



THE WORLD-  
**Spectator**

**AG NEWS**

**AUGUST 2021**



Crops being swathed for harvest on the west side of Moosomin.

Kevin Weedmark photo

**Harvest 2021**

**Low yields but good quality; Rain causes delays**

BY KARA KINNA

Hot, bone dry weather through the summer, followed by heavy rains right at harvest time—it wasn't a great combination for farmers this year who were seeing lower yields as they started to harvest before it was halted by unwanted wet weather in Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba over the last few weeks.

But the story isn't all bad. Much of the wheat coming in is graded at number one or number two. Commodity prices are high. And the rain was needed to replenish moisture on the land and give some relief to cattle producers.

Andy Klippenstein is the general manager of the Parish and Heimbecker terminal at Hargrave, Manitoba. He says wheat is averaging at 40 bushels and acres this year, as compared to 70 to 80 bushels in previous years, and there are fears that the yield on the canola crops will be down too.

"They're not into the canola yet. Everybody is kind of gritting their teeth with canola. A lot of people think it might go 20 where other years they were closer to 50. So canola really got beat up by the heat and lack of moisture. It needs water just to fill those pods," he says.

"And then other crops, barley, oats, they were all half or

a little bit less. The hay farmer, they are all saying it's half a crop out there.

"Quality has been good. Now the rain is going to have an impact on wheat quality a little bit, but what we see now is fitting into the top two grades, which is what the milling industry requires. There might be a little bit of three red. It depends on how much more rain we get. With the standing wheat—fewer and fewer farmers swath, and when you swath that's when you have the degradation with sprouting. It doesn't sprout as readily when it's standing.

*Continued on Page B3*

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Figure 1: Cattle slaughter in the West is following recent trends but may increase with early marketing.

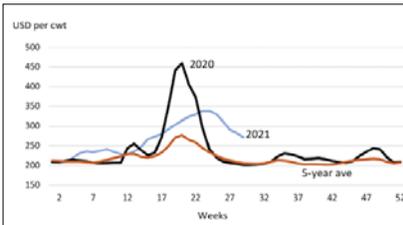


Figure 2: U.S. beef cutout values fall from 2020 high, but continue to outperform 5-year average.

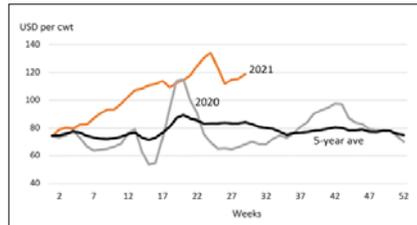


Figure 3: U.S. pork cutout values in 2021 easily exceed high values of 2020.

## 2021 Cattle and hog sectors outlook update:

# Lack of moisture and excessive heat pressure the West

BY MARTHA ROBERTS

Canada's red meat sectors will see a third quarter of mixed profitability in 2021. Periods of extreme heat and severe declines in normal moisture levels have hit western cattle producers hard, with possible strong ripple effects for individual operations throughout the remainder of the year. Feed costs remain elevated in both the east and the west, but conditions may prompt lower prices as more cattle are marketed earlier. Hog sector margins will vary over the next quarter, with forecasted improvements for the end of the quarter.

We expect all livestock prices to climb higher throughout 2021 than we had forecasted in May. Year-to-date prices have been boosted by lower cattle slaughter than anticipated in both Canada and the U.S. Nonetheless, prices for western cattle remain below their five-year average. The wild card will be basis levels, which have been trending downward. If liquidation intensifies, prices could drop sharply.

It's a different story in eastern Canada. Prices for hogs in both Manitoba and Ontario should continue to exceed their five-year averages on the strength of global and domestic demand. Chinese pork imports have largely driven strong global demand and continued strength in North American hog prices.

In February, we identified African Swine Fever, feed costs and growing global demand for red meats as the three dominant forces impacting profitability of the Canadian red meat sectors. However, weather-related impacts on feed crops in 2021 may prove to have the most

significant influence on margins.

Cow-calf margins in Western Canada remain pressured due to high feed costs, low moisture levels and high temperatures. That has prompted increased marketings. Federally inspected slaughters show that slaughters in the first half of 2021 are 13.5 per cent higher year-over-year (YoY) and 6.5 per cent higher than 2019 (Figure 1). Losses are more likely as feed costs increase with diminishing feed supplies while cattle prices weaken as more cattle are slaughtered. Basis levels are expected to decline given increased culling and early marketing of yearlings.

The feedlot sector also faces significant hurdles given high feed costs and ample supplies of cattle coming to market. Alberta hay prices rose 25 per cent between May and June 2021 and average Montana hay prices increased 50 per cent between May and August 2021. Lethbridge feed barley prices hit a record \$415 per tonne or \$9.00 per bushel for the week ending July 30. Profitability for the feedlot sector is projected to remain below break-even.

The one bright spot is the stable strength of demand for red meat. The U.S. choice beef and pork cutout values show North American values have exceeded their respective five-year averages so far in 2021 (Figures 2 and 3), in no small part due to households' greater savings and reduced spending on other consumption

tion is expected to rise by 2.3 per cent YoY, according to the OECD.

Continued on page B10

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## Harvest 2021

# Low yields but good quality; Rain causes delays

*Continued from front*

"For the most part over half the wheat has been combined already, so I'm thinking that we're going to fit most of it into a one or two red and maybe a little bit will drop into a number three, which is still a milling wheat but a lower quality. So the quality is holding.

"The protein of course is through the roof, which is good and bad because other years we have a mix of protein, where there is some low and high protein, and it gives you the ability to blend protein and give farmers the benefit of growing the high protein. This year if it's all high protein, mills, for their purposes for making flour, they want it as about a 13.5 or 13.6 protein and they won't pay for a 15 per cent protein. They won't pay a premium for that. In some cases it's a detriment because if you're a baker and you have a recipe and you work with certain ingredients in that recipe, when you all of a sudden take one ingredient that is a lot different, you have to skew your whole process because it impacts your whole process, and protein is a big factor in pan breads and things like that.

"Ideally they would like to have a very consistent vanilla product at 13.5 protein and that way they can stick with the recipe that they've got.

"In that respect is a bit of a challenge we have. The protein is ranging from 14.5 right through to 17. And other years we'd see a range of high fourteens but then we'd also see lows of 12.5. So it gives you that ability to bring the 12.5 up to 13.5 and 14.5 down to 13.5 and keep everybody happy."

Mark McCorrison is a farmer who has land in the Moosomin, Rocanville and Fleming areas. He says the wet weather put his harvest on hold and has downgraded the quality of some of his grain, but he points out it has been helpful for pastures and for replenishing moisture on the land.

"We got started harvest before these rains came a week ago or so," he says. "We managed to get our barley and our oats and part of our wheat crop off. Now we're kind of on hold. Our wheat is ready to be harvested in the field but now we just can't get a big enough window to get finished up the wheat harvest.

"On our farm we left it standing and we straight cut it. We did swath the oats and the barley because it was dry and the long-term forecast looked good, but the wheat we left standing. It's still standing in the field okay now, the seeds have definitely gotten bleached a lot and it's for sure a number two quality wheat rather than the number one we were taking off before the rain. It downgraded it. The slide from a one to a two isn't too bad, but when you go from a two to a three, then it really changes."

McCorrison says the hot, dry weather earlier in the summer has also meant lower yields for farmers around the area, including himself.

"I would say we're more at the 66 to 75 per cent range of normal harvest for yield, and it's pretty apparent," he says. "I'm usually the guy to run the grain auger and I find myself doing odds and ends projects around the yard between loads where I haven't had an opportunity to do that in several years. It's a big change. The yields are definitely down."

Like Klippenstein, McCorrison says his protein content is high.

"In the past years we've been high elevens through to twelve and the odd sample in the thirteens for protein. This year every sample that I've run over to the local grain terminal to have checked out, the protein's always been over 15," he says. "But on average in drought conditions when your yield is down, then your protein always goes up."

McCorrison says if the prairies can come through with some dry windy weather, then harvest should be able to



A farmer moving a swather on the lake road south of Moosomin.

Sunnette Kamffer photo

resume as normal.

"Two or three days of even average weather with no rain for standing wheat to dry up enough that we can harvest it would be good," he says. "It can probably happen but the other big concern is getting semis on and off the fields. They're not really designed for conditions like this and then loading on the road is hard on your neighbors and it's just a little bit more of a dangerous spot to be. I prefer to not use the loading on the road option unless it's a last resort.

"I'd say if we got five days or four days of average weather with a full day of sun and some wind like this province can definitely provide us with, we would be able to get back and get our wheat finished up.

"On our farm the canola is just not quite ready yet. We're doing some swathing and we're doing some desiccating on the canola between the rain days and we're getting that part of harvest wrapped up so that when it does smarten up we can focus on combining.

"Commodity prices are up so you try to look at the positive, and another positive point is we're not as desperate as some areas of the province. We do have a crop to harvest. It's just not what we've been used to for the last three or four years. I'm not saying that 2019 wasn't horribly stressful with the late fall and the snows, but the bushels were there, we just had to work to get them. This year it's noticeably less yield which is unfortunate, but it definitely could have been worse."

McCorrison says the wet weather has had little effect on the earlier seeded canola crops, but may have been beneficial to later seeded canola crops.

"Canola's really up and down and I definitely feel the later canola crops that were seeded in early June are the best because they are still green and producing seeds when we got into this wet period, and now it's been

cooler," he says. "Earlier canola crops, it was just too late for them. They were already past the stage and had gone into the maturing process, they were already browning up when this rain started. It will help bring the canola in evenly for harvest but for, I would say, 85 to 90 per cent of crops in the area, it was just a little too late for this year."

Despite the wet weather being an inconvenience at harvest time, McCorrison says he isn't complaining just yet because it was so dry all summer that there are benefits to this moisture.

"Our pastures at Rocanville and the Moosomin area look like summer time again," he says. "Our lawn at the farm, it's a bright, vibrant green and growing again. So there are some blessings. For the livestock it was really, really bad (before with the dry weather) and lots of people were talking about selling parts of their herd. I haven't heard any rumors like that at the coffee shop since these rains came along. I would say it's a huge stress relief for the livestock end of it, especially for pastures. Lots of people had poor hay crops, myself included, but now hopefully with these fall rains we can get a little more grazing time on the pastures this fall to help with the lower amount of hay we have for winter feeding.

"As much as the rain was kind of a pain for the grain aspect, right in the middle of harvest, if it's going to rain off and on for another week I'll probably just bite my tongue and you won't hear me complain because it was getting so scarily dry out there. As much as it's a hindrance, there are so many upsides to this moisture too. And next year for the grain farmers, we'll have a little bit of potential. These rains, they've been excellent at soaking in and not really pooling any water or making the creeks flow. They've come just at the right pace so that as they come, the ground is taking it in. There are definitely more bonuses to it than negatives."

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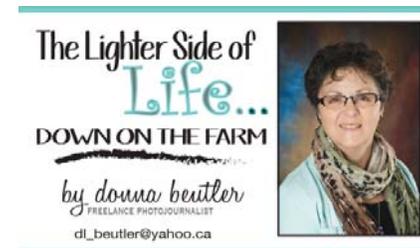


# Getting back into farm life after a camping trip

No, no, no, things were not going according to plan! As if anything on the farm ever goes according to plan, right? We had just pulled our RV home from the lake, parked it in its little spot next to the farm shop with its view of the dog house (freshly painted thanks to the twins' help), stripped the beds and piled it all into the truck ready to wash and return home (in town) to re-group, the view no longer of the beach and the boat nestled up on shore. As hubby unhitched, I did not say a thing about the fact that he had not parked the camper completely straight alongside the shop. As a preventative measure to him noticing, I even parked the ATV up between the camper and the shop sort of as a diversion from the overall look. Whew! It was much too hot to hook up and start over. He hasn't said a thing but I guarantee some cold winter day, he will say, "Why didn't you tell me I wasn't perfectly parallel to the shop when I unhooked?"

I arrived at home, washed the camper bedding, cleaned the fridge, watered flowers, picked tomatoes and did not for one second think about anything farm-related. After all, it was only the third of August and harvest was the last thing from my mind—until the 'call' came. "Yeah, do you want to bring supper out to the north field—we're combining peas." "Combining? I was not remotely ready. I hadn't even been to the grocery store to re-stock, let alone plan supper. Our first harvest supper in the field was less than stellar, I assure you.

I arrived in the field with my four little ham and cheese buns and two bottles of



water, rather rapidly thrown together I might add, only to get another call as I approached the combines. "Do you have enough for two more men and two little boys?" hubby asked. And so began harvest 2021 for me. Fortunately, everyone else was taken care of as far as food goes and I made sure I was at the grocery store bright and early the next morning.

On my next meal-run to the field, after some 45 years of farming, I heard the words I have never heard before straight from hubby's mouth. I had just travelled down a trail and across a quarter section to the very furthest point on the field to feed him. As I drove between the swaths, I said to myself, "backing around between these swaths is gonna be tight." Then hubby hops in and says (you are not going to believe this), "When you leave, just drive over the swath to get turned around." Say what?! I have to tell you, he has NEVER said that before. In fact, in our entire mar-

ried life, the most important farm rule has always been, "Don't drive over the swaths!" And I didn't, I might add!

There is a bit of an adjustment getting back into farm life after being at the lake for two or three weeks in July. Between family and grandchildren who spent some time with us, our little camper was pretty versatile though not necessarily very roomy. But the best was being able to walk 50' across the beach from our camper and hop into the boat. Morning after morning, the lake was like glass and hubby and I, grands or not, were out fishing every chance we had. That beach umbrella might look pretty hillbilly-ish tied to the windshield but on those hot days (which happen to be every day), we appreciated the shade.

At one point in time in July, we took all eight grands with us for a couple of days. It did not start off well. The threat of a severe storm was upon us on day one and we had to separate into two campers to accommodate us all. It was a 30-degree day without a breeze. Fortunately the A/C's were working fine. That is until they weren't. The storm that bypassed the lake that day and left a trail of destruction (wind and hail) did cause us to lose power—for 12 straight hours. Did I mention no breeze and eight children? There was not a thing we could do but sweat it out—all night long. It's all about the memory-making moments though, and I am pretty sure that that will be one of them. Of course, the fish we caught won't soon be forgotten either. Nor some fun times at the beach.

In the midst of all the busy-ness of the farm, not to mention the distressed crops that we were harvesting, I happened to read something about the plague of trucks by some journalist who feels that those of us who hit the highways in our

half-tons are showing off our trucks and our wealth. Well that really ruined my day as I succumbed to sharing with him (via email) that my truck does double and triple duty whether striking out across that less than smooth field to reach a combine with parts that I have just picked up in town or out of town as the case may be, with three grandchildren in car seats safely in the back. I welcomed him to fly out west for a visit to our farm, the caveat being of course that I would be picking him up in my half-ton and grabbing ag supplies before we headed out of the city.

Our community installed some new three- and four-way stop signs and the twins happened to be with their dad one day driving up to a new three-way stop where some cementing of a driveway was being done. The next day, they said to me, "Our dad doesn't even know the people who live at that house getting the new driveway, but he stopped to look anyhow. How weird." I of course imagined my son getting out at this house to inspect the new cement, talk to the owner (who he doesn't know) and perhaps check on the thickness of the cement. Okay, that's weird, I thought. And then the light bulb went on. "Are you sure he wasn't just stopping at the new three-way stop sign?" I asked. And those two sets of eyes and those near identical facial expressions assured me that I hit the nail on the head. "Never thought of that," one said. "Me, either," said the other.

As we are now into the start of our third week of harvest and knowing we have a ways to go yet, I am not sure whether to be happy we have gotten more done than usual by this time of year, or stressed about all the meals that need to get to the field yet. Nevertheless, we just keep on doing what we do—no thanks really to me. My guys just keep those combines rolling (well, when they aren't fighting repairs and flats and you know the drill) and I give them all due credit because it's hard work and long hours. And so to all our farmer readers and friends in the fields, kuddos to you all. Let's git 'er done!

## Manitoba supporting producers affected by drought with \$62 million investment in agrirecovery

The Manitoba government will invest \$62 million in programs under the AgriRecovery framework that will be designed to support livestock producers affected by this year's drought conditions, to ensure producers have options to retain and care for their animals while also supporting the longer-term sustainability of the livestock sector, Agriculture and Resource Development Minister Ralph Eichler announced today.

"This extremely dry weather has affected producers' ability to find suitable pastures and feed for their animals which means that, without additional investment, producers are in the very difficult position of having to consider reducing their herds or leaving the industry altogether," said Eichler. "There is no harder decision for a livestock producer. Our government is making this significant investment to ensure there are other options available, when they're needed most. This builds on our existing programs and will help maintain livestock herds, ensure good animal care, and support Manitoba livestock producers to stay in their industry over the longer term."

The minister noted programs are currently being developed and will include funding for feed assistance, feed transportation, cattle transportation and a herd rebuilding program.

"The drought condi-

tions have been extremely stressful and challenging for Manitoba's cattle producers, forcing them to make difficult short and long-term decisions about the future of their operations. This has not been easy for them or their families," said Tyler Fulton, president, Manitoba Beef Producers. "Today's announcement is very important as it recognizes both the immediate needs related to the feed situation, as well as looks ahead to a time when producers will consider rebuilding their herds. We appreciate the government's commitment to the future of our sector and look forward to seeing more program

details."

Continued on page B15

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# First-of-its-kind project imaging live plants for more nutrient-efficient crop breeding

A first-of-its-kind project at the Global Institute for Food Security (GIFS) at the University of Saskatchewan (USask) is using cutting-edge laser synchrotron technology to image live plants and allow for more efficient crop breeding.

The project, co-led by Dr. Brian Ham (PhD) of GIFS and Dr. Jean Claude Kieffer (PhD) at the Institut national de la recherche scientifique (INRS) in Quebec, has been awarded \$250,000 and lab time by the New Frontiers in Research Fund (NFRF) along with \$20,000—the equivalent of two weeks of lab time—from LaserNetUS, an entity that coordinates laser access in North America.

The resources will help the team—for the first time—use real-time imaging with a specially designed semi-portable source of synchrotron radiation, which provides a brilliant light source that can show materials at the molecular level, to analyze how a plant mobilizes and redistributes key minerals at the whole-plant level to survive under nutrient-limiting stress conditions. The goal of the project is to develop more efficient plants with better nutrient uptake and distribution.

Ham, Research Chair in Plant Molecular Signaling and Root-Soil-Microbial Interactions at GIFS and assistant professor in the USask College of Arts and Science, is joined on the team by GIFS Senior Research Fellow Dr. Emil Hallin (PhD), as well as GIFS researchers Dr. Jieyu Chen (PhD) and Dr. Wendy Lyzenga (PhD).

“At GIFS, we’re always looking for new ways to improve plants and that requires innovative ways to examine them,”



Olufunke Okochi photo

Dr. Brian Ham (PhD) of GIFS.

said GIFS CEO Dr. Steven Webb (PhD). “It’s a testament to the resources, platforms and technical expertise that we have here and in Saskatchewan’s agtech ecosystem that we’re able to help lead an innovative project like this.”

Currently, there is no method to quickly map and image nutri-

ent elements in an intact living agricultural plant in situ. Ham’s project seeks to change that.

“Examining samples of plants can show us moments in time, but examining live plants shows us the full picture of how plants use, move and store nutrients when facing external challenges,” said Ham. “If we can make

connections between physical activities and corresponding genetic traits, we can help develop more sustainable plants.”

While other imaging methods require plants to be deconstructed, the portable synchrotron removes that requirement, allowing researchers to examine

live plants to see how nutrients move when these plants face challenges. By determining how fast these nutrients move under stress and which elements travel to which areas, the project can help plant breeders design plants that distribute and store nutrients more efficiently.

The next-generation platform used in this project, known as the betatron beamline at the laser-wakefield accelerator facility in Varennes, Quebec, is based on plasma physics and an integrated ultrafast laser that produces synchrotron light in a compact package. It was developed within the Plant Phenotyping and Imaging Research Centre (P2IRC) at USask, a digital agricultural research centre funded by the Canada First Research Excellence Fund (CFREF) and managed by GIFS on behalf of the university. Developed by Kieffer in partnership with Hallin, it can be used inside a lab or greenhouse, and provides high magnification and high-contrast real-time imaging of intact live plants.

“The information will help breeding programs to develop varieties with more efficient nutrient acquisition and utilization that will reduce fertilizer input costs for farmers and increase environmental sustainability of agriculture,” said Hallin. “Our hope is to extend the research into other important crops such as wheat, sorghum and soybeans.”

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The World-Spectator is asking readers to submit their harvest photos as part of its annual Harvest Photo Contest. Shown here are some of the submissions so far. Readers have a chance to win \$100 and have their photos published in the paper.

Photos can be sent to [photos@world-spectator.com](mailto:photos@world-spectator.com)

Betty Reid photo

Above: Harvest Help

Nathan Barnard photo

Left: Taken at a farm near Wapella, Sask.



Meaghan Maga photo

Right: Lunch while spraying . . . another fun day on the farm!

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## Transferring farm machinery and equipment during transition? Here are two options to consider

Often when families discuss assets in farm transition, farmland and livestock are front and center in their discussions. For some farms, planning for equipment transfer can be a very important item to consider. Every farm family has different goals, ideas, business structures and plans for how the business should move forward or wind down.

It's important to clarify and discuss these ideas before reaching the actual asset transfer stage. Transferring equipment between generations should take future business plans along with financial and tax consequences into perspective.

### Transferring equipment

Farm equipment can be transferred by a sale from the senior to the junior generation: The buyer purchases equipment, and ownership transfers immediately. The junior generation has immediate access to use, sell, trade or use the machinery as collateral for securing a loan. The seller may incur recaptured depreciation, especially

if some assets have been fully depreciated. Reporting all the income and gain in one tax year can cause some of it to be taxed at a higher marginal rate than the seller usually pays. Although this occurs in limited situations if a capital gain is realized on depreciable property sold between non-arm's length parties, there are restrictions on how much the purchaser (the junior generation) can claim as a deduction through future capital cost allowance claims.

Farms can also make a gradual sale where specific pieces of equipment are transferred over a longer timeline. This can spread out potential recaptured depreciation, income and cash flow requirements for the purchase. With this method, assets would be specified and reported in the year of sale. Families should discuss equipment depreciation, new or upcoming purchases, and income allocation from the business. Occasionally families coincide a sale of equipment with an allocation of business income. As the junior generation increases their share of equipment,

they also increase their share of income from the family farm.

### Gifting equipment

Depending on their ability, some farms choose to gift equipment from the senior generation to junior generation. Qualified farmland and prescribed classes of depreciable property are eligible to be gifted. However, if an item has been previously expensed, it should be reported as a disposition at fair market value, including items such as tools. Before gifting, families should discuss fair market value, sources of income for the senior generation and expectations of the gift with both their family and professional advisors. Families should also consider documenting their intentions of the gift so it can be referenced in future estate discussions.

Equipment gifts can also be combined with a sale. The difference between the machinery's fair market value and the amount paid for is considered a gift. In some instances, family farm members

make agreements to trade labour for equipment use or future consideration of a farm gift. Families should consider regularly tracking and discussing these costs to ensure the expectations of both generations are met when it comes time to physically transfer the farm assets or allocate farm income.

### Build equipment transfer into your transition plan

If values of equipment to be transferred are large, farms can consider incorporating and utilizing the strategy mentioned in Farm Tax Planning Basics. Developing a formal transition plan as a family can help determine the goals, needs and options for both generations when transitioning the farm. As part of this plan, it is important to review the business, financial and tax implications of these transfers with a qualified professional advisor to guide you through the best methods for asset transfer.

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# USask PhD student seeks to better design agricultural drainage projects as farmers face more extreme precipitation

SHANNON BOKLASCHUK

As the world continues to grapple with extreme weather events linked to climate change, an award-winning University of Saskatchewan (USask) graduate student is focused on improving human understanding of agricultural drainage and climate change on streamflow in the Canadian Prairies.

"Future climate projections suggest that we're in for more extreme weather in the Prairies. That could mean more droughts and flooding in the future," said Holly Annand, a PhD candidate in the Department of Geography and Planning in USask's College of Arts and Science.

"We've also seen a great deal of wetland loss in the Prairies, often due to agricultural expansion or intensification, which is concerning because wetlands offer important ecosystem services like wildlife habitat, flood retention and improved downstream water quality."

"Future climate projections suggest that we're in for more extreme weather in the Prairies. That could mean more droughts and flooding in the future," said Holly Annand, a PhD candidate in the Department of Geography and Planning in USask's College of Arts and Science.

Annand is conducting her doctoral research under the supervision of Dr. John Pomeroy (PhD), a faculty member in the department and the director of the Centre for Hydrology. Annand's dissertation is titled "The Influence of Climate Change and Wetland Management on Prairie Hydrology."

"This study is important because it seeks to find a balance between wetland retention and agricultural productivity," she said.

As a professional engineer and a long-time Saskatchewan resident, Annand has a deep interest in water issues on the Prairies, particularly as they relate to the agricultural sector. She is originally from Melfort, Sask., a small city in the province's northeast area known for its soil-rich



Holly Annand is a PhD candidate in the Department of Geography and Planning in USask's College of Arts and Science.

farmland and nearby forests and lakes. "Prior to starting my PhD program, I was working with farmers in Saskatchewan on agricultural drainage projects. I saw firsthand the impact of both extreme precipitation and agriculture drainage on localized flooding and infrastructure damage," said Annand. "I wanted to gain the necessary skills to better design agriculture drainage projects in the face of more extreme precipitation events."

Now, as she works on her PhD dissertation, Annand is particularly interested in the Aspen Parkland ecoregion, where she said farmers face wet conditions more often. The ecoregion covers parts of the provinces of Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Alberta, and is known as a transitional zone between the boreal forest of the north and the southern grasslands. Through her doctoral work, she hopes to refine some

of the hydrological modelling tools used on the Prairies to better understand agricultural drainage and climate change on streamflow.

"But, more importantly, I'm hoping to uncover some new information for wetland policy development in Saskatchewan," she said. "I want to come up with some wetland mitigation policy options that balance the needs of agriculture production with wetland management and conservation."

A high-achieving student, Annand was recently honoured with the \$2,500 Dr. Jean Murray Memorial Scholarship from the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) Saskatoon Inc. and will be celebrated during an awards ceremony this fall.

She has also received a number of other awards and honours during her PhD

studies, including: a scholarship from the federal Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), valued at \$21,000 per year for two years; the Engineers Canada - TD Insurance Meloche Monnex Scholarship (\$7,500); an Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Saskatchewan (APEGS) member education grant (\$7,500); a Canadian Water Resources Association (CWRA) Memorial Scholarship (\$1,500); and an NSERC CREATE for Water Security Scholarship (\$2,000). The NSERC CREATE for Water Security is a USask-led initiative funded through the Collaborative Research and Training Experience (CREATE) program of NSERC. Launched in 2015 with a \$1.65-million NSERC grant, the program provides career-focused skills training to graduate students and post-doctoral fellows studying water security.

"I find it fascinating that scientists have developed the tools to predict possible future weather scenarios for the Prairies over the next century," said Annand. "I used that type of information in my hydrological model to examine how farmers or watershed management groups can best prepare for future extreme events."

In addition to being a graduate student, Annand is also a two-time USask alumna, previously earning a Bachelor of Science in Engineering degree in 2009 and a Master of Science degree in 2012. Both degrees were focused on agriculture and bioresources engineering.

For Annand, one of the best parts of studying at USask has been her involvement in the Global Water Futures (GWF) program. The pan-Canadian research program aims to deliver risk management solutions—informed by leading-edge water science and supported by innovative decision-making tools—to manage water futures in Canada and other cold regions where global warming is changing landscapes, ecosystems and the water environment.

*Continued on Page B15*

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## 2021 cattle and hog sectors outlook update

Continued from page B2

### Bottom line

Operations culling older cattle now will have a younger herd when moisture levels and temperatures improve, better positioning themselves to rebuild their herd. Assuming normal crop growing conditions, current profit projections indicate a return to profitability for the cow-calf sector in 2022.

Regardless of weather impacts in 2021, the red meat sectors may soon see diminished overall markets as China slows its purchases of red meat. Consumption of animal proteins has fallen with declining incomes throughout the rest of the world. In North America, that trend has not been seen, as households show continued pent-up demand for red meats in barbecue season and as the food service sector continues to improve. It will help in a year that has been anything but easy.

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# Fairmede 4-H Beef Club



## Thanks to the 4-H Steer Buyers



**Rory Greenbank**

A big thank you to MNP for buying my steer, Otis, and supporting the 4-H beef program. I plan to put the proceeds towards my education and figure skating.



**Cheyenne Jamieson**

Thank you to Pharmasave - Darcy Rambold for purchasing my steer Deluca. Your continued support of the 4-H Program is greatly appreciated! I will be donating \$100 from my steer sale proceeds to my brother's Love 4 Levi Account and using the rest for my education.



**Nate Greenbank**

Thank you E Bourassa for purchasing my 4-H steer this year. Your constant support in the 4-H program is very much appreciated. I plan on using the money to increase my own cow herd and put some away for my future education.



**Drew Leeds**

A huge Thank You to Twin Auto & Ag and Doug Leeds for purchasing my steer this year. I appreciate the support and set aside some of the money for my future education.



**Levi Jamieson**

I would like to say a huge Thank You to Whitewood Livestock for purchasing my steer Philly. Thanks for always supporting 4-H and for generously helping me with my goal of donating my Steer sale proceeds to SEICC and STARS!



**Cohen Neville**

Thanks to Twin Auto for purchasing my steer Bob and for supporting 4-H. I hope he was delicious. I will use the funds to purchase a Jersey cow. I had a great time at my first 4-H show and sale.

*Thank you very much!*

### FAIRMEDE 4H BEEF CLUB

Would like to thank our sponsors and everyone who helped make our year a success!

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- 4-H Leaders
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# Fairmede 4-H Beef Club 86th Achievement Day results

Fairmede 4-H Beef Club held its 86th Achievement Day on Monday, June 28 at Greenbank Acres Farm. Judge for the day was Kristine Sauter from Kelso, Sask. She was also our Record Book Judge. Our club had 11 members this year: Rory, Nate and Luke Greenbank; Hayden Jamieson; Cheyenne and Levi Jamieson; Drew Leeds; Cohen Neville; Cutter and Callie Reid; and Brooklyn Smith. Achievement Day results are as follows:

**PEE WEE CLASS**  
For future 4-H members who are not old enough to be a Clover Bud—Keith Turpie  
1. Luke Greenbank  
1. Hayden Jamieson

**HEIFER CLASS**  
Yearling Heifer—Kleven and Judy McDougall  
1. Levi Jamieson  
2. Rory Greenbank  
3. Brooklyn Smith

Heifer shown by First Time Member—Ronald Clements Memorial  
1. Brooklyn Smith

**MARKET STEER**  
Light Market Steer—McDougall Auctions  
1. Levi Jamieson  
2. Nate Greenbank  
3. Cohen Neville

Heavy Market Steer—Fairmede 4-H Beef Club  
1. Cheyenne Jamieson  
2. Nate Greenbank  
3. Drew Leeds

Market Steer Shown by a New Member—Ronald Clements Memorial  
1. Hayden Jamieson  
1. Cohen Neville

Simmental Sired Market Steer—Gordon and Linda Fisk  
1. Rory Greenbank

2. Levi Jamieson  
3. Nate Greenbank

**CHAMPIONSHIP CLASSES**  
Grand Champion Heifer—Floating Trophy—Fairmede 4-H Beef Club  
• Heartland Livestock, Virden—Keeper Plaque  
• David and Karol Garvey and Family  
• Fairmede 4-H Beef Club—Banner  
1. Levi Jamieson

Reserve Champion Heifer—Fairmede 4-H Beef Club  
• Mannle Farms—Prize  
• Greenbank Acres Inc.  
• Fairmede 4-H Beef Club—Banner  
1. Rory Greenbank

Supreme Champion Female (Winners of Class 12, 14)  
• Bridgeway Livestock—Floating Trophy  
• Fairmede 4-H Beef Club—Banner  
1. Levi Jamieson

Champion Market Steer—Floating Trophy  
• Heartland Livestock, Virden—Keeper Plaque  
• CBT Angus  
• Fairmede 4-H Beef Club—Banner  
1. Cheyenne Jamieson

Reserve Champion Market Steer—Fairmede 4-H Beef Club  
• Diamond R Stock Farm (Brad and Jayne Rutten)  
• Mannle Farms—Prize  
• Fairmede 4-H Beef Club—Banner  
1. Rory Greenbank

**SHOWMANSHIP CLASS**  
Pee Wee Showmanship and Grooming—C4 Leather Works (Katelyn Garvey)  
1. Luke Greenbank  
1. Hayden Jamieson

Junior Showmanship—Brian McTavish Memorial  
1. Nate Greenbank  
2. Cohen Neville

Intermediate Showmanship—Ed and Allan de Nevers Memorial

1. Rory Greenbank  
2. Levi Jamieson  
3. Drew Leeds  
4. Brooklyn Smith

Senior Showmanship—Ed and Allan de Nevers Memorial  
1. Cheyenne Jamieson

**GROOMING CLASS**  
Junior Grooming—Allan and Merla Hambleton Memorial  
1. Rory Greenbank  
2. Levi Jamieson  
3. Drew Leeds  
4. Brooklyn Smith

Intermediate Grooming—Wilson and Rhonda Hall Memorial  
1. Rory Greenbank  
2. Levi Jamieson  
3. Drew Leeds  
4. Brooklyn Smith

Senior Grooming—Rhonda Hall—McPhail Travel Special  
1. Cheyenne Jamieson

Best Project Exhibited by a New Member—Dr. Henry McCarthy—Trophy  
1. Brooklyn Smith

Best Pair by Same Member—Ross Clements Memorial  
1. Rory Greenbank  
2. Rory Greenbank

Highest Average Gain Award (Market Steers are weighed in December and again prior to Achievement Day) FLR (Darren and Darlene Fisk and Family)  
1. Levi Jamieson

**JUDGING CLASS**  
Junior Judging—Robert McDougall Memorial  
1. Cohen Neville  
2. Nate Greenbank

Intermediate Judging—Corey and Tammy Flaman  
1. Rory Greenbank  
2. Drew Leeds  
3. Levi Jamieson  
4. Brooklyn Smith

Senior Judging—Westwood Land and Cattle (Kevin and Penny Woods)  
1. Cheyenne Jamieson

**RECORD BOOKS**  
Junior Record Book—Clifford and Beth Miller  
1. Nate Greenbank  
2. Cohen Neville

Intermediate Record Book—Jean Morrow  
1. Levi Jamieson  
2. Rory Greenbank  
3. Drew Leeds  
4. Brooklyn Smith

Senior Record Book—Stuart and Edith Doane Memorial  
1. Cheyenne Jamieson

**QUESTIONNAIRES**  
Junior Questionnaire—Darlene and Gordon Doane  
1. Nate Greenbank  
1. Cohen Neville

Intermediate Questionnaire—John Houston Memorial  
1. Rory Greenbank  
1. Levi Jamieson  
1. Brooklyn Smith  
2. Drew Leeds

Senior Questionnaire—Brian McTavish Memorial  
1. Cheyenne Jamieson

**PUBLIC SPEAKING**  
Pee Wee Public Speaking  
1. Luke Greenbank  
1. Hayden Jamieson

Junior Public Speaking—Lawrence and Corrine Crawford  
1. Nate Greenbank  
2. Cohen Neville  
2. Callie Reid

Intermediate Public Speaking—Darlene and Darren Fisk  
1. Drew Leeds  
2. Levi Jamieson  
3. Rory Greenbank  
4. Brooklyn Smith

Senior Public Speaking—Hebert Land and Cattle Co.  
1. Cheyenne Jamieson  
2. Cutter Reid

First place in each age group will have their name engraved on Angus Turpie Memorial Trophy as well as receive a prize donated by Keith Yurpie and Diane and Darcy Jamieson and family.

**CLARK LEWIS MEMORIAL SPECIAL—FAIRMEDE 4-H BEEF CLUB**  
This prize is awarded to someone who has contributed to the club but who is not a club member. The club will nominate and vote on who will receive this special honour. David and Karol Garvey

**FAIRMEDE 4-H BEEF PARTICIPATION AWARDS**  
Attendance: Club Meetings—10 points  
Functions: Judging or Grooming Demonstrations, Weigh Days, Fundraisers etc.—5

Club Level Public Speaking: 25 (first), 20 (second), 15 (third) and 10 points for remaining placings in each category  
Achievement Day Activities: 25 (first), 20 (second), 15 (third) and 10 points each for remaining placings in each category

• Showmanship  
• Record Books  
• Judging  
• Grooming  
• Questionnaires

High Overall Points—T & M Davidson  
• Nate Greenbank—170 points  
• Cheyenne Jamieson—170 points

Second Highest Overall Points—Hebert Livestock Ventures  
• Rory Greenbank—165 Points  
• Cohen Neville—165 Points

Fairmede Agricultural Society High Point Award  
1. Nate Greenbank  
1. Cheyenne Jamieson  
2. Rory Greenbank  
2. Cohen Neville  
3. Levi Jamieson



David and Karol Garvey were the recipients of the Clarke Lewis Memorial Award. Above is Rory Greenbank presenting the award to David Garvey.



Pee Wee Hayden Jamieson and Michelangelo getting some pointers from Judge Kristine Sauter



Nate, Luke and Rory Greenbank; Brooklyn Smith; Cohen Neville; Drew Leeds; Levi, Cheyenne and Hayden Jamieson



Grand Champion Heifer - Levi Jamieson



Supreme Champion Female - Levi Jamieson



Reserve Grand Champion Heifer - Rory Greenbank



Grand Champion Steer - Cheyenne Jamieson



Reserve Grand Champion Steer - Rory Greenbank



Best Pair by a Member - Levi Jamieson



Best Project by New Member - Brooklyn Smith



Pee Wee Member - Luke Greenbank & D.O.G



Above: Drew Leeds & Market Steer Chad  
Left: Cohen Neville and Market Steer Bob  
Below: Nate Greenbank and Market Steer Milo





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# USask PhD student seeks to better design agricultural drainage projects



*"Future climate projections suggest that we're in for more extreme weather in the Prairies. That could mean more droughts and flooding in the future," said Holly Annand, a PhD candidate in the Department of Geography and Planning in USask's College of Arts and Science.*

"John brings a unique perspective to this work because he's been at the forefront of climate change and hydrology research in cold regions for many years. We work well together because he pushes me to be creative, but he's also invested in the scientific accuracy of the work we do at the Centre for Hydrology," she said.

As Annand works toward the end of her PhD, she is weighing her options for the future. She may return to engineering consulting work, or she may continue her research journey. No matter what she chooses, one thing is clear: she will be working with water and the agricultural sector.

"I really enjoy working at the intersection of agriculture and hydrology and I'm confident there will be more opportunities to do so in the future," she said.

she said. "I developed some great friendships and met hundreds of outstanding people through both of those experiences, and I'm thrilled to see both initiatives continue to succeed."

Annand also values working with her supervisor, Dr. John Pomeroy, a world-recognized scholar who serves as the GWF director and is the Canada Research Chair in Water Resources and Climate Change.

Continued from page 9

"I was fortunate to lead the inaugural GWF Young Professionals group and also help launch the Women and Water Lecture Series with Dr. Corinne Schuster-Wallace,"

## Manitoba supporting producers affected by drought with \$62 million investment in agrirecovery

Continued from page B5

Producers are struggling to maximize use of existing pasture and produce winter feed for their animals. Since dry conditions are affecting much of the Prairies, there are limited options to source feed. This is also resulting in very high feed prices. Manitoba is already seeing the effects of these factors, with Manitoba auction markets reporting large volume sales of all classes of cattle. Last week, total sales through auction markets were up 17 per cent as compared to last year. This is driving cattle prices downwards and the value of breeding cows has

dropped by more than 50 per cent.

Keystone Agricultural Producers welcomes this announcement and will continue to work with the provincial government, Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation and Manitoba's farm organizations to ensure that programs address the challenges facing producers across our province," said Bill Campbell, president, Keystone Agricultural Producers.

Last month, the Manitoba government asked the federal government to conduct an AgriRecovery assessment to determine if drought-related expenses

would be covered under the program. Earlier this month, the Government of Canada announced it is ready to invest \$100 million in its share of AgriRecovery programs due to drought and wildfires in Manitoba, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, and is ready to seek further funding as needed. Programs will be developed to meet the specific needs of each jurisdiction.

The minister noted the livestock industry is important to Manitoba's agriculture sector and the provincial economy. Livestock receipts in 2020 totalled \$2.36 billion, representing about one-third of the

province's \$7.02 billion in total farm cash receipts.

This funding provided through AgriRecovery will help to sustain the beef herd in the province and ensure it can continue to be a significant component of the Livestock Growth Strategy and Manitoba's Protein Advantage Strategy in the years ahead.

Additional details will be shared with Manitoba producers as programs are developed and become available. For more information about managing dry conditions and other resources for producers, visit <https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/dry.html>.

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Whitewood/Chacachas 21st Annual CCA

# RODEO

August 20 & 21, 2021

The 21st annual Whitewood/Chacachas Rodeo was held on August 20-21. The weekend featured a CCA rodeo, mutton bustin', pancake breakfast, farmers market, wild pony races, kids activities, and a steak supper.

Shown here is some of the rodeo action over the weekend.

Jennalee Beutler photos



# Recent government commitments to agriculture reflected in first quarter update

Saskatchewan's deficit is up \$126.5 million due to significant agricultural support of over \$700 million to address widespread drought conditions.

Higher expenses are offset somewhat by increased revenue from higher than expected oil and potash prices and from higher federal transfers.

The result is a forecast 2021-22 deficit of \$2.74 billion at first quarter.

"Recent commitments to help our farmers through the emerging drought, has affected the province's fiscal situation," Deputy Premier and Finance Minister Donna Harpauer said. "However, higher oil and potash prices and increased federal transfers have helped to combat the increase in the projected deficit."

Revenue is forecast to increase from budget by about \$757 million (5.2 per cent). About \$360 million of this revenue increase is from non-renewable resources—primarily due to higher oil and potash prices.

Federal transfers are also up by about \$401 million from budget, including almost \$132 million for early learning and child care, about \$124 million for Saskatchewan's share of the Helping Our Health Systems Recover program and about \$63 million in one-time top-up funding for the Canada Community-Building Fund.

Total expense is up

about \$884 million (5.2 per cent) from budget. Nearly \$707 million of that forecast increase is due to pressures in the agriculture sector and includes higher crop insurance expense of about \$588 million (bringing the total crop insurance indemnity forecast to \$1.1 billion this year), as well as \$119 million to help producers maintain breeding stock and address the high costs they face due to drought conditions.

According to private-sector forecasters, Saskatchewan's real GDP is now expected to grow by 5.6 per cent in 2021 and by 3.8 per cent in 2022.

"A number of our other key economic indicators

have also shown improvement since budget, and Saskatchewan continues to have the second-highest overall credit rating among Canadian provinces," Harpauer said. "We are pleased that the major rating agencies continue to have confidence in our government's fiscal and budgetary approach as we respond to the significant challenges posed by drought and by the global Covid-19 pandemic."

Saskatchewan also has the lowest net debt to GDP among the provinces, at March 31, 2021.

**Projected Net Debt as a % of GDP**  
(as at March 31, 2021)



Source: Jurisdictions most recent data as of March 25, 2021  
GDP: Conference Board of Canada

Left: Employment in the first seven months of 2021 increased by 15,029 or 2.8 per cent compared to the first seven months of 2020, and Saskatchewan's unemployment rate dropped from an average of 9.4 per cent to 7.3 per cent, fourth lowest among the provinces.

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# 30 per cent of crop combined in Southeast

Cool, rainy weather across much of Southeast Saskatchewan hindered harvest progress over the past week. Thirty per cent of the crop is now combined, up from 22 per cent the previous week and well ahead of the five-year average of 19 per cent. An additional 21 per cent of the crop is swathed or ready to straight-cut, with the five-year average (2016-2020) being 20 per cent.

Ninety-three per cent of the winter wheat, 88 per cent of the field peas, 72 per cent of the lentils, 40 per cent of the barley, 31 per cent of the spring wheat, 37 per cent of the durum and seven per cent of the canola is now combined. An additional 33 per cent of the canola has been swathed or is ready to straight-cut.

Much of the southeast region received good amounts of rain this week with most of the region receiving about an inch of rain. The Grenfell area received the highest amount of rain with 97 mm, the Odessa area received 78 mm, the Wilcox area 70 mm, the Redvers, Tantallon and Weyburn areas 65 mm and the Limerick area 30 mm. Even though the rain has delayed harvest it is a welcomed sight to producers.

Several days of cool rainy weather has allowed for the regions topsoil moisture rating to rise significantly. Cropland topsoil moisture is rated as five per cent surplus, 51 per cent adequate, 35 per cent short and nine per cent very short. Hay and pasture land is rated as 32 per cent adequate, 46 per cent short and 22 per cent very short.

Pasture conditions in the region are rated as three per cent good, 33 per cent fair, 36 per cent poor and 28 per cent very poor.

The majority of crop damage last week was due to season-long drought conditions, strong wind and hail, as well as insects such as grasshoppers and flea beetles. The concerns around fire risk in the region due to the hot, dry conditions has been alleviated for the time being due to recent rainfall.

Producers are waiting for the crop to dry enough to allow for harvesting activities to resume. They are also assessing the damage

**Harvest progress in Saskatchewan**

**29% COMPLETE**

Five year average is 12%

For the week of August 17-23, 2021  
saskatchewan.ca/crop-report

Saskatchewan

from the large storm systems and those who got hail might have some fields written off.

Across the province, harvest progressed to 29 per cent complete, up from 20 per cent the previous week and well over the five-year average of 12 per cent. An additional 21 per cent of the crop is now swathed or ready to straight-cut, ahead of the five-year average of 16 per cent.

Ninety-three per cent of winter wheat, 78 per cent of fall rye, 76 per cent of lentils, 81 per cent of field peas, 42 per cent of barley, 31 per cent of durum, 23 per cent of oats, 25 per cent of spring wheat and six per cent of canola has been combined. An additional 30 per cent of canola has been swathed or is ready to straight-cut.

Harvest progress is most advanced in the southern regions. Producers in the southwest region have 43 per cent combined, the southeast region 30 per cent, the west-central 27 per cent, the east-central 22 per cent, the northeast 25 per cent and the northwest 15 per cent.

Several large weather systems moving through the province last week, resulting in significant amounts of precipitation along

with hail in some areas. The Grenfell area received the most rainfall with 97 mm, the Moose Jaw area 77 mm, the Vanguard area 60 mm, the Jedburgh area 55 mm, the Harris area 50 mm and the Nether Hill area 46 mm. The rain will result in downgrading of crops still in the field; however, it will benefit pastures and hopefully allow them to regrow for next year.

The cool weather and large amounts of rainfall across much of the province has helped with the hot and dry conditions, however, much more rain is needed to break out of the current drought. Cropland topsoil moisture is rated as one per cent surplus, 32 per cent adequate, 37 per cent short and 30 per cent very short. Hay and pasture land topsoil moisture is rated as 23 per cent adequate, 34 per cent short and 42 per cent very short. Provincially, pasture conditions are rated as one per cent good, 15 per cent fair, 46 per cent poor and 38 per cent very poor.

The majority of crop damage last week was due to wind, heavy rainfall and hail. Even with the rainfall, crop and pasture land is under extreme stress from the

drought. Around the Hodgeville area, a tornado touched down and resulted in considerable damage to one farm yard, damaging equipment, buildings and grain bins.

Producers are busy getting equipment and bins ready for harvest and waiting for crops to dry enough to combine.

In response to the drought, the province announced an AgriRecovery response to provide a per head payment to help maintain female breeding livestock. Details and information on how to apply are being finalized and will be shared as soon as possible. Note that producers don't have to be enrolled in any existing programs to qualify for funding. As details are finalized, producers can check [www.scic.ca](http://www.scic.ca) for updates, or contact their local Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC) office or call toll-free at 1-888-935-0000.

Producers are also reminded that in response to the feed shortage this year, SCIC doubled the Low Yield Appraisal threshold values for customers who salvage their cereal or pulse crops as feed, without negatively impacting future individual coverage. Customers are asked to contact their local SCIC office before they graze, bale or silage any damaged crops to discuss their options.

Additionally, the Government of Saskatchewan made changes to temporarily increase the maximum funding a livestock producer can receive from the Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program (FR-WIP) for dugouts, wells and pipelines for agricultural use. Producers can contact the Ministry of Agriculture's Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377 for information.

The federal and provincial governments have also increased the 2021 AgriStability interim benefit payment percentage from 50 per cent to 75 per cent for Saskatchewan producers. The interim benefit provides the opportunity for producers enrolled in AgriStability to access a portion of their benefit early, to help support losses and cover costs.

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