming inflation expectations stay anchored, we continue to expect the central bank to remain in pause mode i.e., keep its overnight rate at 2.25% through the rest of the year.

That means yield disadvantage with the U.S. - the BoC policy rate is currently about 150 basis points below the Fed policy rate - will remain wide and incentivize the flow of capital towards the U.S., restraining the Canadian dollar in the process. So, the loonie should continue trading in the 72-74 U.S. cents range for the rest of the year, although we acknowledge that bouts of volatility could temporarily take the currency outside of that range.

Canadian bond yields may come down a bit as markets pare back expectations of hikes to the overnight rate but are likely to remain elevated due to ongoing concerns in the Treasury market (which influences Canadian bond yields) about U.S. inflation and public finances stateside.

Those elevated long yields will continue to exert pressure on borrowers, especially the hundreds of thousands of Canadian households renewing their fixed rate mortgages this year and next.

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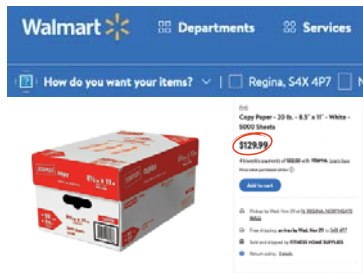
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Canadian farm equipment manufacturers are powering an \$10B industry—but the shop-floor metric that matters most is slipping.

# Productivity growth has stagnated in Canadian agriculture equipment manufacturing

BY BETHANY LIPKA, FCC BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE ANALYST

Canadian farm equipment manufacturers are powering an \$10B industry—but the shop-floor metric that matters most is slipping. Between 2015 and 2021, labour productivity rose just 11%, and the broader trend is downward. With tariffs, tight farm margins, and a heavy reliance on the U.S. market, standing still is quickly becoming a competitive risk.

Canadian farm equipment manufacturers are essential to supporting the food value chain and Canada’s competitiveness in global markets by producing machinery tailored to Canada’s unique growing conditions. Despite global consolidation, Canadian manufacturers have stayed successful by being adaptable and focusing on niche, “shortline” products (ones that attach to tractors and other machinery). Recent innovations — such as autonomous platforms, precision seeding, and advanced seeders and sprayers — highlight the strong partnership between manufacturers and producers, where challenges on the farm and in the fields translate into solutions in the factory. In this post, we examine productivity growth in Canadian agricultural equipment manufacturing sector and assess the importance to Canada’s economy.

### Output per worker is stuck in neutral

In recent years, labour productivity growth in Canadian farm equipment manufacturing has been largely stagnant. Between 2015 and 2021 (the most recent time period available for analysis), labour productivity in agricultural equipment manufacturing grew by only 11%, due to a slight bump in 2021 (see Figure 1). Importantly, the general labour productivity trend of the sector has been declining. Comparably, food manufacturing labour productivity grew by close to 30% over the same period.

### What are the challenges to labour productivity growth?

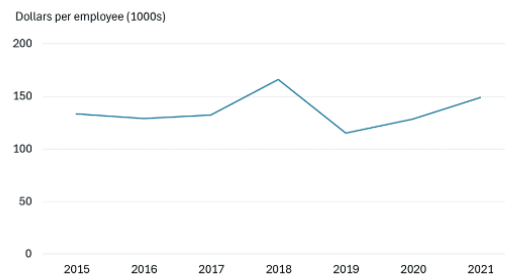
Today, this critical sector faces growing challenges influencing production costs as well as producer demand:

- **Rising input costs** are placing pressure on margins, particularly following sharp increases in steel and aluminum tariffs in 2025.
- **Declining consumer confidence**, due to softening farm income and general market uncertainty, resulting in delayed or forgone equipment purchases. For the past several years, declining crop prices and rising operating costs – combined with high equipment prices – have resulted in reduced farm equipment sales.
- **Market concentration** adds an additional layer of risk – approximately 80% of Canada’s farm equipment exports were destined for the United States as of 2025 (see Figure 2), reflecting a deeply integrated North American supply chain. This leaves Canadian manufacturers highly exposed to changes in U.S. demand, trade policy, and economic conditions. Recent tariff disputes underscore the vulnerability that comes with heavy reliance on a single export market.

- **Labour availability** is constantly challenging rural businesses seeking to fill highly skilled job vacancies.

*Continued from page C17*

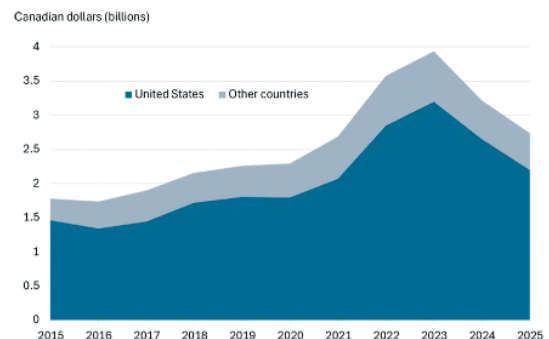
Figure 1: Labour productivity in Canadian agricultural equipment manufacturing – 2015 to 2021



Sources: [Statistics Canada](#) and FCC Thought Leadership calculations

Addressing this trend is essential to maintaining equipment manufacturers long-term competitiveness domestically and in global export markets.

Figure 2: Canadian farm equipment exports to the U.S. and other countries – 2015 to 2025



Source: [Trade data online](#) and FCC Thought Leadership calculations



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# Productivity growth has stagnated in Canadian agriculture equipment manufacturing

Continued from page C16

As AI and automation drive increasingly advanced farm equipment, manufacturers must remain agile by investing in automated, software-enabled technologies. However, these investments often limit funds for improving overall production efficiency. The shift toward sophisticated technology is increasing demand for highly skilled labour, at a time when chronic labour shortages in Canadian manufacturing are ongoing. Meeting this growing demand is especially challenging for often small, rural farm equipment manufacturers that struggle with smaller labour pools. Product development now centers on computer programs and virtual modeling, resulting in less direct farmer involvement — a factor previously key to the Canadian shortline industry's success. With over 80% of Canadian ag tech organizations based in urban areas, product development is evolving quickly but becoming more disconnected from the farm. There is also the challenge of compatibility when integrating shortline software with that of major equipment manufacturers.

Evolving legislation around the right to repair and copyright adds further complexity for manufacturers, and raises important questions about the future of Canadian innovation in the agricultural industry and its relevance to farmers. How can manufacturers design equipment that encourages safe, legally permissible customization by farmers without compromising intellectual property or warranties?

### What's at stake?

Sustainable productivity growth in Canadian farm equipment manufacturing is essential for the industry's long-term profitability and for the broader Canadian economy. The sector has a significant economic presence. In 2025, it generated approximately \$10.3 billion in sales, contributed \$3.9 billion to GDP and exported roughly \$2.7 billion in agricultural equipment to over 150 countries. When accounting for spillover effects into other industries across the Canadian economy, the GDP impact of the sector more than doubles, to \$8.4 billion. The

Figure 3: Economic impact of Canadian farm equipment manufacturing sector in 2025



Sources: Association of Equipment Manufacturers, Trade data online

industry employs close to 25,000 Canadians, mainly in rural areas, with many manufacturers based in communities of fewer than 10,000 residents. The innovation and success of these manufacturers is therefore closely tied to rural prosperity.

### How can we move forward?

Despite present challenges, the outlook for Canada's farm equipment industry remains bright. Canada's farm equipment industry has a long tradition of problem-solv-

ing, and the sector is built on innovative companies with a proven ability to adapt.

Recognizing today's pressures is the first step toward addressing them. With the right mix of policy support, skills development, and investment, the industry can continue to drive productivity and rural prosperity. In part 2, we will explore practical strategies to strengthen productivity and innovation in Canadian agriculture equipment manufacturing, and examine what comes next for this critical part of Canada's agriculture economy.

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# Seeding mostly wrapped up in the Southeast

Most producers in Southeast Saskatchewan have largely wrapped up seeding within the region and are at 99 per cent completion. Overall, producers are reporting good moisture conditions with the rainfall received in the region this past week. However, the persistence of cool and cloudy conditions and excess moisture in some areas have slowed crop development and in-crop spraying activities. Producers will be hoping for some warm weather over the coming week to continue with in-crop spraying and to help crop development.

The Weyburn area received the highest rainfall amount with 54 millimetres (mm), followed by the Indian Head area with 51 mm and the Francis area 49 mm. Topsoil moisture conditions are mostly rated as adequate in the region with some areas reporting surplus.

Cropland topsoil moisture is:

- 25 per cent surplus;
- 69 per cent adequate;
- 5 per cent short; and
- 1 per cent very short.

Hayland topsoil moisture is:

- 14 per cent surplus;
- 69 per cent adequate;
- 14 per cent short; and
- 3 per cent very short.

Pasture topsoil moisture is:

- 13 per cent surplus;
- 71 per cent adequate;
- 12 per cent short; and
- 4 per cent very short.

Despite cool weather conditions slowing crop development, the majority of the crops in the region are mostly rated as normal in their development stages, with oilseed crops the furthest behind their normal development stage for this time of year.

Crop development for this time of year in the region is rated as follows:

- 1 per cent of fall cereals are reported as ahead, 80 per cent as normal and 19 per cent behind.
- 3 per cent of spring cereals are reported as ahead, 72 per cent as normal and 25 per cent behind.
- 2 per cent of oilseeds are reported as ahead, 65 per cent as normal and 33 per cent behind.
- 4 per cent of pulse crops are reported as ahead, 82 per cent as normal and 14 per cent behind.
- 1 per cent of perennial forages are reported as ahead, 78 per cent as normal and 21 per cent behind.
- 85 per cent of annual forages are reported as normal and 15 per cent behind.

A total of 3 per cent of the land that would normally be

seeded did not get seeded this spring in the region due to excess moisture. Of the seeded land this spring, producers indicate that 4 per cent has excess moisture and is unlikely to produce a crop. Similarly, 4 per cent of forage crops are reported to have excess moisture and are unlikely to produce a crop, while 2 per cent of pastureland is not accessible or is not usable.

Areas within the region that are experiencing reduced moisture have expressed that 10 per cent of the land seeded this spring is struggling due to lack of moisture. 20 per cent of forage crops may have their yield significantly affected and 26 per cent of pastures may have their carrying capacity reduced.

Most livestock water supplies are considered to be adequate for the region. While no moderate shortages are reported, 5 per cent of livestock water sources may be short within the next two months while 95 per cent are not expected to be short. A total of 95 per cent of livestock producers in the region are not concerned about water quality while only 5 per cent of producers have water quality concerns.

Moderate to severe damage to crops was reported from excess moisture, wind and gophers. Hail also caused minor damage in some areas in the region, with minor to moderate reported damage from flea beetle pressure.



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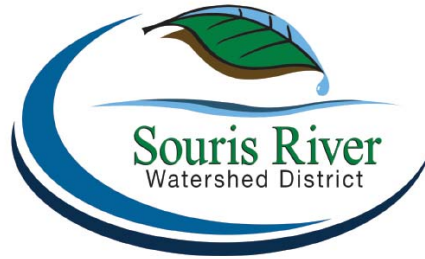
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*"This is a reflective article by Gary Davis about the May 13–15, 2026 'Storm of the Century' and its impact on prairie soils, erosion, and watershed health. It connects that storm to the broader mandate of watershed districts, emphasizing soil and water conservation, the cumulative effects of runoff and erosion, and the role of organizations like SRWD in protecting land, water, and future generations."*



Throughout human history agriculture has provided the impetus for increasingly complex urban civilizations. For thousands of years agrarian societies disseminated throughout the old world and most recently to the new world, the Americas. While agriculture made civilization possible and allowed powerful, wealthy empires to develop, invariably, soil erosion resulting from that agriculture, like the idiom of the Sword of Damocles, also led to the decline and collapse of civilizations.

No matter how advanced the agricultural society and its engineering, one primary flaw has prevailed. When human-derived soil disturbance interacts with the fundamental principles of the natural world, precipitation, drought, wind, temperature and gravity, soil erosion occurs. Regardless of how little or how great, human initiated soil erosion is not sustainable and provides the single greatest catalyst for desertification.

On the evening of May 13th, 2026, a storm of epic proportions, the most significant singular event of such magnitude in nearly a century, descended upon the Northern Great Plains. Impacting the northern States and southern Prairie Provinces, this storm delivered its full force to our very doorstep. Dry draughty conditions coupled with spring tillage and high wind became a prescription for a disaster reminiscent of the 1930's dust bowl era. For 48 hours, buildings were stripped of shingles, transmission lines snapped, trees toppled, ditches, creeks, culverts and even house rain gutters filled with sand. Visibility dropped to near zero as the very life and productivity of the prairie soil, the organic matter, was violently stripped by the wind and elevated several thousand feet into the atmosphere. Hundreds of thousands of tons of material formed an airborne cloud so massive in scale it was photographed from outer space. So dense it obscured the sun and the resulting pall created an artificial twilight reminiscent of a solar eclipse. For the duration of the storm there was little anyone could do but listen and watch as our grandchildren's future fled past our windows at speeds approaching 120 km per hour. Never in my lifetime did I expect to witness the spectacle so vividly recalled by my parents and grandparents from nearly a century earlier.

The shingles will be replaced, the transmission lines restored, trees planted, creeks, ditches and culverts cleared of silt. The real tragedy however was the loss of the last vestiges of life from this ancient prairie soil, the organic matter, gone in that instant. Its loss will remain a dark mark upon our legacy forever. That loss is permanent as is the cost of that loss to be borne by mother earth, all of society and ultimately future generations from that moment forward, forever.

In the hours, days and now weeks that have followed, I have waited for some official comment; from anyone. What happened? Why? What was the result; the damage? With very few exceptions, there has been only silence. As though this catastrophe never actually happened. No comment from any level of government or their departments, nor non-government organizations, nor academia, no one.

In the wake of such an overwhelming and momentous event, the silence is almost understandable. What can be said? It's now in the past, what can be done? What can a group such as ours ever hope to accomplish in the face of an almost indescribable situation? In the sadness, almost panic of the moment, it would appear to be easier to throw up our hands and ask, what's the point?

And then, I realized there actually has been a comment after all. Loud and clear. It has arrived from a most unlikely source, one I hadn't even considered, albeit in a different language but a language we here are all familiar with

and understand as well as anyone. The comment I was looking for had in essence been provided by the victim, mother earth herself. In the hours, days and weeks that have followed this monster into history, there has been a host of much smaller geographically, but no less catastrophic, events of a more localized watershed scale. These smaller events happen regularly, constantly but involve the exact same interactions between humans and the processes of nature. Day in and day out, 365 days a year. Streams running chocolate brown in summer, sand and top soil covering snow filled ditches in the dead of winter. And, this has gone on for the past century and more. What has been the cumulative effect of all these individual events, some so small they go unnoticed, others requiring provincial disaster assistance and of course everything in between. The impact of these events we can and do occasionally measure, like the torrential rainfalls recently in the Swan River Valley and elsewhere across the province. In the aftermath of these smaller events, questions loom. What's the resiliency of our watershed? Are we prepared for a Swan River Valley should it happen here? Even half that much? What would be the state of our public infrastructure and private property from out of control runoff and overland flooding?

But, the real question is, what's the cumulative effect of all of these events annually and for the past century, or more? I have no doubt the answer to this question would make the May 2026 Storm of the Century pale by comparison. And therein lies the mandate, the role, for a watershed organization such as this.

The Vision and Mandate handed to us by the founders and pioneers of this movement some 70 years ago was the brain trust of people like Ted Poyser and Sid Ransom and a host of others that led to Provincial legislation creating Conservation Districts and the Watershed Districts of today. Legislation for these organizations was written to specifically conserve, preserve, restore and make sustainable Manitoba's base natural resources, namely soil and water and their associated resources. Watershed Districts today and their predecessors, the Conservation Districts, have for decades successfully bridged the gap from the farm gate to the highest levels of government as well as crown corporations, nongovernment organizations and associations. I know of no other organization with such a demanding mandate and urgency for delivery. If we can positively impact even one acre of land or wet land, one farm family, one endangered plant or animal, it's incumbent upon us as an organization to try. Focusing on the positive and supporting the generations of individuals and families now numerous amongst us seeking sustainability for themselves and those who follow.

My purpose for this article is two-fold:

1. To affirm for myself the role I can play in observing and working toward the mandate as defined by the founders of this cause decades ago and to do my best to meet the official mandate as directed by legislation.
2. To recognize for the historic record via our SRWD Board minutes that we did indeed make note of the storm of 13th, 14th, 15th of May 2026.

I wish to conclude with the following Quote from the book "Dirt", a quote from the FARM SECURITY ADMINISTRATION of the U.S.

*"One man cannot stop the dust from blowing, but one man can start it."*

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