

Plain & Valley

August 2025 • Page 25

Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba

GIFS at USask study shows Prairie farmers producing lowest carbon intensity barley and oats

A new comparative carbon footprint study of barley and oats production shows that Saskatchewan and Western Canadian farmers are producing these crops with the lowest carbon intensity relative to other jurisdictions.

The study, commissioned by the Global Institute for Food Security (GIFS) at the University of Saskatchewan (USask), compared barley and oats produced in Saskatchewan, Western Canada, Canada and international competitors—Australia and France for barley, and Australia, Finland, Poland and Sweden for oats.

“The results from our oat and barley report further reinforce the productive sustainability of Western Canada’s cropping system,” said GIFS Chief Executive Officer Dr. Steven R. Webb (PhD). “These findings are consistent with previous studies on non-durum wheat, durum wheat, canola, lentils, and field peas we announced last year. It’s a clear story of innovation—demonstrating that Canada’s advanced cropping systems continue to drive sustainable productivity.”

Comparable to earlier studies, the lower carbon intensity numbers for barley and oat production in Western Canada are driven by the widespread adoption of various innovations and farming practices employed by producers, including:

- No-and minimal till farming;
- The adoption of herbicide-tolerant canola;
- A robust crop rotation system;
- The production of nitrogen-fixing pulse crops;
- The growing adoption of innovations on the rise, such as the variable-rate application of fertilizer.

“We are pleased to see that the latest carbon footprint study from GIFS confirms that Saskatchewan producers are global leaders in sustainable production,” said Saskatchewan’s Minister of Agriculture Daryl Harrison. “This research from GIFS will help ensure that our producers remain competitive on the world stage.”

Continued on Page 27



Ashley Bocek took this aerial photo of crops near Moosomin.

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**HYBRID
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GIFS at USask study shows Prairie farmers producing lowest carbon intensity barley and oats

Continued from Page 25

This is evidence that matters to global markets that are looking for products that are sustainably produced. We're grateful to our oat and barley producers for the work they do to meet the needs of markets around the world that rely on Saskatchewan for safe, and high-quality food."

The carbon life cycle analysis of barley and oats followed established protocol supported by global standards, including ISO 14044 and ISO 14067, and leveraged the expertise of GIFS partners at PRISM Consulting who conducted these studies. The study compiled and reviewed data on the carbon dioxide equivalent emissions for the various activities that go into crop production including transportation of field inputs, seed, fertilizer and manure inputs, emissions associated with fertilizer and pesticide manufacturing, energy emissions (from irrigation, field activities, and post-harvest work) and nitrous oxide and carbon dioxide emissions from the application of nitrogen fertilizer, lime and urea.

The study also examined the potential of agricultural landscapes to support soil-based carbon sequestration.

"Agriculture is all about carbon and these studies show that Canadian farmers can produce more good carbon with less waste, while helping us understand the impact of the innovative, practices farmers deploy on the production system," said Webb. "This highlights the importance of approaching these studies from a systems perspective, considering the food produced, the emissions or waste generated, and the ability of the system to sequester carbon in the soil."

The results show that whether including or excluding soil carbon sequestration, the carbon footprint to produce barley and oats is lowest in Saskatchewan and Western Canada, with the difference being more distinct when soil carbon is included.

"As the world's population continues to increase, so does the need to create sustainable methods to feed this growing population," said USask Vice-President of Research Dr. Baljit Singh (PhD). "The results of this study emphasize the true impact that the University of Saskatchewan and the Global Institute for Food Security have on Canada's agricultural landscape. We have been



A new comparative carbon footprint study of barley and oats production from GIFS at USask shows that Western Canadian farmers have lowest carbon intensity.

leaders when it comes to researching and exploring innovative and sustainable farming practices and we are committed to continuing this excellent work for many years to come."

The study demonstrates the ability to drive productive sustainability through the large-scale deployment of innovations by producers.

"We undertook these life cycle analyses to understand how crop production compares across regions, the im-

pack of innovation on production, and to support the development of a regulatory framework that is evidence-based, follows the data and considers the whole system through a productivity lens that measures grain yields, emissions and sequestration," said Webb. "There is always room for improvement across all production systems, and GIFS emphasizes that one size does not fit all, so the regenerative practices should be scaled to regions and account for regional differences."



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Show & shine held at Oak Lake Village golf course

BY ED JAMES

On June 14 at the Oak Lake Village Golf Course, there were more vintage vehicles than golfers. The event was a show and shine event and golf tournament in support of Dirty Words Customz auto centre in Oak Lake.

The centre has reopened, making some changes in its specialized vehicle work and creations.

That day there were over 60 vehicles that included new, vintage antique cars, trucks and motorcycles. The afternoon event attracted all ages, and on site as well were food vendors, T-shirt sales, cotton candy and a small bouncy castle for the children, plus two wandering dinosaurs!

All during the event, people were checking out the mechanics and histories of the different and colorful machines.

Later in the afternoon there was a rock and roll band



Left to right: A 1960 British Triumph Sports car and a beautifully restored 1938 Ford half ton truck.



This is a 1966 Chrysler high end convertible which was over five and a half meters long!



This is a late '40s panel delivery van. Some were used for funeral home pick-up vehicles.



This shows how big and long the windows were on a '60s era hard top convertible.



One of the bands that played at the Oak Lake Village Golf course called Brand New Renaissance.

set up by the clubhouse blasting away. The band is called The Brand New Renaissance with members from Brandon and Oak Lake. However they were not the only music on site that afternoon. There was a WWII vintage army jeep that was a tribute to the WWII Canadian Army Show whose biggest performers were the late and great Wayne and Shuster. The jeep had a vintage WWII sound system, that played the 78 RPM records from the war years by such artist as Glen Miller, Vera Lynn and others.

Dwayne Wiltshire, who along with his wife Cindy own Dirty Words Customz said, "I was pleased with the turnout not only of the public but of the many vehicles that were on display that included local machines. The variety of vehicles offered something for everyone and the weather was perfect for the outdoor event. Accompanied with the music, food trucks, vehicles and bounce castle it was an enjoyable event for all ages."



Children playing in the bounce castle at the Oak Lake Show and Shine.

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New crop outlook has improved since the start of the year

BY JUSTIN SHEPHERD
FCC SENIOR ECONOMIST

Over the past six months, grain and oilseed producers have experienced a period marked by significant news about global supply chains and U.S. trade relationships but generally stronger-than-expected prices. Weather conditions have, as usual, been unpredictable across the country: while some producers have faced yet another year of drought, many others are anticipating favourable crop yields. Since last January's outlook, crop margins have improved, though for most producers they remain close to breakeven levels.

For western producers growing canola, strong Canadian exports and positive news from U.S. government biofuel incentives have improved expectations for current and future demand, supporting prices. As the 2024/25 crop year concludes, market dynamics beyond tariffs and geopolitical factors have emerged as more significant influences on pricing of other crops. Overall, cash prices have strengthened since January; although they remain well below the peaks observed

in 2022, current levels continue to exceed long-term historical ranges.

In its July 2025 WASDE report, the USDA lowered its forecast for both 2025/26 global production and ending stocks of wheat, partially based on lower crop expectations for Canada. Global ending stocks for wheat excluding China, continue to be tight and are at a nearly 20-year low. However, U.S. stocks remain well supplied which is keeping a lid on U.S. futures prices.

Global soybean markets remain well supplied, but a big shift is occurring within the U.S. due to government policies on biofuels as well trade policy with China, the world's largest importer of soybeans. The biofuel policy is driving higher soybean crush in the U.S. as they need to produce more soybean oil, with the expectation that 2025/26 industrial use exceeds food consumption for the first time ever.

Corn production is forecast to jump this year thanks in part to a large crop in Brazil, but higher consumption is expected to lead to ending stocks

roughly unchanged year over year.

Current Prairie weather conditions resemble those recorded in early July of the previous year, though there are notable differences in this year's July weather. The Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) is used to assess vegetation density via satellite imagery in the Prairies, with higher values indicating increased vegetation density or stronger growth trends. The curve's shape provides additional insight; after crop emergence, an appropriate combination of heat and rainfall is required for optimal flowering duration, which is associated with higher yields. Last year at this point, NDVI data suggested high crop potential, but reduced summer rainfall limited overall yields.

Currently, average NDVI readings in the three prairie provinces are at average levels, suggesting yield potential that may fall within or slightly above the usual range. Satellite data provide estimates for specific moments in time. Rainfall in July has been greater than the previous year, and continued precipita-

tion could improve crop outcomes compared to last year. These readings represent aggregate data, but some regions within the Prairies continue to experience drought conditions, which is affecting both hay and grain crops. Feed quality and availability in these areas may present challenges during the upcoming winter.

Ontario and Quebec have encountered distinct challenges to date, primarily due to excessive moisture during planting that resulted in significant delays. This is evident when reviewing their NDVI trends compared to historical data as early season readings were considerably lower than normal. However, subsequent periods of heat and rainfall across most regions have supported corn and soybeans in progressing toward typical development stages. With the winter wheat crop displaying favourable conditions at harvest, weather over the next month will be critical in guiding the late-planted crops through pollination. Nevertheless, average to above-average yields remain attainable.

The revenue outlook for the 2025/26 crop rotations—including canola/wheat in the west and corn/soybeans in the east—has improved compared to FCC's January forecast. This improvement is primarily attributed to slightly stronger pricing, as cost structures have remained relatively stable and yield projections are average across the major provinces. While anticipated margins are higher than those recorded last year, they continue to fall below the five-year average. For many producers, especially when considering land costs, projected returns are expected to be at or near breakeven. It should be noted that actual results may improve should yields—or marketing opportunities—exceed our model's baseline assumptions.

The current crop year shows a more positive outlook than last year. Despite various challenges, such as differing weather conditions across regions, overall prospects have improved. Cash prices have increased since January, influenced by global supply projections and market factors, which

has impacted margins favourably for grain and oilseed producers. The Prairie regions have experienced better rainfall and cooler temperatures, leading to higher vegetation density readings and the potential for average or above-average yields. In Ontario and Quebec, after initial planting delays, the possibility of strong yields remains if favourable weather persists.

FCC leads AI farming innovation with new partnership with RDAR

Farmers and food producers will soon have access to faster, smarter support thanks to Root—a free generative AI tool built by Farm Credit Canada (FCC). Root is designed to close critical information gaps and give producers fast, reliable support anytime, anywhere, helping them work more productively and make better decisions on the farm. FCC is expanding the tool's capabilities through a new partnership with Results Driven Agriculture Research (RDAR), strengthening its capacity to serve Canada's ag and food industry.

Root fills the growing gap in Canada's extension services by delivering accessible, expert-backed guidance to producers without requiring complex data inputs. It translates decades of research, field experience and proven practices into practical, timely advice producers can use immediately. By simplifying decision-making and increasing confidence on the farm, Root helps accelerate productivity, reduce trial-and-error and empower Canadian producers to adopt better practices with less risk, right from their phones.

Now, through a new memorandum of understanding, RDAR will work with FCC to strengthen the tool's capabilities. The partnership will connect Root to relevant data sources and support testing efforts to ensure it contin-

ues to meet the evolving needs of Canadian producers.

"Root is more than a technology solution, it's part of a broader effort to bring back something Canadian agriculture has lost: accessible, trusted and timely insight," says Justine Hendricks, FCC president and CEO. "With the decline of local advisory networks [extension services], too many farmers and ranchers have had to rely on fragmented information or go at it alone. By partnering with RDAR, we're helping producers access the kind of expertise that once came from decades of community-based knowledge sharing and we're doing it in real time, at the pace of modern farming with trusted advisors."

RDAR invests in results-driven, producer-led research to improve productivity in Canada's agriculture sector. With over 500 projects in its portfolio, the organization brings deep knowledge of the issues producers face and a shared commitment to innovation.

"We are especially keen on incorporating RDAR materials into Root, FCC's AI / Large Language Model Pilot and making our materials accessible to producers and ranchers," said Dr. Mark Redmond, CEO of RDAR. "We are pleased to formalize our partnership with FCC; in the past, we have worked on initiatives concurrently, but now we will collaborate more

closely. This alliance aims to foster innovative solutions for the agricultural sector," he added.

Root is built on a privacy-first principle, ensuring no personal user information is required to use the assistance. This protects producer confidentiality and builds trust as they explore the tool. Since its launch, Root has supported more than 2,900 conversations, with 91% of users reporting helpful results. It has analyzed nearly 400 images submitted by producers, helping identify parts and troubleshoot equipment issues. Producers are already using Root to get real-time support on farm management, all through a simple, mobile-friendly interface.

Launched earlier this year, Root is available in English and French and includes voice-to-text and image recognition, making it easy to use from anywhere, even in the field.

As demand grows for smarter, more accessible ag support tools, future versions of Root could offer additional functions to support producers, as well as agrifood and agribusiness operators, in making decisions about operations. The long-term goal is to give FCC customers and the Canadian ag and food industry personalized insights at their fingertips. There's no sign-up or registration required. Farmers and producers can start using Root right away. To use the tool, visit: Root, your virtual farm assistant.

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Crop insurance extends for AgriStability producers

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

In a year plagued with drought conditions and trade instability, both federal and provincial levels of government announced a boost to the AgriStability program last week.

“It’s nice to be able to announce those today,” said provincial Agriculture Minister, Daryl Harrison on July 21. “I think producers are looking forward to it, producer groups are looking forward to it. It’s nice to see it come to fruition.”

AgriStability helps farming operations that face a large margin decline caused by production loss, increased costs, or market conditions. Personalized for every producer who enrolls, coverage uses historical information based on income tax and supplementary information. Delivered through the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation, it’s one of the business risk management programs in the federal Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership. For this year only, participants in the AgriStability program will see an increase in the compensation rate from 80 to 90 per cent and the maximum cap is doubling to \$6 million per operation.

Some parts of Saskatchewan are experiencing the “worst drought in a decade,” with 44 per cent of the province listed as under drought conditions and 38 per cent classified as abnormally dry. The severity in some places is reminiscent of the Dirty Thirties—leading to the RMs of Enterprise, Maple Creek, Fox Valley, Waverley, Big Stick, and Wood River declaring a local state of emergency.

“Now is the time for unity, and we are working together to deliver for producers right across the country to make sure our programs work for them,” Heath MacDonald, federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food said. “That is why, at our meeting last week, we agreed to make changes to AgriStability so that producers facing trade uncertainty and dry condi-



Federal Agriculture Minister
Heath MacDonald

tions have more protection.”

As for future changes, AgriStability will see adjustments to the feed inventory pricing for livestock, starting in 2026. Some allowable expenses are also under consideration for the 2026 program year.

“The Saskatchewan Cattle Association has long advocated for changes to the eligible feed expenses and changes to the feed inventory pricing for AgriStability,” SCA Chair Chad Ross said. “We applauded the changes announced today, including moving forward with the permanent change to the feed inventory pricing for the 2026 program year. This should make the program more responsive for livestock producers. We will continue to advocate for the allowable feed expenses to become permanent as well.”



Saskatchewan Agriculture
Minister Daryl Harrison.

From the years 2018 to 2023, the AgriStability program paid out more than \$645 million in benefits, and payments are trending higher for the 2024 program year. The deadline for producers to enrol in the 2025 AgriStability is fast approaching, even though it has been extended to July 31 (from April 30).

Chinese tariffs continue to worry canola producers

During the virtual meeting between MacDonald and provincial and territorial ag ministers, the Chinese canola tariff was another hot topic. Put in place back in March, China imposed a 100 per cent tariff on Canadian canola oil and meal, which was in response to Canada’s tariff on Chinese electric vehicles, steel, and alu-

minum.

“Our trade is a moving target,” Harrison told the World-Spectator. “My biggest question from producers is China, and the canola oil and canola meal specifically—peas as well. They’re worried about the trade with China, because China’s tariffs are counter tariffs in response to our federal government’s 100 per cent EV tariffs.”

Harrison says there appears to be no movement with regards to the Chinese canola tariff.

“I brought it up at the FPT call, but also directly to Minister McDonald,” Harrison explained. “He said there are talks going on, that they are engaged. I said, ‘that’s the first question that’s most often asked,’ and the fact there’s been little or no mention to it in any of the federal government’s dialogue, nor in any media. Not knowing anything is probably worse than getting bad news, but most certainly, everybody’s kind of waiting on pins and needles just to see. It’s a huge cash crop for our producers, and then our canola crushers are also right in the middle of this.”

Harrison also continues to be boggled as to the reasoning behind the retaliatory tariffs from China, citing the Chinese EV market in Canada doesn’t seem to be all too large.

“We’ve been pushing the federal government since the counter tariffs came in, and actually even prior to it, because we knew when they initiated the tariffs on EV vehicles, that there could be repercussions, and there eventually was,” he said. “We still continue to pressure the federal government—the new prime minister and new federal ag minister—they need to engage with China on a nation to nation level and get this resolved.”

“I’m not sure that there’s even an electric vehicle market here in Canada to try to protect, so it’s really unclear as to what the intention was of our federal government to impose this in the first place,” Harrison concluded.

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For further information or appointment to view contact Karen Barrows at 204-725-6712 or Joanne Eastman at 204-741-0701.

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Has a dugout but no fence

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Wet start to the season and wildfire smoke affecting bees

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

With the peak of summer fast approaching, beekeepers are in the busiest part of their year. But the spring and summer of 2025 have been a real mixed bag with a cooler, wetter season plagued by intermittent wildfire smoke.

"The smoke definitely has a detrimental affect on the bees," said Lance Strong of B. Strong Apiaries located just outside of Rocanville. "Honeybees require a certain light intensity in order to leave the hive to forage. On the days when smoke is thick, it definitely shrinks the foraging window."

According to numbers from 2023, Saskatchewan produced 22 per cent of the 91.8 million pounds of honey (20 million lbs.) produced in Canada, exporting around \$4 million (down \$6.6 million from the year previous).

It not just the bees being affected by the smoky conditions, blocking out the sun's rays can affect the plants as well.

"The reduced light also affects the photosynthesis of plants, making it less efficient and therefore producing less nectar and pollen," Strong said. "This results in weaker colonies and smaller honey crop yields."

As with many producers across Saskatchewan, B. Strong Apiaries raises their own bees—a practice that means multiple mating flights need to happen for each virgin queen.

"The queen has a window of opportunity for her mating flights, and when that window closes, she doesn't mate again for her entire life span," Strong explained. "If that mating window happens to overlap with a smoky week or two, the result is a sub-par batch of queens at best. There is anecdotal evidence from various producers that their mating success rates have lessened in these smoky years."

Across the border in Manitoba, bee producers are seeing some of the same consequences as smoky summers become more intense.

"These last five years, we've been seeing more and more smoke through the summer, almost becoming a normal thing now," said Ian Steppler, Chair of the Manitoba Beekeepers' Association and a producer near Miami, Manitoba. "In regards to bees, we are quite concerned about it."

Every year, Manitoba beekeepers produce around 20 million pounds of honey with an approximate value of \$50 million into the provincial economy, courtesy the efforts of 250 producers and billions of bees. In total, the Prairie provinces accounted for 73 per cent of all honey exports in 2023.

Smoke may also have benefits

While the negative effects of wildfire smoke are quite obvious, there may be somewhat of a silver lining to be found.

"Every year is different," Strong said, when asked about this season compared to 2024. "I can say that for our area at least, it's been a great start to the year for bees."

One huge benefit to all the rain received this spring is the resulting proliferation of other plants, growing at a time when usually things would not be as abundant.

"Typically, we have a dearth period after dandelions and



Lance Strong pulls a frame from a recently gathered box to show what his team collects and processes.

caraganas until clover and canola, however this year we had a lot of wildflower along with early clover and alfalfa that kept the bees going without having to slow down," Strong said. "This has provided us with strong colonies going into the canola bloom - good for us and for the canola grower!"

Some studies suggest that adding three honey bee hives

per hectare of canola increased yield by 46 per cent compared to fields without hives.

In addition to more foliage around, Steppler also suggests that nasty smoke may actually have given some cover for our buzzing friends.

Continued on page 33

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Wet start to the season and wildfire smoke affecting bees

☞ *Continued from page 32*

“It might actually help the bees because it’s provided that little bit of a shield from the scorching, hot sun; protecting the crop a little bit, which allowed the crop to not get burnt off,” he said, adding that the cover might have even made for a longer blooming period. “I’m hearing that more and more, actually, where it might be just a little bit of protection from the scorching sun. It depends on who you talk to, some beekeepers are very concerned about the environment and the smoke - and that I understand, they’re more on the side of this smoke is bad for the bees - but the commercial guys talking to me are just a little bit indifferent. Maybe it actually helps us, but with the caveat that we’re not in the heart of it.”

Beekeepers located closer to the thick of the heavy, orange smoke are the ones in trouble, as Stepler said.

“The bees stay in the colonies, and they kind of sit and lose weight,” he explained. “They don’t fly and they don’t forage, so they think it affects the queen mating and such.”

As a result, some producers have had to relocate their bee yards in order to protect the hives.

Stepler described the growing season as ‘very interesting’, adding that the

spring had begun tough with colonies experiencing a dwindle initially, due to the cool conditions.

“But then this spring turned around, and we had very favourable conditions come through,” he said. “The colonies turned around and they started to grow; they exploded and growth right through until now, they haven’t stopped growing. I don’t think I’ve seen the colonies in such great shape.”

Dandelions and berry trees began to bloom at the right time in Manitoba with flora becoming quite lush.

“Every flower plant has an extra flower, and the grass - we’re still mowing our bee yards because the grass just won’t quit growing,” Stepler said. “You look at the crops around here, and they’re just spectacular. We got timely rains come through in central Manitoba. I know there’s some dry places in Manitoba, maybe the growth isn’t as dramatic, but I’m hearing from beekeepers this is a clover year, one of those years where you have the clover grow just tremendously and produce a lot of nectar. Beekeepers across Manitoba are like, ‘all right, the clover years, we just love these years!’ nectar is flowing into the colonies, and if you were to count the rings in a tree, this would be one of those growth years.”





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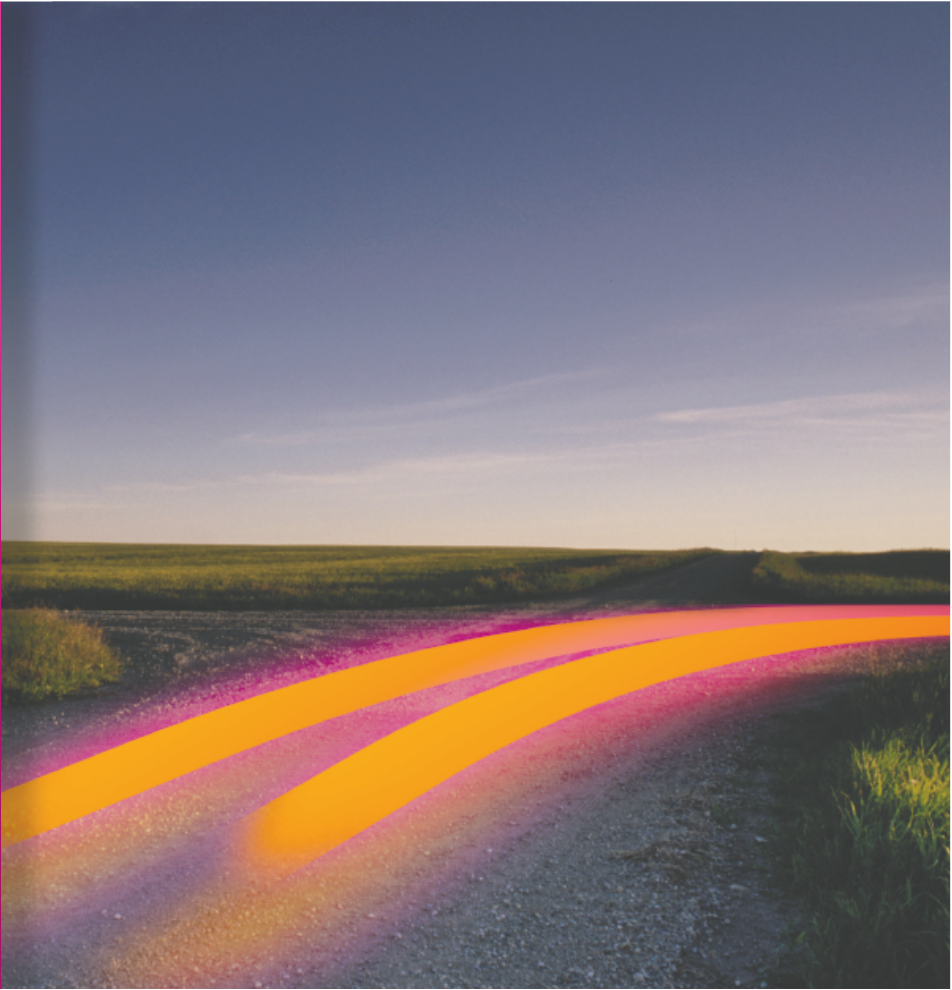
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Jessica Campbell hosts first Prairie Built fundraiser

Continued from page 23

When you were growing up did you ever think you would make it this far in hockey.

“I believed in crazy things, I was very much a dreamer of working at the highest level and maybe not seeing myself behind the bench in the NHL, but I thought I could play in the NHL when I was playing boys hockey, and when Team Canada became real for me that’s when the dream shifted and then when I finished playing and started coaching it was very interesting because there were a few moments a long the way that were the ‘Aha’s’ and when I started my business there was obviously no other woman behind a bench doing what I was doing and so I think the voice inside me was there telling me I could do it. I believed I had the passion and the skill set to do it, but obviously there’s a lot of outside noise and critics that maybe didn’t see it the same way I did and the voice was a lot quieter, but it was real in me and when the NHL players started to show up and walk through the door of the house that I built for myself. That was very formative for my confidence and I think the step that I needed to know that I could do it, I was doing it on my own and why couldn’t I do it on a team level and I just continued to follow the path and every opportunity that came my way was another step.

Who locally contributed to your development as a hockey player. Is there anyone in our area when you look back you realize made a real difference.

“There’s so many volunteers and coaches. I grew up in Rocanville Minor Hockey and Melville Minor Hockey. Leo Park who was my first competitive boys coach on a AA team. He taught me so many lessons, some of which I shared last night and how to be a competitor. He treated me equally just like one of the boys and that’s how it should have been right from the start, and he planted seeds early in me to demand and set a standard of excellence and discipline and be truly competitive, so that tough coaching style was good for me and my development and I cherish that mentorship he gave me and he is still a huge mentor for me, even now and is a great family friend. So, we cherish those coaches.

What message are you trying to get across to young people and young girls especially in hockey?

“At the end of the day there is a place for everyone in hockey, we’ve been a part of the game for as long as we’ve been tying them up and now it’s just growing more opportunities for girls in sports. Obviously, the visibility is there now behind the bench which I didn’t know I could do because I couldn’t see it and so visibility matters for girls and when you have it, you can see it, you dream it and you can believe in it and that’s really important, but I also now that I am a part of a long list and late on a long list of remarkable women already in the game, in the NHL, in management and scouting, and player development, analytics you name it, media that are doing a heck of a job and I give so much credit to them because I always say breaking barriers is through mutual trust and building trust and respect and when you have that, that’s what breaks the barriers and at the end of the day for young girls hearing this message it’s believe in anything you see for yourself and even if you don’t see it in the world around you, still have permission to believe in it and chase after it.

When you look back on your career to this point what do you look back on with the most pride?

“I take most pride in all of the things I have done in the community or gotten to part of in a community whether it was Sheldon Kennedy and the Child Abuse advocacy, mental health initiatives with DIFD foundation. Those were the most memorable moments because my teammates showed up, my coaches showed up and brought together, what really hockey is about. It’s a team sport, it’s about pulling on the same rope for the same goal and so anytime I’m able to do things in the community and come to things like this and Pro Hockey Life obviously and see the kids that are all falling in love with the game at their own pace and the parents that are there sacrificing. That’s the beauty of sport and hockey and coming out of the Prairies it’s even more special.

Looking forward where do you see your own career going and where do you see women’s hockey going?

“Women’s hockey is on a great pace that its always been pushing towards and now the sustainability infrastructure is there to make it a league they’ve always deserved, the product has always been there. I think the opportunity and visibility and now having an option to play professionally and make a career of it is going to just explode the growth of the game. I already see how many kids are buying PWHL jerseys and falling in love with their new favourite player because they can see that player on TV. Those things matter, that’s what inspires kids to come in here and buy skates and beg their parents to walk away with a stick. It’s huge, I’m so excited for the momentum, and they’re on their way. As for my journey I’m very happy where I am at. I work for an incredible organization and I want to win the Stanley Cup. I just want to win, be a great coach and who knows what’s next. I mean if Head Coaching is in the cards for me someday, then I would love to continue to work to be a better coach and see where it takes me.”

You’re part of this grand opening ad Pro Hockey Life today, what does it mean for hockey players to have a store like this in Saskatchewan.

“It’s amazing, I was just saying sometimes when you come out of smaller towns you lack resources that are maybe there for the city centres and to have this now in a one stop shop spot in Regina where everybody can access it.

You don’t have to try to go everywhere to figure it out and to me that can be a barrier and so I experienced that myself, not having something like this, but to be able to not just access resources, but the best of the best products that’s what also helps further development and it’s not about that, but it’s important to have the opportunity. I’m excited for the kids in the city and surrounding areas and the families.”

During your visit back home are you able to make some time to visit family?

“The next few days I’m going home to hang out with my nephews and chase them around with hopefully water balloons.

When you come home is there a sense of being just Jessica again?

Yes, it’s so refreshing. I ran into Jess Moskaluke last night. When you’re under the microscope and you’re doing something that’s public facing you feel the pressure of always being on and when you come home to the Prairies you can go to the grocery store and say hello to a few people and take pictures, but it’s different because we’re all just the same at the end of the day. I’ve been afforded a very incredible opportunity where now I have to do something special hopefully for others to benefit from and I think when I come back it always grounds me. Family, people that have been supporting me always fuel me and refill my cup, it’s awesome.”



Above: Jessica Campbell after signing an autograph for Mia Betham from Fort Qu’Appelle at the opening of the Pro Hockey Life store in Regina.



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Hayden and Cameron waving at the Shriners mini car patrol during the Pipestone Home coming parade. Mrs. King is a former resident of Pipestone.



The Memorial Park grand opening and ribbon cutting.



One of the floats in the parade.



Memorabilia on display during the homecoming.

Pipestone homecoming held July 11-13

BY ED JAMES

After two years of planning, the Pipestone community held a successful homecoming from July 11-13, 2025. “It was an amazing success,” said Kim MacKenzie, one of the event organizers. “We had former residents return from all across Canada and many places outside of Canada. The weather was perfect and the work of the many volunteers and businesses paid off, making it a weekend event for family and friends.

Over the three day event, there was lots to see and do for all ages including a farmers market, a school reunion, a cemetery walk, a memorabilia display, a dance and concert, a scavenger hunt, lots of baseball games and children’s activities. The parade held on Sunday was over an hour long with a variety of floats from community groups and businesses. Added to it were some great vintage tractors, trucks and cars. All along, the parade was lined with campers, cars and trucks and lawn chairs sitting in shaded areas. Almost every child was well prepared with shopping bags to gather up the free treats.

During the weekend the community hall was the centre for most of the events, however at the local seniors drop in



The Memorial Park grand opening.

center there was a well organized display of community memorabilia that covered the school history, service and sports clubs, the Royal Canadian Legion, former commu-

nity shops and businesses, wedding photos from over the years and a unique a display of vintage post cards. On Sunday afternoon there was a special service to open the new Pipestone Memorial Park area that recognized all those from the area who served in Canada’s military.

The event was MC’ed by Kim Mackenzie, who gave a history of the park project, introduced the project dignitaries and oversaw the official ribbon cutting to open the park. This was followed by a thanksgiving service given by lay minister Joyce Marsh, followed by the playing of the Last Post and Revielle by Michelle Gervin. The piper and drummer played a moving lament to end this part of the service. There was then another service to mark the 45th anniversary of the Pipestone Lions Club and their service to the community over the years. Memory photos were also taken of each group.

By Sunday evening, trailers and campers were being packed up for their trips home. Many of the people who came home for the event from far away left with many warm memories of the Pipestone homecoming and the community.

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– SEPTEMBER 2025 –

3	Wednesday	Regular Sale	9 a.m.
10	Wednesday	Presort Feeder Sale	10 a.m.
17	Wednesday	Regular Sale	9 a.m.
19	Friday	Cows / Bulls	8 a.m.
21	Sunday	Sheep / Goats	1 p.m.
		Small Animals & Tack	5 p.m.
		Horse Sale	7 p.m.
24	Wednesday	29th Anniversary Presort Feeder Sale	10 a.m.
26	Friday	Cows / Bulls	8 a.m.

– OCTOBER 2025 –

1	Wednesday	Presort Feeder Sale	10 a.m.
3	Friday	Cows / Bulls	8 a.m.
		McIntyre Family Horse Dispersal	6 p.m.
8	Wednesday	Simmental Bonanza Presort Feeder Sale	10 a.m.
10	Friday	Cows / Bulls	8 a.m.
15	Wednesday	Charolais Extravaganza Presort Feeder Sale	10 a.m.
17	Friday	Cows / Bulls	8 a.m.
19	Sunday	Sheep / Goat	1 p.m.
		Small Animals & Tack	5 p.m.
		Horse Sale	7 p.m.
22	Wednesday	Angus Showcase Sale Presort Feeder Sale	10 a.m.
25	Saturday	North American Auctioneer Contest Presort Feeder Sale	10 a.m.
29	Wednesday	Angus Showcase Sale #2 Presort Feeder Sale	10 a.m.
31	Friday	Cows / Bulls	10 a.m.

– NOVEMBER 2025 –

5	Wednesday	Presort Feeder Sale Hereford, Shorthorn, Speckle Park Gather	10 a.m.
		Bred Cow Receiving	2 p.m. - 10 p.m.
7	Friday	Cows / Bulls & Feeders	8 a.m.
		Bred Cow & Heifer Sale	1 p.m.
9	Sunday	Sheep / Goat	1 p.m.
		Small Animals & Tack	5 p.m.
		Horse Sale	7 p.m.
12	Wednesday	Presort Feeder Sale	10 a.m.
14	Friday	Cows / Bulls & Feeders	8 a.m.
19	Wednesday	Presort Feeder Sale	10 a.m.
		Bred Cow Receiving	2 p.m. - 10 p.m.
21	Friday	Cows / Bulls & Feeders	8 a.m.
		Bred Cow & Heifer Sale	1 p.m.
26	Wednesday	Regular Sale	9 a.m.

– DECEMBER 2025 –

3	Wednesday	Presort Feeder Sale	10 a.m.
5	Friday	Bred Cow & Heifer Sale	1 p.m.
10	Wednesday	Presort Feeder Sale	10 a.m.
12	Friday	Bred Cow & Heifer Sale	1 p.m.
16	Tuesday	Bred Cow & Heifer Sale	1 p.m.
17	Wednesday	Regular Sale	9 a.m.
19	Friday	Bred Cow & Heifer Sale	1 p.m.
22	Monday	Bred Cow & Heifer Sale	1 p.m.



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Better heating method makes legumes easier to digest

USask researchers find radio frequency heating breaks down antinutrient in peas and beans and is more energy efficient



By ELLA FUNK

While they have been part of our human diet for centuries, legumes like peas and beans are ultimately seeds for the next generation of plants. To protect themselves from being eaten by animals and insects, they contain “antinutrients” that are hard for animals – and humans – to digest.

These antinutritional compounds – which include tannins, lectins, trypsin inhibitors, and phytic acid – are broken down when beans and peas are heated. However, the large ovens that food processing companies currently use to heat beans and peas are inefficient. They can burn the outside before the inside has reached a temperature hot enough to deactivate the antinutrients.

Researchers from the University of Saskatchewan (USask) Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering have identified a new heating method – using radio frequency (RF) waves—that appears to be both more effective and efficient than the approach currently used in the industry.

Tolen Moirangthem, a PhD student from the group, compares RF waves to microwaves. “When you put a cup of water in the microwave, the water heats up, but the cup doesn’t. The same is true for the pea—the water inside heats up, but the rest of the pea doesn’t.”

Scientists call this process “selective heating,” because it can heat some

areas within a material but not others. It seems to help maintain the desirable nutritional properties in pea or bean, which can break down with regular heating methods. And unlike the long heating times of traditional processes, the RF heating method only takes a few minutes.

The team hypothesized that during RF heat treatment, the water inside a legume expands and turns into steam, which would cause the pores inside to explode from the pressure. In turn, this would

create larger pores in the samples, as well as more pores in total, as the steam looked for ways to escape.

Using the Canadian Light Source at the USask, the research group confirmed that the beans treated with RF heat did in fact have more pores, and the heating method reduced the amount of an antinutrient (proteins called trypsin inhibitors)—by 81 per cent.

“We know that we have big potential with this project,” says Moirangthem. “Animal protein is very expensive in different parts of the world, so we need sustainable plant protein that can be produced at mass volume to feed the world population.”

This new heating method could help make bean and pea crops even more environmentally friendly to process, with the bonus of making legumes easier to digest.

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Crops developing rapidly

Crops have rapidly developed due to warm temperatures and dry conditions in many areas across the province over the past week. Early seeded crops are nearing maturity in many areas, and rain would likely not benefit these crops at this stage. Producers are still hoping for rain to help with grain fill in later-seeded crops.

Isolated thunderstorms brought significant rainfall to some areas last week, while many areas had negligible precipitation. The Old Wives area received the most rainfall in the province with 132 millimetres (mm), followed closely by the Vanguard area with 119 mm and the Cadillac area with 95 mm. The Dollard and Neidpath areas also received significant rainfall with 74 mm and 72 mm, respectively.

Despite significant rainfall in a few ar-

eas of the province, dry conditions were widespread this week which caused overall topsoil moisture levels to fall from last week. Provincial topsoil moisture levels for cropland areas are five per cent surplus, 54 per cent adequate, 33 per cent short and eight per cent very short. Hayland topsoil moisture is four per cent surplus, 48 per cent adequate, 37 per cent short and 11 per cent very short. Pasture topsoil moisture is four per cent surplus, 52 per cent adequate, 32 per cent short and 12 per cent very short.

Crop development varies across the province. Rapid crop development due to limited moisture has resulted in a higher percentage of crops being ahead of normal stages than two weeks ago. Crops in areas that have received sufficient rain so far this year are generally at normal stages while moisture-stressed crops are

typically ahead of normal growth stages. The dry conditions for much of the season in certain areas have led to some producers starting to harvest early seeded crops. Provincially, harvest is one per cent complete with most of this progress occurring in the southwest. Winter cereal crops are furthest ahead, with 13 per cent of winter wheat and seven per cent of fall rye harvested. Harvest has also started for pulse crops, and one per cent of lentils and peas have been combined so far. Although most producers in the province have not started harvesting, it is their primary focus as they are currently servicing equipment, hauling grain and cleaning bins to prepare.

Many pastures are in good to fair condition this year, but a notable portion are in poor condition due to limited precipitation in certain areas. Currently, six per

cent of pastures are in excellent condition, 36 per cent are good, 32 per cent are fair, 19 per cent are poor and eight per cent are in very poor condition.

Last week, minor crop damage was reported in areas experiencing hot temperatures paired with dry conditions. There were also reports of grasshoppers, wind and wildlife causing minor crop damage in certain areas.

As producers are preparing for and beginning harvest, there will be increased farm equipment traffic on public roadways. Drivers are reminded to exercise patience and caution when encountering large equipment on the road. Additionally, farm equipment operating in dry fields can present a fire risk. Producers are encouraged to take safety precautions to mitigate fire risk and ensure harvest efforts are conducted safely.



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A group photo of the many members of the extended Dennis Family whose ancestors settled on the farm 125 years ago located southeast of Wawota



Family members on the Dennis farm house front porch looking at the silent auction items and a display of the Dennis Family Farm history and photos from the last 125 years.



Shirley Dennis and Adam Dennis, representing the oldest and youngest members of the Dennis family, planting a maple tree to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the Dennis Family Farm.



From left, son Boyd, mother Barbara and son Brad Dennis at the Dennis Family Farm during the farm's 125th anniversary.



A family dance was held at the Dennis Farm with music by Joni and Roseanne of "Cut A Rug" music.

Sunnybrae farm celebrates 125 years

BY ED JAMES

From July 18-20, NW 12-9-34-W1 in southeast Saskatchewan was a very busy place. The location is the Sunny Brae Farm of Barbara and the late Neil Dennis. For three days it was the location of the Dennis Family Reunion and the celebration of the farm being in the same family for 125 years.

In 1900, Edward James Dennis and his wife Alice settled on this site, which, after years of hard work, good times and some bad times, became a successful family farm, often described as being a place of "peacefulness of the land."

The three-day event brought in generations of the Dennis Family members from all over the country. Behind the main house, in a shaded grassy area, it was filled with lawn chairs where family members of all ages shared histories, births and deaths, new adventures and old with much hugging and laughter among the wide variety of ages.

During the three-day event there was much to do, share and remember, with the farm yard filled with RV campers and tents. There was never a shortage of food and snacks, with bonfire hot dogs and marshmallows, potluck lunches, and a catered roast beef supper with a special dessert that featured a unique saskatoon berry sauce, the always popular pancake and sausage breakfast!

There were displays of old family photos and histories.

Another unique feature was a silent auction event with an eclectic collection of items from the farm's history, home made pickles, jams and baked goods, handmade quilts and blankets, Dennis family heirlooms, art work and old aerial photos of the Dennis homestead over the years. There was something for all ages and on some items there was intense bidding!

On Saturday afternoon, the official purpose of the gathering was held with prayers and histories and memories of the farm's 125 year history and operation. Pastor Trevor Dennis acted as MC along with his father and added to the history of the farm and its people over the years. However it was present owner, Barbara Dennis, who gave an emotional telling of the farm's history, its struggle, with the Depression, natural disasters and economic hardships. Her speech was very emotional and at times as she paused to compose herself.

Among the audience's older faces, you could see them remembering the past times. Barbara also took time to talk about her late husband Neil and his discovery of and later success with holistic farming methods and the recognition he was given. She ended her talk with the hope that the farm ownership would go on for future family generations and go forth with faith in God's help and a blessing on all those who came out to this farm that has seen five generations of ownership within the same family.

The crowd then moved to the driveway of the farm to a

large sign showing the family's connection to this piece of land along with recognition plaques of their success with holistic farming techniques

At the sign, a maple leaf tree was planted by the youngest and oldest members of the Dennis clan to celebrate the 125-year event.

After this event there was a general family meeting to discuss future family events in the area in remembrance of the family. This project will be funded by the money made by the successful and unique silent auction.

After an excellent catered supper, there was time for sitting by the bonfire, playing cornhole and conversation.

Later in the evening there was a dance in a wonderful converted farm shed with the special musical styles of Joni and Roseanne "Cut a rug" recorded music show.

On Sunday, after the pancake breakfast, a church service was held in the field officiated by Pastor Trevor Dennis of Brandon.

"The celebration of 125 years was of the upmost importance to me personally and to the memory of my late husband Neil and finally to those Dennis family members over the years who have worked the land," said Barbara Dennis after the event.

"So much has transpired over the last 125 years. I found it extremely encouraging that so many family members and my friends helped me out on this day. But isn't this what family and friends are all about?"

A getaway from the farm is good for the soul

Summer at last! We are fully past seeding and spraying season and our routine, well, mine, has seen some changes. The last week of school meant some special daily lunches for the grands and their friends plus lots of yummy baking like cinnamon buns and skor cakes. Now for the big question ... Will they come back next year?

As we watch those fields of green and yellow take shape in our part of the province, we can't help but think of the southwest part of the province where they are suffering through their 9th consecutive year of drought. We certainly feel the stress they are under and know that a decade of crop loss can mean another decade will pass by before the economics make sense again.

When I was out driving with hubby, crop checking from a distance, dark blue skies were moving in from the west. What an incredible backdrop those skies were for the beautiful yellow canola fields.

It seemed like the farm grandkids were no sooner done school and they were headed straight to the local auction barn for both local and regional 4-H shows and sales. And unlike many years when the spectators needed an umbrella to stay dry or a good warm coat to stay warm, this year was more about sunscreen, sunhats and potential heat stroke. Early July brought with it some beautiful warm days—what a great start to summer 2025!

Hubby and I are not cattle people at heart but the grands love their animals and we were so proud of them as they showed their continuation heifers with calves at side and their steers. Our granddaughter (16) loves show life even though her heifer was more interested in chewing on that little strip of grass along the gravel showing than she did in being led around. I couldn't help but chuckle a little even though I am pretty sure our granddaughter wasn't chuckling at her cow. I love to watch the kids as they so confidently groom their animals and lead them around the ring. I remember absolutely zero about cattle grooming from showing cattle oh so long ago but I recognize the determination and dedication of all members of the 4H club who give it their all and whose skills and work ethics will serve them well wherever life takes them.

With 4H shows over, it was time to head to the lake with five of our grands, complete with fishing gear, golf clubs, bedding and snacks. Whose idea was it to suggest the three oldest, 13 and 14x2 be in charge of picking out snacks at the grocery store? Between marshmallows and Turtles, Smore kits and bags of bulk candy, we eventually had everything together, including fruit and veges (no thanks to the kids) for a complete and overly indulgent four days of camping together.

The twins don't sleep in, even during camping trips, and are quick to ensure Gramps is ready to get out on the lake bright and early as they push the boat off from shore and head to their favorite fishing spots on the lake. Fortunately, they caught a lot of fish because the twins

The Lighter Side of
Life...
DOWN ON THE FARM
by donna beutler
FREELANCE PHOTOJOURNALIST
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wanted fish for practically every meal! One of the northern pike (caught and released) was an incredible catch as were some of the walleye, so my worries about the twins not wanting to fish with us in southern Saskatchewan now that they make a few trips a year up north were all for naught. They still love Fishing Lake, a place we have taken them every year for the past dozen or so.

One night, our youngest grandson (11) and I were having a chat about when his mom (our youngest) was little and some of the chores she was required to do. He always has very specific questions and when I told him that my kids each had to do their own laundry starting at the age of 12, he looked at me quizzically. "You have one year to go," I told him, "before you have to start doing your own laundry." There was a slight pause before he responded, "My dad is 44 and mom is still doing HIS laundry." Now what can you say to that?

The kids met some new friends out at the lake in July and together all eight of them biked and swam and played board games and participated in my version of a scavenger hunt where we tick off what we see rather than collect what's on the list. Good thing because they actually did find an orange front door on a cabin along the lake. I mean, what were the chances? And wings? With no seagulls or birds around during our little trek around the campground, they swatted at a swarm of teeny-tiny flies (as in you could hardly see them) and we accepted it for "wings" as we were sure they wings even though you really couldn't see them.

The boys and I spent an afternoon on the golf course and because I don't and have never golfed, I had a dozen questions until finally, the youngest of the bunch said, "Grandma, stop talking. Don't you know it's rude to talk when someone is ready to hit their ball?" Well, who knew? Certainly not I. Nevertheless, I learned a thing or two, including that not even the thrill of the game will stop twin farm boys from walking through a four-inch

deep, stinky little "pond" in search of a golf ball and come out the other side with 142 golf balls and very dirty legs, feet and hands, none of which were at all easy to clean. And 'stink' doesn't quite describe it—between the golf balls in the back of the cart and the boys' feet, reek might better describe the air surrounding our group for the remaining four holes. I am pretty sure the group ahead of us and the one behind us thought the Grandma at the wheel of the golf cart ought to be making her grands shower a little more often!

With July being our quieter month on the farm before the fall craziness once again begins, we have had time to get together with friends and family at barbecues, at the coffee shop and at the lake where sharing not only what some of the challenges on the farm are but what a great life farm-life really is. One couple shared their frustrations with their air drill this year (oh yeah, we relate); another how switching from one mode of farming (dairy) to another has allowed them to spend some fun time camping with their kids and do away with those 4:00 mornings.

As we soon put lake life behind us, our thoughts will be on bringing in the 2025 crop. The twins have faithfully been planting and watering baby trees, tilling shelterbelts, cutting grass and checking their canola crop. And I faithfully get out to the farm when they are away and together with the dogs, try to get my self-imposed number of steps for the day in. When I was cooking and hauling meals to the field twice a day during seeding and did not go on any planned walks, I was easily making upwards of 20,000 steps a day. The minute the cooking / meal-hauling ended, I dropped that in half and even with planned walks now, I can't reach the same number as I did in seeding. How can that even be? And am I looking forward to September's busy pace again or not?

Life on the farm is definitely not for the faint of heart. We have been sowing and harvesting crops together for 48 years (more for hubby) and sometimes over those years I have resented the times we can't plan to go to an event or even a meeting that is being held in the middle of harvest or in seeding for that matter. And then I am reminded: This is our bread and butter. I have a roof over my head, shoes on my feet, food to eat. Our life has never been the 9-5, five days a week kind of life. I have nothing to complain about, even less to be resentful about. Plus every summer allows us a bit of getaway time to fish with the grands. Could life really be any better?

Here's hoping all our readers and farmers especially have an amazing summer and despite the workload that you carry at this time of year, may you get a chance to relax, to rejuvenate and to laugh with those you love. Remember—a getaway (if you can) is good for the soul. Happy Summer of 2025 folks! We'll see you when the combines begin to roll.

Governments provide drought support with the doubled low yield appraisal

The federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Heath MacDonald and Saskatchewan Minister of Agriculture Daryl Harrison have announced the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC) is implementing measures to offer support to producers facing this year's challenging dry conditions. SCIC is implementing the double low yield appraisal process, encouraging acres of low-yielding eligible crops to be diverted to make additional feed available to graze, bale or silage.

"I've spoken with livestock and crop producers in Saskatchewan who are worried about the impact that dry conditions could have this year," MacDonald said. "Changing the yield threshold will give them some breathing room, so they can make the best decisions for their operations."

"In multiple areas throughout the province, our livestock producers are facing challenges from this year's dry conditions," Harrison said. "There is a need to quickly adapt to best support producers' timely, on-farm decisions. In 2021 and 2023, this same initiative was successfully implemented, resulting in over half a million acres of additional low yield crop redirected to feed. Once again, livestock producers are encouraged to work directly with neighbouring crop producers to access additional feed."

When crops are severely damaged and the appraised yield falls below an established threshold level, the yield is reduced to zero for the Crop Insurance claim. SCIC is doubling the low yield appraisal threshold values, allowing customers to salvage their eligible crops as feed, without negatively impacting future individual coverage. Prior to compensation, all qualifying acres for double low yield appraisals must be diverted to livestock feed. They cannot be left to harvest. Prior to putting damaged crops to an approved alternate use, producers should contact their local SCIC office.

"This announcement is welcome news for our livestock producers," SARM President Bill Huber said. "As in past years, it will help address feed shortages so many ranchers are experiencing. Timely support like this is critical to ensuring the sustainability of the sector in this province."

"Many cattle producers throughout the province are facing potential feed shortages," Saskatchewan Cattle Association Chair Chad Ross said. "The recent rains may help with some of the later seeded crops and possible pasture rebound in some areas. Unfortunately, the hay crop was already burnt off in several places. Writing off some crops through doubling the low yield threshold will provide cattle producers an option for feeding their animals they didn't previously have. The SCA thanks Ministers Harrison and MacDonald, along with the governments for moving quickly on this."

"We appreciate governments recognizing and meeting the need to support access to feed," Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association President Jeff Yorga said. "There are producers struggling with drought conditions. They are assessing and adjusting crop and feed requirements. This action taken helps our producers make those important decisions in a timely fashion. As we move forward, I strongly encourage producers to directly connect with each other to coordinate access to any additional feed made available through this change."

"Swift action from government has provided a vital lifeline to many Saskatchewan farmers and ranchers amid this year's early challenges," APAS President Bill Prybylski said. "The quick adjustment of support measures reflects a strong commitment to agriculture and sets a high standard for proactive, responsive risk management programming. Producers across the province feel heard, supported and valued."

AgriStability can provide support to producers for

production losses and increased expenses resulting from dry conditions. In most cases, the additional expense a producer incurs to acquire additional feed for their livestock is an eligible expense through the AgriStability Program. The deadline for producers to enroll in the existing AgriStability program for the 2025 program year is extended to July 31, 2025. The AgriStability Program includes an option to access timely support through an Interim Benefit, which gives producers the option of receiving funds prior to the completion of the fiscal period in the program year. This can help support losses and cover costs.

SCIC recognizes the most pressing concern for livestock producers is reduced hay and pasture production. Pasture acres are insured for the impact of dry conditions through the Forage Rainfall Insurance Program. Starting July 15, 2025, eligible producers will begin to receive claim payments, providing timely financial relief to help offset the impact of below average rainfall. By August 15, 2025, remaining claims are automatically calculated based strictly upon weather station data.

Saskatchewan Farm Stress Line provides support when producers need it the most. This is a confidential service, available 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week, toll-free at 1-800-667-4442. Calls are answered by Mobile Crisis Services Regina, a non-profit, community-based agency and there is no call display.

Crop Insurance is a federal-provincial-producer cost-shared program that helps producers manage production and quality losses. Support for the program is provided by the governments of Canada and Saskatchewan under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP).

For more information, producers can call 1-888-935-0000, visit scic.ca or contact their local SCIC office.



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Better heating method makes legumes easier to digest

USask researchers find radio frequency heating breaks down antinutrient in peas and beans and is more energy efficient

By ELLA FUNK

While they have been part of our human diet for centuries, legumes like peas and beans are ultimately seeds for the next generation of plants. To protect themselves from being eaten by animals and insects, they contain “antinutrients” that are hard for animals – and humans – to digest.

These antinutritional compounds – which include tannins, lectins, trypsin inhibitors, and phytic acid – are broken down when beans and peas are heated. However, the large ovens that food processing companies currently use to heat beans and peas are inefficient. They can burn the outside before the inside has reached a temperature hot enough to deactivate the antinutrients.

Researchers from the University of Saskatchewan (USask) Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering have identified a new heating method – using radio frequency (RF) waves—that appears to be both more effective and efficient than the approach currently used in the industry.

Tolen Moirangthem, a PhD student from the group, compares RF waves to microwaves. “When you put a cup of water in the microwave, the water heats up, but the cup doesn’t. The same is true for the pea—the water inside heats up, but the rest of the pea doesn’t.”

Scientists call this process “selective heating,” because it can heat some areas within a material but not others. It seems to help maintain the desirable nutritional properties in pea or bean, which can break down with regular heating methods. And unlike the long heating times of traditional processes, the RF heating method only takes a few minutes.

The team hypothesized that during RF heat treatment, the water inside a legume expands and turns into steam, which would cause the pores inside to explode from the pressure. In turn, this would create larger pores in the samples, as well as more pores in total, as the steam looked for ways to escape.



Using the Canadian Light Source at the USask, the research group confirmed that the beans treated with RF heat did in fact have more pores, and the heating method reduced the amount of an antinutrient (proteins called trypsin inhibitors)—by 81 per cent.

“We know that we have big potential with this project,” says Moirangthem “Animal protein is very expensive in different parts of the world, so we need sustainable plant protein that can be produced at mass volume to feed the world population.”

This new heating method could help make bean and pea crops even more environmentally friendly to process, with the bonus of making legumes easier to digest.

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Jess Moskaluke shoots music video locally, plans some shows close to home



A scene from Jess Moskaluke's new music video.

Continued from page 15

Music video out now!

Moskaluke's new music video shot locally is out now on YouTube.

"For those who haven't seen the video yet it really is just about that blogger," she said. "The whole concept of the video is showing somebody around unfamiliar parts—I don't want to give much of the video away—I'd rather have people watch it themselves I don't want to give any spoilers but, that's what it's about it's just showcasing country lifestyle in a little bit of an unconventional way."

Life for Me tour coming to Langenburg

Moskaluke will be performing in Langenburg this fall while on her Life for Me tour.

"A lot of times when I am able to play locally—first of all, it doesn't happen very often and when I can, the budget for a full band show is not often there. I think people don't realize that it's unfortunately not just me showing up and playing it's a crew of twelve people that all need to get paid and need to get flown in and put up in hotels, so this is a really great experience because when they want me to come and play it is great, but there is not always the opportunity to facilitate that because smaller towns often have smaller budgets and smaller venues and that's perfectly fine, I love that."

I've loved the way we've been able to do acoustics while performing close to home, but this is particularly exciting to me because I get to bring my actual full band show, no holds barred, and show them what I actually do because this is what I have been working on for so long, its been years in the making truly, and it's really special that I get to bring that home."

Hometown shows

Moskaluke says hometown shows can sometimes be the hardest shows to perform.

"The crowd is always the most electric at home but to be totally honest the hometown shows are the most stressful. I always want to make sure that everybody feels seen, important, and appreciated, and not that I don't feel that way in other towns, but I really want to make sure that I take the time to make people in my life feel that way, and that's really hard to do when there is a thousand people in the town and you know every single one of them. The stakes feel higher to me because I know that these people have invested in my career for so many years and are so proud and vocal about that, so I really just want to make sure that everything is perfect. I am very thankful."

After tour

Moskaluke explains her next steps following her tour. "After that is hibernation. That is a seven week run. It's the longest tour I have ever done and I think that my agent said that it may even be one of the longest ones that a female Canadian has done in many years. So hibernation is what's next. Right now I am going to finish out the sum-

mer and we're going into rehearsals—I'm preparing for tour right now and then it's just tour for the rest of this year. Then your probably not going to hear from me or see me for a little while."

"It's apples to oranges, I mean everything is the fun parts, those are all my favourite parts, the music that's unfortunately about 15% of my job now, and marketing, interviews, planning, content creation, travel, management now as well. There are a ton of other parts that are not very music related but, is just as crucial.

"If they weren't important to me I wouldn't still live here, so there important to me.

"I love it here, I wouldn't be here if I didn't love it here and I love the community, there's a million things about it

and I think it's tough for me to answer because I show it in so many different ways including this video and this song and showing up on tour which not a lot of artists do, so instead of answering it verbally I think it is more meaningful to answer it in the ways I show up for my small communities over the years.

"I don't take enough time to think about that, I think that it's just been busy and as much as it is cool to other people and it is cool to me, it is also my job that I do every single day and I think that it's really easy to kind of get lost in that so I think, you know I get that question daily and I think everyday it's a good reminder to try and take a little more time and think about how special it is. It is awesome, I'm excited, but right now it's work mode, it is buckle down time to get ready for this. I'm thankful, I'm excited, I'm motivated, but right now it is time to gear down and prepare for this tour and make it the best that I can and once again show up for those people that have supported me, in this case by buying a ticket to come to see a show on the Life for Me Tour!

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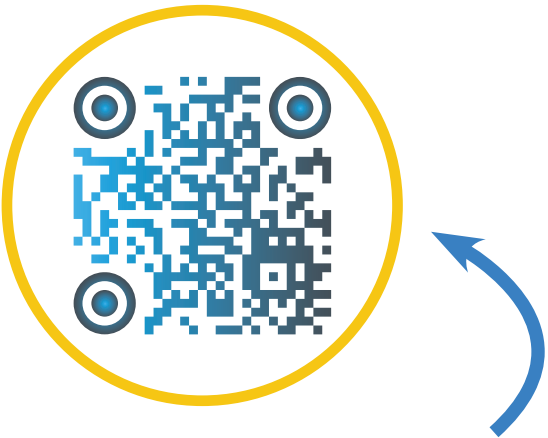
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 <p>201 Margaret Court Esterhazy, SK MLS®# SK008237 3 Bedrooms 2 Bathrooms WAS \$215,000</p> <p>NOW \$199,000</p>	 <p>Grenfell Acreage Elcapo RM No. 154, SK MLS®# SK007882 5 Bedrooms 2 Bathrooms WAS \$399,000</p> <p>NOW \$349,000</p>	 <p>Marla's Place Fertile Belt RM No. 183 MLS®# SK992612 4 Bedrooms 2 Bathrooms WAS \$700,000</p> <p>NOW \$660,000</p>

2 NEW TANTALLON LISTINGS!!!

NEW ACREAGES

- RM OF SILVERWOOD
- RM OF BROCK





SCAN HERE FOR ALL OF MY ACREAGES, LAND AND HOMES

exp REALTY  **WHERE POTASH, WHEAT AND OIL MEET**

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