



October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Lemoine shares breast cancer story to spread awareness

BY ASHLEY BOCHEK

Bernice Lemoine was diagnosed with Breast Cancer earlier this year. And now, during Breast Cancer Awareness Month, she wants to spread awareness for all women to regularly and actively get checked for the life-changing disease.

She shared her story in an interview with the World-Spectator. It follows below:



“I am 61 years old and I have no family history of breast cancer. I am from Moosomin. I worked at the South East Integrated Care Centre for 34 years. I have been diagnosed with triple negative stage three breast cancer. It has also spread to my lymph nodes,” said Lemoine.

Lemoine explains her first encounter with feeling an abnormal thickening in her breast earlier this year.

“We went on a holiday this February and I found a lump. It wasn’t really a lump it was kind of like a thickening. I want people to know, who think it is supposed to be a little circle, mine wasn’t, it was like a thickening just about the breast. I felt it in February, and I thought to myself, ‘Okay, I have my mammogram in May’ and I have gone every year for 10 years, and then three days before my mammogram they cancelled it for some reason.

“A friend and I go every year, one year in Regina and then the next year in Moosomin. I called the lady after finding out my mammogram was cancelled and that is when she told me I’d have to talk to my family doctor. So, I called Dr. Erika, and I had to wait two weeks to get into her which I thought was fine. Then, I saw Dr. Erika and she said, ‘We have to go somewhere quickly—do you mind going to Moose Jaw?’

“Moose Jaw then phoned me and they booked my appointment for June 13 which I didn’t know at the time when I booked it that it was Friday the 13th. I went to that appointment, and I didn’t have a good feeling that day. I had my mammogram done there and then I was told they wanted me to have an ultrasound and then



Bernice Lemoine and her husband Kevin. Bernice is sharing her story during Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

they said, ‘The doctor is not in, but he is coming in for you’ and right then I knew it was probably breast cancer because he

came in and I asked him right away. He replied, ‘Yes, we suspect it is’ and then they did a biopsy. Moose Jaw is a very good place to go, you get in quick, and

“I hope to help other people and just to get the word out there to go and get looked at—I’ve already helped one person to go and get their mammogram.”

—Bernice Lemoine

they are very efficient there. After the biopsy I went home knowing I had breast cancer.”

She says it came as a shock. “There is no family history of breast cancer in my family, so I was shocked finding out. I don’t drink, I don’t smoke, I am very active. It was very surprising so if you think it can’t happen to you, it can.”



Thankful for her local doctor

Lemoine says she has started treatment for her breast cancer and is travelling for appointments.

“I have started treatment. First, I had to wait for Dr. Erika to call me. I really can’t stress enough how great Dr. Erika was. She was called away on a family emergency before, so I got a phone call the next Monday morning after my trip to Moose Jaw. It was a call from South Africa and it was Dr. Erika letting me know of my diagnosis and the next steps.

“She made sure to call me and explained that she was getting all the treatments lined up for me when she was across the world and going through her own struggles. I want to thank her very much for all of that.

“I have to go to Regina once a week, every week, for three months. I would love to see it be able to be in Moosomin. It is very important for people to have the treatment at home. I know we have very good, very sincere, very well-trained doctors, and pharmacists that could help provide that care in Moosomin.”

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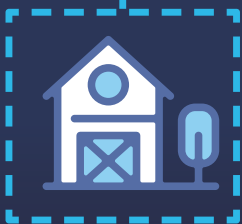
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Highway renamed to honor Chief Kahkewistahaw



Chief Evan Taypotat putting up the sign to rename Highway 201 Chief Kahkewistahaw Way.

BY NICOLE TAYLOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Highway 201 between the Trans-Canada Highway and the Qu'Appelle Valley, partially running through Kahkewistahaw First Nation, has been officially designated Chief Kahkewistahaw Way, in honour of one of the original signers of Treaty 4.

The announcement was made by Moosomin-Montmartre MLA Kevin Weedmark during a community celebration attended by provincial representatives, local leaders, and members of Kahkewistahaw First Nation.

Chief Kahkewistahaw, who signed Treaty 4 on September 15, 1874, is remembered for his leadership during a time of significant change and negotiation between First Nations and the Crown.

"Chief Kahkewistahaw was a peacetime chief. He didn't want to bring harm on anybody. He liked treating everyone in a good way, even non-Indigenous. He welcomed them with open arms," said current Chief Evan Taypotat. "He was a man of communication in a time of turmoil. When he passed on in 1906, he left us a legacy

to keep fulfilling, and here we are 118 years later, ensuring that he was not forgotten and that his legacy is still remembered."

Chief Taypotat said the idea to rename the highway had been a long time coming. The proposal began nearly three years ago, after a drive through Whitecap Dakota Nation.

"I was driving south of Saskatoon on my way to a meeting and noticed that the road was called 'Chief Whitecap Trail,'" said Chief Taypotat. "I thought to myself, if they could have the name of their highway changed, why couldn't we?"

Chief Taypotat began making inquiries with his land department, and the process was initiated. "They came back saying to start at this email, and it just got rolling from there," Taypotat said. "There was a bit of conversation back and forth, and about a year ago they agreed to it. At that point, it was about picking out logos and all that."

A committee made up of representatives from Kahkewistahaw First Nation, the Town of Broadview, the Rural Municipality of Elcapo, and the Government of Saskatchewan

unanimously supported the name change.

Kevin Weedmark, MLA for Moosomin-Moose Mountain, called the new designation a significant step toward recognition and reconciliation.

"This is more than just a change of signs along the roadside. This is a moment of recognition, respect, and reconciliation," said Weedmark. "It is a step towards acknowledging the contributions, leadership, and enduring legacy of Chief Kahkewistahaw, a man whose vision and strength continue to inspire generations. This is the third highway in Saskatchewan to be renamed in honour of an Indigenous individual. Our province has also put up road signs designating the treaty areas. Every time I drive between Moosomin and Kahkewistahaw First Nation, I pass a boundary that tells me I am entering Treaty 4 territory, and that serves as a constant reminder that we are all treaty people."

Chief Taypotat said many people did the work that led to the designation. "At times like this guys like me and Kevin get all the praise but at the end of the day it's the people



Moosomin-Montmartre MLA Kevin Weedmark shakes Chief Taypotat's hand during the event held for the renaming.

in the trenches doing the work and they need recognition as well."

He said Chief Kahkewistahaw was a leader who chose peace during a difficult period. "In times when there was a lot of turmoil and resistance from the First Nations peoples of Canada, Chief Kahkewistahaw chose peace and not to fight against the settlers that came, and for this he was rewarded by the government," said Taypotat.

"He was taken to Ottawa and introduced to the man who was helping the settlers thrive in Canada. That's just who he was. We get a lot of people that go down to Round Lake and Crooked Lake driving through our First Nation, and I think it's important that they understand who the chief was and who his people were," said Taypotat. "Now when they drive past and see the new signs with the logo of the chief, they will hopefully learn some history behind that."

Continued on page 8

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CPRA names Kennedy's Jill Lowe

Committee Member of the Year

Lowe involved with Moose Mountain Rodeo Committee for 25 years

BY NICOLE TAYLOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Jill Lowe's name is synonymous with the Moose Mountain Pro Rodeo in Kennedy, and on September 30 Lowe was recognized for her 25-year involvement with the Moose Mountain Pro Rodeo Committee when she received the Committee Member of the Year Award from the Canadian Professional Rodeo Association at the Canadian Rodeo Finals in Edmonton.

Lowe joined the Moose Mountain Pro Rodeo Committee in 2000 and has been the president since 2019. Every year, Kennedy's population swells from 200 people to 1,500 people during rodeo weekend as Kennedy hosts the only fully sanctioned rodeo in Saskatchewan other than the Maple Leaf finals in Regina during Agribition.

Lowe says she was nominated by the rest of the committee for the award.

"It's amazing. I couldn't believe it! I knew I was nominated but never in a million years did I think I would win that award," she says.

"I joined the committee in 2000 so I've been there for 25 years. I've been the president since 2019 and I still am. It's a lot of work but, like I said in my acceptance speech, I wouldn't do it if I didn't love it. I think I can clearly speak for all committee members that we wouldn't be involved if we didn't love it.

"I am a very strong believer in community involvement and I love my community of Kennedy. Plus, my great-grandfather was a founding member of the rodeo."

Lowe says around 600 people were at the awards gala, with six people attending from Kennedy. She says she was un-



From left: Shane Crouch, Lloyd Gray (CPRA office), Jill Lowe, Vern McDonald (C5 Rodeo Buckle Sponsor), Miss Rodeo Canada Codi Wilson, and Travis Whiteside (President CPRA).

aware she was receiving the award until it was announced.

"I just couldn't even believe it and then of course when I'm nervous I start to laugh so I started to laugh," she says. "It definitely wasn't a laughing matter. I got up and I said 'I think there is some trickery going on!'"

Lowe says it feels good to be recognized, but the rodeo is a huge community effort every year.

"It should really never be an individual award because you can't put on a professional event without volunteers, and so I accepted it on behalf of the community and not just myself. You really have to have a full team to pull something like that off," she says.

Lowe says planning for the next rodeo starts about two weeks after the event is over each year.

"We meet about two weeks after and then we talk about what went well and what we can improve on. We then have our annual meeting in October whenever harvest is over.

"I eat, sleep, and always think about it. I think about our rodeo all the time and I'm always thinking of what more we can do. It's endless hours. I always joke and say my brain is like a hamster wheel."

Lowe says it was a good year overall for Saskatchewan at the Canadian Rodeo Finals.

"Jared Parsonage from Maple Creek was the Canadian Bull Riding Champion, Miss Rodeo Agribition Abbey Harty was crowned the 2026 Miss Rodeo Canada, and I was awarded the 2025 Committee Member of the Year. Saskatchewan had 13 contestants representing at the rodeo finals."



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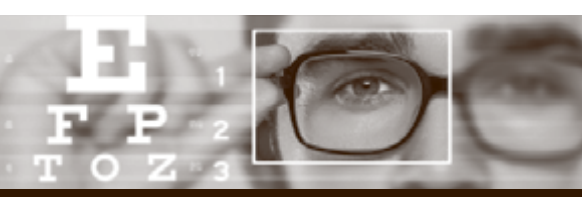
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Kole Kabatoff from Wroxton won the western slicker donated by Elaine Herperger and Donna Glazer.



Andrea Ulrich from Redvers thoroughly enjoyed the vast terrain and diversity the Qu'Appelle Valley region has to offer.



Trail riders head through town to start the trail ride.

Twin Valley Riding Club holds trail ride fundraiser

BY ANGELA ULRICH

The Twin Valley Riding Club hosted its first event at its new location in the heart of Tantalton. A total of 35 riders took part in a scenic trail ride through the Qu'Appelle Valley this fall while 304 silent hands were purchased in support of the fundraising poker derby.

Proceeds from the day will support the development of the new riding arena, a project that plans to bring back the ever-popular Twin Valley rodeo.

In past years, the Twin Valley Riding Club rodeo has attracted crowds of around 1,000 people, so this would be an exciting experience for the small community of Tantalton with a population of less than 100 residents.

A 50/50 draw, canteen and raffle also supported the cause. The Twin Valley Riding Club was very happy with the turn out and would like to thank the ride sponsors: Curtis Ryan, all of the landowners, FreshMart Tantalton Store, Elaine Herperger, Donna Glazer and Basil Godwin.



Above: Annie Kabatoff along with her son Kole pose on the picturesque Qu'Appelle Valley bridge on the outskirts of Tantalton.



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Estevan	Oct 24, 2025 Oct 25, 2025	12 pm - 6 pm 12 pm - 4 pm	Estevan Nicholson Center
Filmore	Oct 22, 2025	11 am - 4 pm	Filmore Health
Lampman	Oct 30, 2025	10 am - 12:30 pm	Prairie Lilly Club
Oxbow	Oct 24, 2025 Nov 3, 2025	1 - 6 pm	Oxbow Friendship Centre
Redvers	Oct 21, 2025 Nov 4, 2025	2 - 6 pm	Redvers Golden Age

A sculpture, a photo, and a new understanding of reconciliation

BY ASHLEY BOCHEK

With the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation being marked on September 30, it had me thinking about my personal experience with learning the purpose of the day in recognizing the Indigenous culture and heritage that is so prominent in our country and province.

An event to honour Indigenous art

Two years ago, I was asked to cover and photograph a significant event for the World-Spectator at the RCMP Heritage Centre in Regina.

It was the September 9, 2023. An unbelievably talented sculptor, Stan Hunt, from British Columbia, was travelling across Canada highlighting an incredible piece of art he created in honour of Every Child Matters and Indigenous people in Canada.

His sculpture encompasses children and traditional tales of Indigenous culture and our nation's unforgettable history influenced by colonialism that scarred generations of Indigenous families.

It features 130 faces of children carved into a cedar trunk with a raven at the top—overlooking and protecting the children known in Indigenous traditional tales.

In high school you learn about Truth and Reconciliation, Residential Schools, and Indigenous culture and identity, but no reading in a textbook or lecture by a teacher compares to



Ashley Bocek and her mother Debbie with Stan Hunt's Residential School Monument at the National Museum of History in Gatineau, Quebec, across the Ottawa River from Parliament Hill. A photo Ashley took for the World-Spectator is part of the Residential School Monument display.

the genuine experience of being part of, and integrated within, Indigenous culture and celebrations.

Continued on page 15



Ashley Bocek with her photo on display at the Canadian Museum of History. The photo shows sculptor Stan Hunt being draped in a star blanket.



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Highway renamed to honor Chief Kahkewistahaw

Continued from Page 3
Stan Bobb, a council member from Kahkewistahaw First Nation, said the renaming of the highway was a proud moment for the community.

“This is something that will be a long time remembered, and is something we should all be proud of,” said Bobb.

Chief Taypotat said the renaming is an example of action toward reconciliation.

“A lot of times it’s about holding the people that can make change accountable. The people that can make change are the province, Premier Moe and his MLAs,” he said. “This is reconciliation. Reconciliation is talking about all of this nice stuff. Reconciliation is doing this stuff. We have to be beyond wearing that orange shirt one time a year or talking about it one week a year in our schools,” he said.

“We should wear those shirts in every season. In Canada, the Indigenous tide is turning and reconciliation means something. We have momentum on our side. This is a small step in many steps needed to show our people that the province is on board with reconciliation,” said Taypotat,



The new sign designating Highway 201 Chief Kahkewistahaw Way.

“If we don’t understand history, we don’t understand who we are. Understanding who Chief Kahkewistahaw was and his legacy is a really good thing for all Saskatchewanites. When I’m gone

from this position, people are going to ask what did Chief Evan do... This is one thing that they’re going to remember,” he said. “We got it done. It was a small win, and we have to celebrate the wins in life.”



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October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Lemoine shares breast cancer story to spread awareness

☞ Continued from front

Life-changing moment

Lemoine says her cancer has not spread to another part of her body.

“It was scary. It was very upsetting. My whole family—my daughter just got married in September. All I wanted was to be well enough to be at her wedding. It was really hard.

“You have to get right into treatments. After I was diagnosed on Friday, June 13, Dr. Erika got me a CT Scan in Yorkton so most of July was travelling to all of these appointments. I had to go to Regina for an MRI, and then I had to go for a bone scan to see if the cancer had gotten into my bones—which it didn’t, thank god. It is in my lymph nodes and breast.

“Since June I have to go to Regina for these treatments. The other week I was supposed to go, but my numbers were kind of off so I had to cancel which I wasn’t too unhappy because it was two weeks before my daughter’s wedding and two weeks off before the wedding so I thought it would help me feel relaxed and good so I would have some energy for the wedding.”



Thankful for support system

Lemoine says she is grateful for her family and friends during this difficult journey.

“It is scary to not know what is going to happen. I am thankful for my husband,

my kids, my grandchildren. I have very good supportive family and friends. Like if my husband can’t take me for a trip to Regina for an appointment, I have friends and my sister that take me if I need. I have really good support.”



Spreading awareness

Lemoine wants to let other women know the importance of actively checking their breasts and knowing their body.

“The reason why I want to do this story is because when I did decide to start telling people about my cancer, I was at the pool this summer with my granddaughter and talking to a lady I knew for a long time.

“She said, ‘You know I have been meaning to go, but just haven’t gone’ and she actually messaged me to say, ‘Thank you so much for telling me your story. Because of you, I am on my way to Regina to get my mammogram done’ and I thought to myself, ‘I just told one person so what if we did a story on this so people could read and learn from it.’ Even if they don’t think it is anything they should go to the doctor and get regular check-ups.

“The mistake I made was waiting. You should never wait. I felt it in February, and I should’ve gone right away. You don’t wait for when your next mammogram appointment may be coming, you need go right away. You know your body and you should go right away.

“I think if you feel something that you don’t normally feel—start to know your breasts if you haven’t checked and if you

feel something you are unsure of it is just safe to go to the doctor. Don’t wait like me. I want to get the word out and try to tell people to just go and get them checked out.”

She adds, “I have learned that the Allen Blair Breast Cancer in Regina is unreal and amazing. When you first get diagnosed, they give you a team—you get your oncologist, your surgeon, you get a nurse that you can phone when you’re having problems and it is just amazing how good they are.”



Positive thinking

Lemoine says she is focused on thinking positively about her diagnosis.

“I don’t want the negative to overtake my thinking. I have to live for my grandchildren and children.

“My husband is planning to retire next year so I try to not let the negative thoughts creep in—but they do. I have had bad days, really bad days.

You always have to go through your bloodwork at the hospital before you can go for your treatment and the other week, I asked my husband to drive me because I wasn’t feeling good enough to drive and this is probably the reason why—my bloodwork came back and most of it was below normal so that is why they wouldn’t give me my treatment that time.

“I said to my surgeon, ‘Why me?’ There is no family history, I don’t drink or smoke, and she said, ‘Bad things happen

to good people.’ ”

Lemoine adds, “I hope to help other people and just to get the word out there to go and get looked at—I’ve already helped one person to go and get their mammogram. Breast Cancer Awareness month is this October and I think it is very important to keep the word going and tell women to get checked for young and old. I have joined some online Breast Cancer groups, most of them are in the States, and a lot of young people—that is one positive thing I have is I am not dealing with little ones running around while fighting Breast Cancer.

“I am not sure how a person would get through that. They would have to have a really good support system because that would be very hard. So, I am glad that I don’t have really young children at home, and that I have a very good support system. My husband is very good at looking after me and my kids.”

She says our community should be proud of the hardworking doctors and their care for their patients.

“I just want to make sure everyone knows how lucky we are for our doctors in Moosomin and how good Dr. Erika was with arranging my treatments and appointments while away in South Africa and dealing with her own personal things.

“I also want to thank my husband, Kevin, and my kids, family and friends for the support.

“It can be a very lonely fight and so if you’re reading this and have a friend or family member who is fighting something take them out for coffee, send a text or just check in on them, all of that is very important to somebody.”

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Moosomin Dodge

Moosomin Dodge is owned by the Olympic Auto Group based out of Regina. Olympic Auto Group purchased both the Moosomin and Whitewood dealerships about six years.

“Both dealerships were struggling a little bit when we bought them, and we are proud to say we have managed to keep business pretty steady ever since,” says Nick Shillington, finance manager with Moosomin Dodge.

“We have 19 staff here and we have nine staff in Whitewood, all of them full time, and we also employ some summer students each year.

“As well as sales, we provide vehicle servicing, parts, tires, and consignment, so if someone doesn’t want to just sell their vehicle, they can consign it to us. Detailing is also something we do.”

Shillington says Dodge is working hard to be a true community business.

“We are trying to become more community focused. At the start we did a little bit of community stuff but now we are trying to be more in the community with sponsorships, we are also trying to up our persona because I know at times we’ve had up and downs. We have really been trying to work on that. Those are the two big things we want to focus on. I’ve been here a little over three years now so we are definitely trying to make changes.”

Shillington says the best part of being at Dodge is helping people find just the



right vehicle.

“I love meeting different people every single day and helping them with a problem. That’s what we do here,” he says. “We don’t just sell cars, we provide solutions. Specifically me with financing, I protect people’s assets. With service, no one really wants to come to our service department because usually it means there’s a problem, so we try to make it as easy and seamless as we can.

“But honestly, there is nothing better than when someone comes in and they buy a new vehicle. To see the excitement, or the dream about what they are going to do, the travel—it really is just kind of a proud moment to give someone the vehicle that they have always wanted. Especially first time buyers. When they come in, they come in so scared, not knowing what to do and then they leave just happy as a peach. There is truly nothing better.”

Shillington says Dodge has been working hard to put a solid staff in place, one that the dealership can be proud of and that customers love dealing with.

“We have amazing staff, specifically in our service team. We have great techs, a great service manager, and we are excited about the new staff and the team we have here,” he says. “We’ve been working hard at building a welcoming community.”

What’s something about the car business that would surprise people?

“It is not as scary as people may think,” says Shillington. “People are always scared of big numbers involved in car sales, but really it’s a simple process.

“You come in, you find the vehicle you love, we try to give you the best deal that we can, and then you go on your way. It’s really not scary!

What does Shillington hope to see for the business down the road?

“We really want to be a part of the town even more,” he says. “We are trying to figure out different ways that aren’t just sponsorships so that the team here can integrate ourselves with the town and help out with things in the community. So in five years, we want to be a pillar in the town. We want to bring people to the town, to help work, and we want to do things like help out with the Steelhawks, with bringing the junior team in. We just want to do a lot of stuff like that!

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Hebert Grain Ventures

Hebert Grain Ventures is a grain farming operation in southeast Saskatchewan, just south of Moosomin and headquartered in Fairlight. Over the years the business has changed significantly.

“My dad’s first crop was around 1978. I got pretty involved throughout high school and came home full time in 2008,” says owner and partner Kristjan Hebert. “That year we started Hebert Grain Ventures which was a partnership between my parents, Karen and Louis Hebert, and my wife Theresa and I.

“Since then we’ve added some non-family partners. Jeff Warkentin is a partner in the farm as our Chief Operating Officer or COO. It’s a corporate partnership that growing pretty rapidly since 2008.”

Hebert says that the growth of HGV from the start has always been about having the right people.

“For farmers in the ‘80s and even early ‘90s, the only way to get ahead was to just work harder. It was a pretty tough time with interest rates and droughts,” he says. “Since then, one of our philosophies that has changed is that people are an investment and our greatest asset. There’s obviously still the land, but our second biggest investment is our people, and what they can accomplish.

“We really figured out that when it comes to people, growth is good. We never had a dream of a certain number of acres or anything like that. In fact when we hired Jeff our goal was to get to 15,000 or 16,000 acres and that was going to make all the people work. As we found good people, growth just came with it. Good people seem to want growth in their career and want to have more responsibility and be in charge of more things, and in that way when you find good people, growth can be a really great thing.”

The amount of land that HGV farms has greatly increased from when Louis Hebert first started in the late ‘70s.

“When I was younger we had 1,500 to 2,500 acres, and then when I was in high school we had a feed lot and cow calf operation. Now Hebert Grain Ventures will crop about 42,000 acres in 2025.”

As for the amount of staff they have now, Hebert says “it’s easy math.”

“We need a full-time team member for every 2,500 to 3,000 acres and we’ll pay out around 1.1 hours per acre, so around 49,000 hours,” he says. “It works out to 15 full-time people, but during harvest and seed-



ing it gets to around 25 or 30 people.”

Hebert says he never envisioned that HGV could become what it is today.

“I did my CPA with MNP, so it was actually the business side and the numbers side of farming that brought me back,” he says. “Don’t get me wrong, I take great pride in growing food for the world, but I saw a lot of ways that technology and business management could advance in the industry. But no, we had no dream of farming the acres we are now. The dream was probably somewhere around 16,000 acres. I think 100 acres per foot on an air seeder was a good number. We were running an 80 foot air seeder, and we were a little over 8,000 so we had to get to 16,000 to have two 80 foot drills.”

Today HGV has added other businesses that have developed as a spinoff from the grain farm.

“We have lots of businesses that we’ve bought or sold or been involved with. We have a consulting business in Saskatoon that deals with a lot more of the data and technology side. Our door is and has always been open to opportunity,” says Hebert. “We always thought that relationships were important, whether it’s with local landowners or the people on our team.”

HGV is just one part of Hebert Group, a larger agriculture organization involved in many different parts of the industry.

“Hebert Grain Ventures, as an entity, is pretty much just pure grain farming. We harvest wheat, yellow peas, canola, and fall rye. Seeding and taking the crop off are the biggest jobs, and this year we’re going

to have 2,500 loads of grain to haul out this winter. Kind of encompassed in that, we virtually have our own trucking company, we own our own purchasing and logistics company for what has to come in and out, and we more or less have our own shop because we do have a heavy-duty mechanic and we do a lot of the repairs we need ourselves. Because of its size, we have a few companies within the big one.

“As Hebert Group we have another fairly significant entity called Maverick Ag in Saskatoon. It’s got executive education for farmers called Farmer Coach, and we do a number of consulting engagements for companies or the government around agriculture and where we think it’s going, with a focus on finance risk-management. There are now nine full-time people on the Maverick side of things. Our CFO based in Saskatoon oversees all of that.”

Hebert says that growth has all been about taking the opportunities that have presented themselves.

“I think growth is really tied to the opportunities that come at you. I think that as long as we can continue to add some really great people to our team, we can build business around their skillset,” said Hebert.

“I’d like to continue to build our trucking side as we add more qualified A1 licence people. We’d love to have more autonomy on that side of the business and we could do some pretty unique sales if that were the case. As we continue to build some of the co-op programs with colleges that help with some of our seasonal staff, it allows us

to add more acres when that becomes available. Jeff and I both think that there are many opportunities on the grain handling side. So I think you’ll see us continue to invest in the infrastructure of our bin yard and even get to the point where we might start purchasing other people’s grain, doing some blending and other big contracts for companies.”

Hebert says that they have a relatively unique approach to their business.

“The big thing we try to be unique at is people. When I left working for corporate, I wanted our farm to have pension and have benefits and pay overtime and be super flexible. I know that during harvest it’s hard to be flexible, but during the winter months we try our hardest to be flexible for people to get to their kids’ sports and keep a handle on their home life, which can be unique for farms sometimes.”

“I think focusing on a real team mentality and trying to build our business like a hockey team is key—it’s very flat, it’s not very pyramid-y like you see with a lot of corporate cultures. It has allowed us to add a lot of really great people. I think that’s kind of what sets us apart. We look for great people and then grow—not grow and then hope we find good people.”

Hebert says they are always looking for good people who want to join the business.

“We’re interested in all good people and we can find a role for anyone’s skills and abilities within the team,” says Hebert. “I think a lot of businesses today think too much about cash flow and your bottom line, and forget that the people around you are your most important asset in running a successful business.”

“We’re very fortunate to have found great employees who share our values and have definitely contributed to the growth of our company,” says Hebert Grain Ventures COO Jeff Warkentine. “We’re really fortunate that we have staff with diverse talents which lends itself to building a strong team.

“You can’t grow like we have without good people.”

Warkentine says new people joining their team don’t need to have an agriculture background.

“You don’t have to be from a farm to work on a farm,” he points out. “We’ve got employees with a wide range of backgrounds. As long as they have our core values and a strong work ethic, then we welcome anyone on our team!”



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House of Hearing



When Chelsea Stewart opened House of Hearing in January 2022 in Esterhazy, Saskatchewan, she did it with a clear mission: to make high-quality hearing care accessible, compassionate, and community-focused.

As a licensed audiologist and mother of three, Chelsea was on maternity leave from her position with the Saskatchewan Health Authority, when her husband's

new job brought the family to Esterhazy. Chelsea was faced with limited audiology opportunities in rural areas and the demands of raising a young family, so she made the bold decision to start her own clinic.

With guidance from a business advisor at WESK, and strong community support, House of Hearing was established. The name came to Chelsea one day by perfect-



ly reflecting her vision of a welcoming, home-like clinic where patients feel understood, respected, and cared for.

Today, House of Hearing offers a wide variety of services for individuals aged 4 and up, including:

- Hearing evaluations
- Hearing aid fittings and servicing
- Earwax removal
- Custom earmolds and hearing protection
- Employee hearing screenings
- Mobile and in-home services for those unable to travel

Chelsea runs the clinic alongside the office manager, Natasha Morrison, the friendly face and voice patients first meet. Together, they form a small, but dedicated team driven by their “People over Profit” philosophy. Every patient is treated like family, and the focus is always on trust, education, and individualized care, never money.

Accessibility is at the core of House of Hearing’s mission. In addition to the Esterhazy clinic, Chelsea also travels to Rocanville and Broadview and offers on-site and in-home services for workplaces, care homes, or individuals with mobility challenges. The clinic is also expanding it’s mobile and virtual services to reach more rural and remote communities.

Owning her own practice has given Chelsea the freedom to control the quality of care she provides. She has seen the strain rural residents face when traveling long distances for hearing care and she is



passionate about closing that gap across Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

House of Hearing continues to grow, fuelled largely by word-of-mouth referrals. Many patients come in after negative experiences elsewhere, and Chelsea takes pride in helping them rediscover the positive impact hearing health can have on their lives.

Beyond day-to-day appointments, the clinic is committed to education and outreach. Chelsea regularly hosts free community events and presentations, both in person and online. Teaching topics like Brain Hearing™ technology, which focuses on how the brain, not just the ears, processes sound. She is also expanding efforts to raise awareness about how untreated hearing loss can impact communication, relationships, cognitive health, and overall well-being.

Looking to the future, Chelsea’s vision for House of Hearing is to continue expanding mobile and virtual services, increase community outreach and hearing health education, emphasize strong follow-up care and support for every patient, and help make hearing care a standard part of routine health check-ups, just like dental and eye exams.

Chelsea enjoys making a real difference in people’s lives. Being able to help someone hear their grandchild’s laughter again or participate fully in conversations is the most rewarding part of her work. And while the business continues to evolve, its core values remain the same.



HOUSE of HEARING

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The Old Stone Inn: Where History Meets Hospitality (and Really Good Food!)

If you’re looking for a getaway that’s equal parts charm, comfort, and culinary magic, head straight to 1202 3rd Street in Estevan. Behind its weathered stone walls lies **The Old Stone Inn** — a historic church turned into a one-of-a-kind bed and breakfast and event space that has locals buzzing and travelers lingering longer than they planned.

Owned and operated by **award-winning chef Laurie Wall**, The Old Stone Inn isn’t your typical B&B. “We’re not just serving breakfast,” Laurie grins. “We’re serving the prairies — one plate at a time. Everything that comes out of my kitchen starts with the people who grow, raise, and harvest it right here in Saskatchewan.”

Laurie’s devotion to **locally sourced ingredients** runs deep. She works closely with area farmers, ranchers, and producers who share her belief that good food begins with good roots. “These folks are the backbone of my menu,” she says. “They pour their hearts into the land, and I just get the joy of turning that into something delicious.” Her cooking celebrates the seasons — from farm-fresh eggs and honey to pasture-raised meats and prairie-grown grains — creating dishes that are honest, flavourful, and distinctly local.

Guests can stay in one of three uniquely themed suites, each with a private bath, curated décor, and a story of its own. The “**Happy Trails**” room nods to the inner cowboy in us all. The “**Silkroad**” suite is a tranquil escape inspired by Laurie’s travels throughout Asia. And the “**Harvest Room**” celebrates the region’s agricultural roots with earthy tones and a dash of vintage charm — a fitting tribute to the farmers who inspire her kitchen.

But it’s the upstairs — affectionately known as “**The Church**” — that brings people together. The open-beamed event space hosts four signature monthly hap-



The Old Stone Inn Bed & Breakfast, located at 1202 3rd Street, Estevan, SK

penings:

- **Chef’s Table Dinners:** Multi-course culinary adventures where every dish tells a story and often includes drink pairings. The menu is a mystery until each of the

six or seven courses is laid before you — each one a little love letter to the local landscape.

- **Cooking Classes:** Hands-on, laughter-filled lessons where guests learn new techniques and eat their results.
- **Afternoon Tea:** A nod to tradition with Laurie’s twist — think finger sandwiches, vintage china, and a touch of sass.
- **Cocktail Nights:** Themed evenings with curated drinks, small bites, and live local entertainment.

And when special events hit the calendar — from networking luncheons to sultry Valentine’s dinners, Halloween feasts, and live concerts — Estevan shows up. The space seats 30 comfortably for a plated dinner or around 40 for a stand-up cocktail affair, with a full sound system, mic, and a sense of intimacy that can’t be replicated.

Beyond being a beautiful venue, **The Old Stone Inn is quickly becoming a cultural hub**. Laurie partners with local organizations like Prairie Pathways Services for wellness workshops and retreats, and she’s developing an after-school life skills program for teens — a hands-on initiative to teach budgeting, nutrition, and other “real-world” essentials.

It’s that blend of **heart, history, and hilarity** that defines The Old Stone Inn. “This place isn’t about perfection,” Laurie says. “It’s about joy. It’s about people feeling like they belong.”

Guests often leave with more than full bellies — they leave with stories, laughter, and sometimes a new friend or two. “People think they’re coming for dinner,” Laurie says. “But really, they’re coming for connection.”

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Kahkewistahâw First Nation launches automotive training program in Broadview in partnership with SIIT



MLA Kevin Weedmark, Chief Evan Taypotat and some of the students.

The opening of the Fundamentals of Automotive Service Technician program, in partnership with Kahkewistahaw First Nation and Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technology.

BY NICOLE TAYLOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER
A new partnership between the Kahkewistahaw First Nation and the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies (SIIT) is bringing hands-on skills training closer to home, with the launch of a 12-week automotive training course.

The program, Fundamentals of Automotive Service Technician, will run through December 5. The course will be taught by Curtis Brooks and hosted at a nation-owned automotive shop located in Broadview. Graduates of the program will receive up to 360 hours of trade time toward their Automotive Service Technician apprenticeship, a significant step toward Red Seal certification.

An official grand opening ceremony for the program was held on September 26.

Chief Evan Taypotat of the Kahkewistahaw First Nation talked about the long-term benefits the program will offer for community members.

“Today there is two big wins for our community and we want to make sure we celebrate them. Nothing would make me more happy than to see you all here on graduation day. The hard work begins when all the cameras leave,” said Taypotat.

“Our people are stuck in this cycle, left by the residential school effect, and the people that are in this class, if you complete this course you’ll get paid pretty good to do something you love. And when you get paid well, you get more opportunities. Opportunities for your family and for your children. Get them into dance, hockey, football, and break that cycle called the residential school effect.

This is huge for us because it’s our job as leaders to present these opportunities so that these warriors have opportunities.”

Taypotat said that the demand for skilled trades and training is growing, and having these resources available locally makes it more accessible for community members.

Daryn Kody, Program Coordinator at SIIT, said the long-term relevance of automotive trades and the role the program will play in community development.

“Working for SIIT is one of the most rewarding jobs. This is a good investment for the community, for the town of Broadview, but it’s a better investment for the students.

“Your best investment is your people. This is one of the many programs that SIIT offers, and great representation, and I want to thank the students. Automotive technician will be around for awhile. It will be a great program,” said Kody.

“There is not enough good talk about all the positive things our leaders in our communities do. When something negative happens, it spreads like wildfire.” Tribal Chief Isabel O’Soup.

“When something like today happens, you won’t hear

talk about it. We tend to forget all the good that our leaderships do in our communities. We have to remember that—to encourage our leadership. They are working hard for our people. They are working for their communities. Without the elected leadership, we wouldn’t be able to do all of the things that we do.”

“This is a milestone that shows the leadership Kahkewistahaw has. I am delighted to see the official launch of this partnership between Kahkewistahaw First Nation and the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies,”



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Kids excited about new playground

MacLeod Elementary School students on Wednesday, when they were told their school will get a new playground next May. The school has raised \$100,000 for the new playground and the provincial government contributed \$50,000 last week through a new matching grant program for school playgrounds. In the centre behind the school sign are Principal Tammy Cole, Vice-Principal Scott Sully, and Moosomin-Montmartre MLA Kevin Weedmark.

New playground will be installed in May:
Province gives \$50,000 for
MacLeod School playground

BY NICOLE TAYLOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER
Moosomin’s MacLeod School will have a new playground next year thanks to a \$50,000 matching grant from the provincial government. The school had raised \$100,000 in the community, and the \$50,000 provincial contribution through a new program means the project will be fully paid for and can be built next spring. MacLeod School was among the first schools in the province approved for the grant. MacLeod School Principal Tammy Cole says the provincial grant made the difference and with that funding on top of the \$100,000 raised locally the project can go ahead. The equipment has now been ordered.

“Well, this was the difference maker because now we can build,” she said. “The exciting thing is that it’s something we’ve been fundraising for, for years, and this was the pinnacle moment so we’re very excited. “So we are looking at May to have the equipment installed. Around May 20th to May 21st is when we have asked them to come in and do this job. We will have community members, staff, and volunteers come help with that in May.” She said the new playground will replace the play structure in front of the school. “It will be a bit bigger than the one that is there now, so we will have to do some more work with that piece.” She said without the grant the school would still be in

the fundraising phase. “We would still be in the fundraising realm definitely because we are just about at \$100,000 and we need \$150,000, so in order to put it in as we would like with the inclusive piece, and a few additions into that, we wouldn’t be able to do it with the money we had, or it would probably take a few more years of fundraising, so this grant really makes all the difference.” She said the students are excited about the new playground. “The kids are excited and we can’t wait to invite some of the students over from the high school for when we do a grand opening. Especially after hours, they like to hang out at the playground.”

Continued on page 18

A sculpture, a photo, and a new understanding of reconciliation

Continued from page 7
That day in Regina was beautiful. In the speeches presented by RCMP officers and Stan Hunt and his family, I witnessed love, care, heartbreak, and history, all within one afternoon. Stan Hunt and his family travelled with the sculpture across Canada stopping in cities and celebrating Indigenous heritage and culture, and reconciling the past. The event at the RCMP Heritage Centre allowed for conversation, celebration, and learning experiences unlike any classroom. People were overwhelmed with the dedication of Stan Hunt to his work as well as the historical significance of the sculpture and the importance of the day. Looking back, I enjoyed the speeches about reconciling our country’s history, and this event was a step toward rebuilding relations between Canada and the Indigenous peoples, and moving forward together. The work of art ended its tour at the Canadian Museum of History in Gatineau, Quebec across the river from the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa. It was unveiled at the museum on the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Day, 2024.

Contacted by National Museum

The summer of 2024, I was contacted by the Canadian Museum of History to license a photo of mine to display in the museum along with Stan Hunt’s sculpture. I was shocked. I thought my photos were

good and portrayed the day well through the frames, but I never ever thought they would be noticed by anyone beyond the local readers of the World-Spectator. I actually remember coming back after my lunch break the day the museum contacted the newspaper about my photo and my colleagues telling me to look at the email instantly! I was so happy telling my family, and they were beyond proud and excited for me. My photo was originally licensed to be displayed in the museum for one year before I was contacted a few months later asking to renew the licensing for one more year because the photo complemented the exhibit so well. My photo of two RCMP officers placing a star blanket over sculptor Stan Hunt’s shoulders will be part of Stan Hunt’s Every Child Matters Exhibit until September 30, 2026. Still today, I am shocked that a photo of mine is highlighted in our country’s national museum for everyone from around the country—from all over the world—to see and admire. Being part of an Indigenous exhibit is also special to me because our country is working hard at building a new future, building better relations with Indigenous peoples, and recognizing their culture. My photo is a part of our country’s turning point to celebrating the Indigenous peoples and culture in our nation. My photo is a part of history, and that makes me happy to see our commitment to highlighting Indigenous art and recognizing

the true importance of Indigenous people in our country.

Visiting Canadian Museum of History

This summer I was lucky enough to travel alongside my parents and younger brother to see my photo displayed at the Canadian Museum of History in Gatineau. I felt like a celebrity being escorted to the exhibit by a museum employee and having photos taken of me beside my photo. When I first laid eyes on my photo my heart did a jump in my chest. Instantly I felt excitement and joy to see my photo—taken through my eyes that special day in Regina—placed on a wall for all to walk see and admire in our national museum. I have been to a lot of museum’s in my past with a teacher as a mom and I have also walked through museums briefly looking and passing photos hanging on the walls highlighting artists, but after seeing my own photo I realized every photo has a story and I pride myself to instead of briskly walking past each photo to actually look and admire the details and connections each one makes to the museum and exhibit. It was truly special recognizing my own work blown up and part of such a precious exhibit in an extravagant place. I was in awe of the exhibit. It was placed beautifully with the sculptor placed in the middle of the room and photos of its trip across Canada surrounding it. I wish the museum was just down the road or closer to home so I could see my photo every day or show more of my family and friends be-

cause it still feels unreal. I am so thankful to the museum for highlighting my photo as part of a historical storytelling exhibit proudly standing as a reminder to our country on reconciling the future. Truth and Reconciliation Day is about reminding our country and the people in it of our horrific past to move forward altogether and I understand the importance of telling these stories through sharing and art for Indigenous people thanks to the museum because of them I learned each artist is special as well as their story and deserve to be highlighted for their dedication in reminding our country and the people browsing museum exhibits to not forget it. Thank you to the Canadian Museum of History for a once-in-a-lifetime experience. It will forever be a highlight of my life. I am so grateful to be recognized as national museum-material photographer, an opportunity and goal I never knew I had. Thank you to the World-Spectator for the experience and exposure to special events in our country and provinces history. A photo of mine would not be in a museum if it weren’t for the paper. And for those on Truth and Reconciliation Day, I encourage you to learn and experience an Indigenous celebration or event in your future to better understand their culture, but to also to appreciate their dedication and resilience to continue to share and relive horrific pasts in their families to teach us all to work forward in Truth and Reconciliation so our country and world is a better place for future generations across Canada.



From left Moosomin-Montmartre MLA Kevin Weedmark, KGS engineer David Germin, Moosomin Mayor Murray Gray cutting the ribbon, Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe, former mayor Larry Tomlinson, and town of Moosomin CAO Paul Listrom.

Moosomin holds grand opening for new water treatment plant

BY NICOLE TAYLOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

On September 25, the town of Moosomin held a grand opening for its new water treatment plant.

The day consisted of tours of the plant, followed by speeches, with Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe attending to be part of the grand opening.

The project was jointly funded by the federal, provincial and municipal governments through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP). The federal government contributed more than \$5.4 million, with the provincial government providing over \$4.5 million and the Town of Moosomin responsible for the remaining \$3.6 million.

Moosomin-Montmartre MLA Kevin Weedmark was the MC for the event, and welcomed the premier and the other speakers.

“It’s a great honour for me to join with Kevin on behalf of the provincial government to come here and to celebrate this day with you, your municipal council, with the federal government, but most importantly with you the residents of Moosomin today, and to celebrate infrastructure that is greatly going to benefit your children, and grandchildren, the residents of Moosomin tomorrow,” said Moe.

“There’s infrastructure that we can all get excited about in our communities often—a new hockey rink, a new curling rink, pavement on our roads—but before you ever get to the paving stage, you need to take care of the pipes that are underneath that particular pavement, and then ultimately what is flowing through those pipes, which is safe water or clean water or waste water plants. This is the infrastructure that every community needs and ev-



Premier Scott Moe speaking at the grand opening of Moosomin’s water treatment plant. At left is MLA Kevin Weedmark, engineer David Germin and Mayor Murray Gray.

ery community has been looking at investing in, has invested in, or is continuing to invest in as we see our Saskatchewan communities growing.

“It’s really a true honour for us to partner in the ICIP program or the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program that we have, that allows infrastructure like this to actually become real, where you have the federal government show up with a portion of the funding, just over \$5 million in this particular case. You have the provincial government show up with a portion of that funding about \$4.6 million in this case, and then you have the municipality also show up with a portion of that funding, but the core initiative comes from the municipality

and comes from the people that live here and so for that we are truly grateful for the opportunity to participate in this.”

“It’s great to be here to see this project come to a completion. This conversation actually started with the council in 2017 when we decided that the old water plant was past its lifetime and we need to do something looking forward into the future,” said former mayor Larry Tomlinson. “We were lucky enough to apply for the ICIP and we got it between the two governments.

“I want to thank my past council for being on board with what we did, and looking into the future, it’s going to mean a lot. . . It’s going to be great water for everyone

in town, and will now supply up to approximately 5,000 people and I’m grateful to see this project come to completion.”

“It is an important day for our community and we need to celebrate,” said Mayor Murray Gray. “When you have a big win, when you do something great, you need to celebrate it. You need to make sure you take a look from 10,000 feet and that we are doing good things and we are going to continue to do good things. All of those things are done for the residents and not for ourselves. We want to make this a better place to live, play and work.

“This was an idea originally that we went to the design, then on to tendering, then two years of construction, three councils, eight years, many meetings and discussions, but today we celebrate all the hard work and all the effort to officially open our new plant.

“Simply, this new plant makes great water and will make great water into the future for many years to come and allow us to grow.”

“I’d like to thank the town of Moosomin and the council for the wonderful opportunity to work on this project from the conceptual design through to this grand opening,” said engineer David Germin with KGS. “This is actually my first project that bridged a municipal election and saw two sets of town councils, something that I thought was going to be a challenge, but instead turned out to be a very smooth transition. Both past and present councils were a pleasure to work with and they showed true passion and engagement during this vital project through all stages. Whether it was a simple or complicated decision, the commitment was evident by their timely responses to keep the project on track.”



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Above left: Scott Moe speaking at an event in Moosomin on September 25.

Above: Premier Scott Moe and MLA Kevin Weedmark in Whitewood talking to Dr. Cara Fallis about the residency program and health care issues.

Left: Scott Moe with the Grenfell mayor and health foundation in front of the construction of their new nursing home.

Premier visits the riding, new designation for highway

From weekend fundraisers to a visit by Premier Scott Moe to Moosomin-Montmartre to announcing a new training program in Broadview to announcing a new designation of Highway 201, I will remember the last month as a busy one, the 47th busy week in a row since I was elected in late October of last year.

Charlene helps in Langenburg

On Friday, September 19, my Constituency Assistant Charlene Easton cut the ribbon to officially open a rest stop and walking trails our government helped fund in Langenburg, in the neighbouring riding of Melville-Saltcoats.

My friend Warren Kaeding was originally scheduled to speak at the event but is off on a trade mission to Asia for our government.

A friend from Langenburg called Friday morning to ask me to fill in. I would have been on the road in a heartbeat if I was in Moosomin, but I was in Regina for an event at the Legislature and to speak to the Saskatchewan College of Family Physicians. I reached out to my colleagues but no other MLA was available so I sent Charlene Warren's speaking notes and told her she was up!

She was happily toodling down the road to Langenburg three minutes later! Great job, Charlene!

Weekend events

There were a lot of events in the riding over the September 20-21 weekend. It was the Strokes and Stitches Craft Show on Saturday and it was great to meet so many crafters from around the area at the show.

There was an amazing turnout at the fundraiser Saturday night, September 20 for Angela Hales, who is recovering from a brain bleed.

Hundreds of people turned out at Skout Brewing to show their support!

Thanks to everyone who came out to show their support! If you missed it but still want to help the family, e-transfers can be sent to prayingforang@gmail.com or there is a Go Fund Me set up at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/praying-for-angie>

I was so happy to be there and show my support. The event raised more than \$10,000 to help the family. It's always amazing to see the way communities come together to support those in need. It was a great event, and great to reconnect with so many people there.

I also attended the Moosomin Legion Fowl Supper on Sunday night, I'm sure the first of many this fall.

Breast Health Centre tour

On Monday, I toured the Regina Breast Health Centre. The NDP requested a tour of this amazing new facility, so I was there for our government, and leading the tour



were Kerri Hysiuk, Executive Director of Surgical and Tertiary Services for Regina, and Richard Dagenais, Executive Director of Medical Imaging from Regina.

Kerri and Richard did an amazing job of explaining the difference the Breast Health Centre makes.

A few weeks ago, at the Breast Reconstruction Awareness Event, I heard a lot of positive comments from Breast Cancer survivors about the difference the Breast Health Centre makes.

The Regina Breast Health Centre, which opened in April of this year, provides a wide variety of services, including diagnostic imaging, biopsies, specialist consultations, patient education and navigation to other on-site post treatment therapies and rehabilitation.

Our government has invested a total of \$8.5 million to open the new Breast Health Centre in Regina including \$6.5 million for renovations and diagnostic equipment, plus \$2 million for operational costs.

There were 13 new positions created with the opening of the Regina Breast Health Centre.

It was a great tour and I learned a lot from Kerri and Richard.

Premier visits Moosomin-Montmartre

Premier Scott Moe visited the Moosomin-Montmartre constituency on Thursday, September 25.

We visited three communities that day.

In Grenfell, we met with Mayor Mark Steininger and members of the Grenfell Health Care Foundation, and visited the construction site of the new 33-bed long-term care facility.

We also met with Tyler Thomlinson and his family at the site of the new pharmacy Tyler is building. It's great to see, as our government is investing in Grenfell with the new long-term care centre, and private business is investing in the community and helping build its future.

In Whitewood we met with Dr. Cara Fallis, who is the first physician to complete her medical residency with the Southeast Family Medicine Residency Program. It was wonderful to have a discussion with Dr. Fallis about

the issues in rural health care.

In Moosomin the premier spoke at the grand opening of the community's new water treatment plant. The plant represents a total investment of \$13.5 million and is making a huge difference in the quality of water provided to local residents.

We had a great lunch with a few folks, and a great exchange of ideas.

Thanks to Premier Scott Moe for touring my constituency with me Thursday!

Fundamentals of Automotive Service Tech Program

I was happy to represent our government at the grand opening of the Fundamentals of Automotive Service Tech Program at Broadview Autobody Friday morning, September 26.

It's great to see the official launch of this partnership between Broadview Autobody, Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies and the Kahkewistahaw First Nation. The event Friday was about creating opportunity, building skills, and laying the foundation for long-term success in our communities. The trades—especially in automotive service—are not just careers. They are pathways to independence, economic stability, and community growth. The skills taught in this program will serve graduates for a lifetime.

Great program, great partnership, and good to see this happening in our riding.

Designation of Highway 201 as Chief Kahkewistahaw Way

I was in Kahkewistahaw First Nation Friday afternoon for the announcement of a new designation of Highway 201 between the Trans-Canada Highway and the Qu'Appelle Valley as Chief Kahkewistahaw Way. This is more than just a change of signs along the roadside. This is a moment of recognition, respect, and reconciliation.

It's a step toward acknowledging the contributions, leadership, and enduring legacy of Chief Kahkewistahaw, a man whose vision and strength continue to inspire generations.

His name symbolizes leadership, clarity of vision, and guardianship. These are the values he upheld, and they remain foundational to the community that proudly bears his name today.

It was great to be on Kahkewistahaw First Nation and make this historic announcement.

Reach out

Feel free to reach out any time. You can reach me at 306-435-4005, email office@world-spectator.com, or drop in at 622 Main Street in Moosomin.

Province gives \$50,000 for MacLeod School playground

Continued from Page 15

She says the play structures at the school are well used, not just by school children, but by other people in the community.

“We always have people that stop by. We have families that stop by use our playground and have picnics. All summer long it’s just very busy. Even throughout the day sometimes people stop in and play at the park here. Weekends are always busy.”

Cole says it was an exciting moment when she found out they had received the grant.

“It arrived at 1:34 yesterday afternoon but I was teaching gym all afternoon so it wasn’t until I was cleaning out my e-mails at the end of the day when I saw it,” she said Wednesday.

“I was in tears. I had to text (vice-principal) Scott (Sully) and say ‘Scott we got it!’ He was the first person I contacted and we’ve just kind of shared that out and then we showed the staff and the super attendant this morning which was really exciting. It will be great. Now we get to do the exciting part.”

Applications for the new School Play-



A rendering of the new playground for MacLeod School.

ground Equipment Grant program are still open. The program supports the creation of safe, accessible playgrounds on school operated property throughout Saskatchewan. Eligible projects can receive up to \$50,000 in matching funds to build a new

playground. Funds can also be used to add new equipment or replace components on an existing playground.

“The province is investing \$3.75 million annually over the next four years to enrich

outdoor play spaces throughout Saskatchewan,” Parks, Culture and Sport Minister Alana Ross said. “This program supports the incredible work done by volunteer school community councils and parent groups who raise money to create safe, accessible playgrounds for their children. It benefits the kids, families, and their communities and I look forward to seeing more projects break ground.”

The application period will run until February 25, 2026, on a first-come, first served basis.

The program is being administered in partnership with the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association (SPRA).

“Playgrounds are critical spaces that contribute to a healthy Saskatchewan population,” Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association President Darcy McLeod said. “Investments like the School Playground Equipment Grant help instill the importance of play and physical literacy in our children and youth, which in turn will build a more active future for our province.”

Daryl Harrison

Member of the Legislative Assembly

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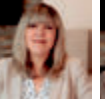
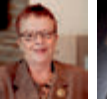
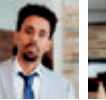
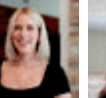
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Community Acres crop harvested

BY NICOLE TAYLOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER
The Community Acres crop was harvested on October 6.
Local farmers have formed Community Acres to help fundraising projects and opportunities in Moosomin. The group rents farmland south of town along Highway 8 and will be donating the proceeds of that crop to community projects.

This was the first year for the crop, and there was lots of help with the crop from local contributors.
“We had Keith Turpie and Levi Jamieson who rented the land to us,” says organizer Jeff Skulmoski. “The seed was donated by Pioneer Seeds and myself, Jeff Skulmoski, BASF, and Brevant Seeds. The fertilizer came from Parrish and Heimbecker in Moosomin. That was the biggest contributor.

The pre seeding spraying was done with my sprayer and Kim Skulmoski sprayed it. The chemical was donated my Sharpes Soil Services. The seeding was done by Bruce Farms. The in crop spraying was done by Kyran Foy and herbicide was donated by Craig Roy and Chris Mannle with Synergy Ag.
“The harvest was done by Kyran Foy, Rocky Mountain Equipment, and the cano-

la was hauled to Parrish and Heimbecker in Moosomin. Tim and Chris Crossley brought a combine for a couple of hours as well. Fenton Marten’s truck hauled the canola to Parrish and Heimbecker, and Rocky Mountain Equipment, and Foy’s did some trucking to the elevator in Moosomin there as well.”
There were 5,230 bushels of canola harvested bringing in \$65,500 before the rent.

Kevin Weedmark photos





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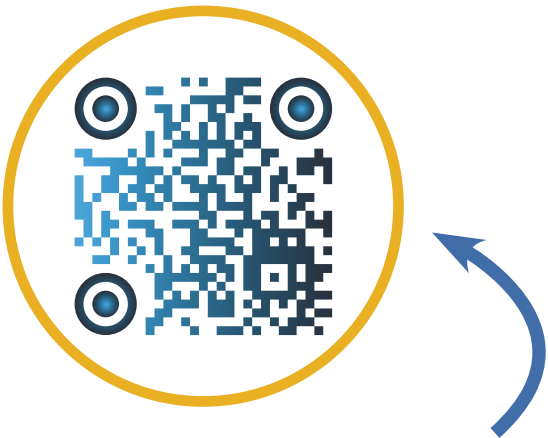
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Plain & Valley

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Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba



Harvest day for the Harvest of Hope.

Helping food security locally and internationally:

Harvest of Hope has raised over \$700,000

BY ASHLEY BOCHEK

On the morning of Sept. 29, farmers from around the area left their own fields and gathered in a field next to Highway 8 between Moosomin and Rocanville to harvest a crop not to benefit themselves, but to help hungry people down the road and around the world.

Along with local farmers, three Moosomin equipment dealers were there with their harvest equipment. Credit union employees made lunch for the volunteers. Children played and ran through the field. And the harvest rolled in.

Harvest of Hope is a communal project to help food security locally in Moosomin and Rocanville, as well as the most food insecure areas of the world.

Volunteer Kyle Penner of Harvest of Hope explains the project and the contri-

“Our project feeds people locally, but also all over the world.”

—Kyle Penner

butions it has made over the 14 years of operating to help with food security locally and internationally.

“The Harvest of Hope is a community growing project that is a supporter of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, and this particular growing project has been operating in Moosomin now for 14 years and we’ve raised just a little bit over \$700,000 to date in total over the past 14 years, and all of that revenue has gone toward feeding hungry people.”

The Moosomin project is the largest Canadian Foodgrains Bank project in Saskatchewan.

How it started

Penner explains the project’s early stages over a decade ago.

“There was a group of local farmers who were passionate about starting this kind of project and they were approached by somebody who used to live in the area and now worked in the area in food security and knew them. They said they would love to start a project like this and we were able to get a few things together like land and input capital to help get us started. The land that we have used for all 14 years is rented and the owner of the land lives in

Alberta, but it was rented through a connection with one of the local farmers that we were able to get the lease for that land.”

Penner says the project is supported by many agricultural companies.

“All of the OEMs (Original Equipment Manufacturers) in Moosomin, so Pattison Ag, Rocky Mountain Equipment, and Mazergroup, have been tremendous supporters of the project and we couldn’t do the work we do without their help, but when it comes to community support—those three and Vaderstad have all said, ‘We have equipment’ and they have used this project as an opportunity to showcase their equipment, demo it, to try different things, but they also use it as an opportunity to use their capacity to give back to the community.”

Continued on pages 39 & 40

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Moe says province, federal government working together to defend canola industry

BY NICOLE TAYLOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Premier Scott Moe was in Moosomin on September 25, and was asked what some of the next steps are in tackling the issue of canola prices in Saskatchewan.

“Parliamentary Secretary Kody Blois has said there would be three ministers on the ground in China that continue to engage, and that’s a good next step,” said Moe.

“I think we saw one of the next steps yesterday when the Prime Minister of Canada had a meeting with the President of China yet again in New York, and it looks like there will be a meeting between President Xi Jinping and our Prime Minister some time in the future. That’s where it’s going to get settled, and I’ve always said it isn’t going to be Premier Moe or any other premier sitting down with the president of China, it needs to be a nation-to-nation agreement.

“I think there is a path and an avenue for us to find some resolution with China. However, the bigger, broader, and our largest trading partner continues to be the United States of America, and all of these conversations, although not directly connected, have connections, and we need to continue to work hard in Washington D.C. We’re doing what we can to support the Minister Dominic LeBlanc, who has taken up residence in D.C. to carry on discussions with Secretary Howard Lutnick, so there is a lot going on.

“We very much have to stay focused on what matters to Canada, Canadians, and our Canadian economy. For us in Sas-



katchewan it’s all about market access. Low-tariff, zero-tariff market access. Our largest trading partners are the U.S. and China. We’ve been fortunate in diversifying to a number of other markets that are now billion dollar markets for us such as

Mexico, Japan, and South Korea is an increasing market, the European Union is an increasing market, India is an increasing market. We’re maybe in a little bit stronger position than other provinces, but we need that tariff-free market access, in particular to the the U.S. and China, so those are priorities for us right now.

“And you are seeing something new from this premier and this government where we are working alongside supporting the federal government and getting us to that point.

“Over the last 10 years there has been a feeling by myself and many industries and people working in places like Moosomin, Saskatchewan that there has been a number of things that have been done to us, to the industries that are employing people and creating wealth in our communities, by our federal government and prime minister.

“Today that has changed to some degree where we have a number of things that are being done to our nation of Canada in the way of market access to the United States, market access to China and elsewhere by other foreign players, so this is a time for us to come together as Canadians at various levels of Canadian governance to defend Canadian interests, all of them, including those in Saskatchewan, including the canola industry.”

Left: Premier Scott Moe speaking in Moosomin on Sept. 25



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USask announces new Introductory Agriculture certificate

Students in the new Certificate in Introductory Agriculture program can study online or in-person at their own pace to learn about agriculture in the Canadian Prairie Region.



Christina Weese photo

The new Introductory Agriculture certificate provides a base knowledge of agriculture in the Canadian Prairie region.

“The new Introductory Agriculture certificate is designed for a variety of learners from different education and professional backgrounds,” said Dr. Angela Bedard-Haughn (PhD), dean of the College of Agriculture and Bioresources (AgBio) at the University of Saskatchewan (USask). “The Col-

lege of Agriculture and Bioresources developed this certificate to provide students flexible learning and choice in their pathway to admission. Applicants can range from mature students who want to broaden their scope of professional practise into agriculture, to undergraduate students across different

academic disciplines.”

The target audience for the new certificate also includes educators who want to deliver science-based agriculture programs in primary and secondary schools, individuals seeking entry-level, non-professional agriculture employment, and new and current USask undergraduate students. USask students can earn this certificate concurrently with their degree or diploma program or take it as a standalone program. It provides students from different academic disciplines, such as business or engineering, a competitive edge by expanding their scope for future careers.

The Introductory Agriculture certificate provides a base knowledge of agriculture in the Canadian Prairie region. Students will learn key competencies in the field of agriculture, diverse ways of knowing, agrology and professional practice in agriculture, the scientific principles that govern agriculture and the environment, and the socioeconomic impacts of agriculture.

“The College of Agriculture and Bioresources has a proud history of responding to the educational needs of Saskatchewan, the nation, and the world by developing innovative programming,” said Dr. Tom Yates (PhD), associate dean academic of AgBio. “The Introductory Agri-

culture certificate is the fifth new educational program we’ve launched since 2022. We’re committed to empowering students to learn in ways that fit their lives and therefore benefit their communities.”

Courses in the Introductory Agriculture certificate can be transferred into oth-

er AgBio undergraduate degree and diploma programs. Students also have the choice to study online or in-person at their own pace. New applicants can start the 15-credit unit certificate as early as January 2026. Questions about the program can be directed to AgBio Student Services.

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Tailgate meals make the best harvest memories

I was thumbing through a magazine the other day when I came across an advertisement for a “Tailgating” recipe magazine and my first thought was, ‘Why didn’t I think to write one of these? I have a LOT of tailgate meal experience,’ followed by, ‘Oh right, cooking’s not my thing.’ I actually wondered if it might be worth buying the magazine until I noticed in smaller print down in the right-hand corner: “Game Day Favourites.” Alas, their idea of ‘tailgate’ was not remotely the same as mine. While I might not have the same fond memories of tailgate meals when the grands are grown, I am positive they will have nothing but great memories of the crew gathered ‘round, grabbing plates of food and chatting for a few minutes before climbing back aboard their respective machines/trucks.

And yes, it is that time of year—tailgate meals galore. My handy-dandy meal planner (self-made) sits perched on my counter, open at Week 1, Day 1. I love that I created this masterpiece (well If nothing else, it’s a piece of work of some sort) but I have to be honest. I haven’t actually utilized it at all, so it’s still sitting open at Week 1, Day 1. A down day or a rainy day or a run for parts day messes up my week so I need to re-work it into a one-day-at-a-time sort of plan and forego the extensive planning ahead part.

The last part of August was mighty hot and I actually thought I was going to enjoy the cooler days they were predicting at the time. I should know myself better. Once the cool days and frosty nights arrived, I was cranking up the furnace, both in the RV at the farm and the house in town, depending on where I was staying at the moment. The crop isn’t anywhere close to being off and I am already wondering how I am going to survive the cold winter days and how I am going to keep myself busy and moving.

Beautiful harvest weather returned after a week or so of damp weather and so the twins (14) and I began counting down the number of “fields” that were left. It didn’t result in us figuring out exactly how many acres (the boys felt saying ‘12 quarters minus some bush’ was best) there were left between Gramps’ fields or their dad’s fields, but we came up with a number of days that we thought it might take us to finish and it wasn’t too far from what the guys figured (although, to be honest, I added four extra days on for good measure.) Hubby’s reaction was an emphatic, “How did you come up with that number!?” with



a shake of his head. I have my reasons—shorter days/late starts, bad breaks, fires. Fires? What’s with the fires?

A baler fire one day and a combine fire another added a bit of excitement to our otherwise every-day-the-same kind of days. Between neighbours, fire fighters and family, there was some fast action which resulted in the fire not spreading to the field of wheat across the fence line. The combine fire was fortunately extinguished relatively quickly but meant a down day or two while we awaited parts. Those hot days had me worried the tailgate meal truck might catch on fire during lunch times especially as I had to keep it running in the field for the dog. She hates the heat and sits front and center with her nose pretty much pressed right against the front a/c vent. On the hot days, she will take air conditioning over sandwich crusts any day.

There’s been the odd other ‘oops’ moments, some bigger, some smaller. When your granddaughter joins you on the lunch run and notices the grain that Uncle is unloading into the semi trailer is simply running through onto the ground, you know there has been another ‘oops’ moment somewhere along the line.

We lost a couple of good combine/swather operators when the twins went back to school after a good run of harvest days during the last part of August. I am not sure who was sorrier they had to go back to school—us or them. One day when their dad and I drove up to one of the grain trucks, we noticed a layer of wheat covering the hood of the truck (someone had an ‘oops’ moment) and I know we both thought the same thing at the same time—let’s move that truck real quick before Grandpa comes

along in his combine and notices that (like it’s never happened to him!)

The days tend to run one into the other at this time of year and when I tell someone there was a phone call for them two or three days ago and then check my phone and see it was only yesterday, that’s when I realize the long days are catching up with me. I like to start my day washing combine windows (is the dust on these canola fields not worse than ever before?) before I head back to the yard to make breakfast. Or to eat what hubby has made as the case may be if he beats me back after fueling and servicing the machines. Once I get back into town I start making bun dough and prep for lunch. I am pretty certain there is a direct correlation between my tendency to bake and how far behind I am on doing the farm books. Yup, procrastination keeps the cinnamon buns rolling off the assembly line!

On this particular day (the 24th of September), I was late getting windows done (where are the combine keys this time/the header needs lowering or raising, etc.) and I expressed my frustration to hubby saying there was no way I would get my bun dough on in time let alone have buns baked for the hamburgers I was planning to make for lunch. “But there is an easy solution to that,” he says, “go to the grocery store and buy some buns!” And so ... with already four trips to the grocery store in the past two days, I made my fifth trip. Maybe that weekly plan with its handy dandy grocery list wasn’t such a bad idea after all!

Last night, after a visit with the twins around the campfire, I plopped down onto the couch in the RV with the ‘special’ (spoiled) farm cat next to me (she likes real people food as opposed to cat food), I opened my computer to finish this column. I was filled with a deep appreciation for all those in my life who keep things rolling at such a crazy time of year. I know, I know, I complain about the darn meal-making/hauling but it’s a tiny but important part of the operation and when the busy-ness ends, I will be wishing for something more to do. So for now, I will stick my wing-it meal plans, enjoy the grands and friends who grace my kitchen table every day at noon and I will be thankful for our farm life and all that it offers (even the challenges). There is no life like it and to explain it is nearly impossible.

Keep plugging away, grain farmers. By the time you read this, you (and maybe us too) may be finished, but if not, let’s get ‘er done! Until next time, safe harvesting!!

LAND FOR SALE BY TENDER

Sealed, written tenders for the property located in the Municipality of Brenda-Waskada and described below will be received by:

Meighen Haddad LLP
P.O. Box 485, 102 N. Railway Ave., Deloraine, MB R0M 0M0
Attention: Warren G. Barber, K.C.

PROPERTY:
E ½ 12-3-24 WPM comprising 320 acres more or less*
* all acreages taken from the most recent Manitoba Property Assessment Reports.

- CONDITIONS OF TENDER:**
- Interested parties must rely on their own inspection and knowledge of the property and not on the above or any other particulars or representations made by or on behalf of the seller.
 - Tenders must be received at or before **noon on Thursday, November 6, 2025** at the offices of Meighen Haddad LLP, at the address set out above, Attn: Warren G. Barber.
 - Tenders must be accompanied by a **\$5,000.00** deposit cheque payable to Meighen Haddad LLP. Deposits accompanying unacceptable bids will be refunded.
 - Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

- TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE**
- The land is currently subject to a lease which will expire upon the termination of the current crop year. Notwithstanding the date of closing, the tenant shall have access to the land to complete the current year’s harvest including the removal of grain (if any) stored on the land.
 - The bidder whose tender is accepted will be required to complete an agreement covering the terms and conditions of sale. That agreement will require that, in addition to the deposit, 50% of the balance of the accepted tender must be paid within the current calendar year and the balance of the accepted tender within the first fifteen (15) business days of calendar year 2026.
 - Possession is not authorized until acceptable arrangements for the full payment are made following acceptance of tender.
 - All mines and minerals will be reserved from any transfer.
 - Successful bidders will be responsible for real property taxes commencing **January 1, 2026**.
 - Successful bidders will be responsible to pay G.S.T. or to provide a Declaration and Undertaking to self-assess if registered for G.S.T.
 - Each of the vendor and purchaser will be responsible for their own legal fees and disbursements relating to the sale.

For further information or an appointment to view, contact
Russ McMechan @ 204-747-3558 or 431-236-3038

Meighen Haddad LLP

LAW FIRM

LAND FOR SALE BY TENDER

Sealed, written tenders for the property described below will be received by:

Meighen Haddad LLP
129 Souris Street
P.O. Box 397
Melita Manitoba, R0M 1L0
Attention: Karen Beauchamp

PROPERTY:
SE ¼ 11-4-28 WPM exc all mines and minerals
W ½ 12-4-28 WPM exc all mines and minerals

EACH TENDER MUST BE FOR ALL THE LAND. No bids for individual quarters will be accepted.

The current tenant will be allowed to finish the rental of the land for 2025 season but successful Tenderor will have permission to do fall work after tenant’s crop is removed.

- CONDITIONS OF TENDER:**
- Interested parties must rely on their own inspection and knowledge of the property and not on the above or any other particulars or representations made by or on behalf of the Seller.
 - Tenders must be received on or before 5:00 p.m. on **November 3, 2025** in an envelope marked “TENDER”.
 - Each tender must be accompanied by a \$15,000.00 deposit cheque payable to Meighen Haddad LLP. Deposits accompanying unaccepted bids will be refunded.
 - Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

- TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE**
- The bidder whose tender is accepted will be required to complete an agreement covering terms and conditions of sale.
 - The closing date of the sale shall be **December 1, 2025** on which date the Vendors shall provide a registerable Transfer of title to the Purchaser and the Purchaser shall pay the balance of the accepted tender. If the balance of the accepted tender is not paid within the set time limit or acceptable arrangements for payment have not been made, the deposit paid may be forfeited as liquidated damages and not as a penalty.
 - All mines and minerals will be reserved from any Transfer.
 - Land is in the Torren’s Title system.
 - Successful bidders will be responsible for real property taxes commencing January 1, 2026.

For further information contact Brayden Lesy at 204-522-5751

Meighen Haddad LLP

LAW FIRM

Maximizing every acre: How 4R Nutrient Stewardship transforms soil efficiency

BY TREVOR BACQUE

Farmers who want their crops to be as sustainable and productive as possible should continue to adapt 4R practices, as well as explore new and emerging technologies. That’s the message from the Enterprise Machine Intelligence Learning Initiative (EMILI) staff. EMILI is an industry-led non-profit that works collaboratively with producers, industry, investors and innovators to grow a sustainable and economically resilient digital agriculture industry. It’s part of the FCC Innovation Farm Network, which supports entrepreneurs in commercializing their innovations by testing and refining them under actual farm conditions before the product reaches the broader market. 4R practices are:

Right source: Use the correct type of fertilizer or nutrient source that matches crop needs and soil conditions.

Right rate: Apply the appropriate amount of nutrients to meet crop requirements without excess.

Right time: Apply nutrients when crops can best use them, reducing losses due to runoff, leaching or volatilization.

Right place: Position nutrients where crops can access them efficiently, such as near the root zone.

EMILI hosted the Manitoba 4R Day at Innovation Farms on Grosse Isle, Manitoba. Innovation Farms Manager Leanne Koroscil says those at the event were surprised to see how the 4Rs can be applied and improve their bottom lines.

“Practices actually improved on-farm economics, crop productivity and fertilizer efficiency while also benefiting the environment,” she says.

The day also featured in-depth discussions on enhanced efficiency fertilizers, soil sensors, and tile drainage, all in relation to 4R nutrient stewardship.

“Implementing 4R practices helps folks improve agricultural productivity, and it also minimizes the impact on the environment,” Koroscil says. “As a whole, it’s really helping farmers grow food in a sustainable way.”

The farm is situated on a real, working 5,500-acre broadacre crop operation. This provides farmers with a clear understanding of how the practices can work at their farm. “It really gives people a realistic view of what is happening on the real scale,” she says.

Soil sense

Another exciting feature at Innovation Farms is the network of soil sensors. They are tethered to weather stations and monitored through an app on a farmer’s smartphone. The tech from one of the sensor systems, Crop Intelligence, monitors and records soil moisture and other environmental metrics to identify yield potential throughout a field during the growing season. It can help a farmer know when to apply more fertilizer, nutrients, or spray crop protection products, which could ultimately save farmers money and preserve the efficacy of crop protection products.

“You can’t manage what you don’t measure,” Koroscil says. “Having sensors on the farm is just one way that we’re able to make more informed decisions.”

Sensors aren’t just for soil, either. Other commercially available sensors at the farm include imaging sensors and those capable of detecting the movement of grain in fields or storage bins.

4R nutrient stewardship really helps contribute to the preservation of land.

Above all, Koroscil encourages farmers to continually learn about the 4R principles.

“Because every farm is different, there’s not necessarily one practice that works for every farm - it’s going to work differently for everybody,” she says. “Being able to educate yourself on what is being researched in your area, applicable to your region and soil types on your farm, will be very beneficial. Take time to attend something like a 4R event, webinars or engage other resources.”

Beyond that, Koroscil encourages farmers to track and record field data as much as possible. Historical data is valuable in helping to inform future decision-making.

EMILI: a natural partner

For FCC, the decision to support EMILI was an easy one. Chelsea Gray, FCC’s Smart Farm Partnership Manager, says the work at EMILI aligns perfectly with what FCC is all about: sustainability across all metrics at a farm and ranch level.

“They’re super sophisticated in their programming and how they execute on-farm events to showcase technologies and share insights and innovation in the agriculture industry,” Gray says. “They check every box in terms of what I look for in a strategic industry partner.”

With the unique projects carried out at EMILI Innovation Farms, all powered by AgExpert, this real-world collaboration has helped FCC firsthand enhance the product and continues to make it as functional as possible for farmers.

“This really allows AgExpert to not only support the industry, but it also ensures that our product is evolving to support the changing needs of over 100,000 customers,” Gray says. “What we care about is empowering our customers to make informed business decisions to support their success. 4R practices are a way to create a net positive impact at a farm level.”

Manitoba expands ag services with new MASC offices in Virden, Shoal Lake

The Manitoba government is strengthening support for farmers and rural communities with two new Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation (MASC) offices in Virden and Shoal Lake, Agriculture Minister Ron Kostyshyn announced here today.

“Our government is committed to ensuring Westman farmers have the tools and support they need to succeed after the previous government closed these offices,” said Kostyshyn. “By opening new MASC offices in Virden and Shoal Lake, we are making it easier for producers to access programs and services closer to home, where they are needed most.”

The new offices will improve access to MASC programs and services, providing more convenient, in-person support for crop insurance, lending and other key resources, the minister said.

MASC plays a vital role in supporting the province’s agriculture sector through risk management, financing, and advisory services, noted the minister,

adding that the new locations are part of the Manitoba government’s ongoing efforts to strengthen rural communities.

“The Town of Virden is so pleased to welcome the MASC offices back,” said Mayor Tina Williams, Town of Virden. “The value of having a local office for our surrounding farm communities cannot be overstated.”

The Virden and Shoal Lake offices are now open to serve 650 to 700 farmers and agri-businesses in the surrounding regions. Each new service centre is staffed by four full-time employees and a team of insurance adjusters.

MASC now has 12 service centres across the province providing access to agricultural insurance, lending and other agricultural programs and services.

For more information on MASC programs and services, visit www.masc.mb.ca.



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NW 10-3-31-W3	160 acres	\$289,500
NW 11-3-31-W1	160 acres	\$254,000
LSD 4 & 5 of SW 11-3-31	80 acres	\$146,800

(All acreages approximate. Assessment as of 2025)

• Closing date for bids Nov 30, 2025 by 5:00 PM

• Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted

• Interested bidders must contact the undersigned to request a tender package be sent to them, which will have all details, terms and conditions.:

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500, 616 Main Street,

Saskatoon, SK S7H 0J6

Attn: Ellen Fitzgerald and Marichu Schmidt

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Cyber on the farm: The most common attacks that target farms

Canadian farming operations are finding themselves at an interesting junction. Long gone are the days of simply managing livestock and crops. Today's farmers are more digital and connected than ever, improving their production and efficiency thanks to things like data, cloud-based bookkeeping, and precision farming.

There's no denying this digital shift brings more insight. But it also opens the door to something that's disruptive in a different way: cyberattacks against the agriculture sector.

The reality is that cybercriminals don't just go after big corporations. They go after businesses that are vulnerable. And that includes farms of all sizes.

Let's break down the most common types of cyberattacks impacting agriculture operations today, so you can better protect yourself and your livelihood.

A growing target

Canada's agriculture industry plays a significant role in the national economy and food security. However, this is also what makes it such an appealing target for cybercriminals. And as your farm continues to embrace digital tools and becomes more connected, your need for cyber security increases.

Cyber threats, like ransomware, phishing, and AI-driven fraud, are becoming both more frequent and more sophisticated. And a single cyber incident can pack a punch—potentially disrupting your daily operations, causing financial losses, and damaging customer trust and your reputation.

But despite this increase in risk, an MNP report, Cyber security on the farm, found that only seven percent of farmers feel very knowledgeable about cyber security. And nearly 80 percent of Canadian farms lack an incident response plan.

This disconnect underscores the need for more awareness and understanding around cyberattacks and security.

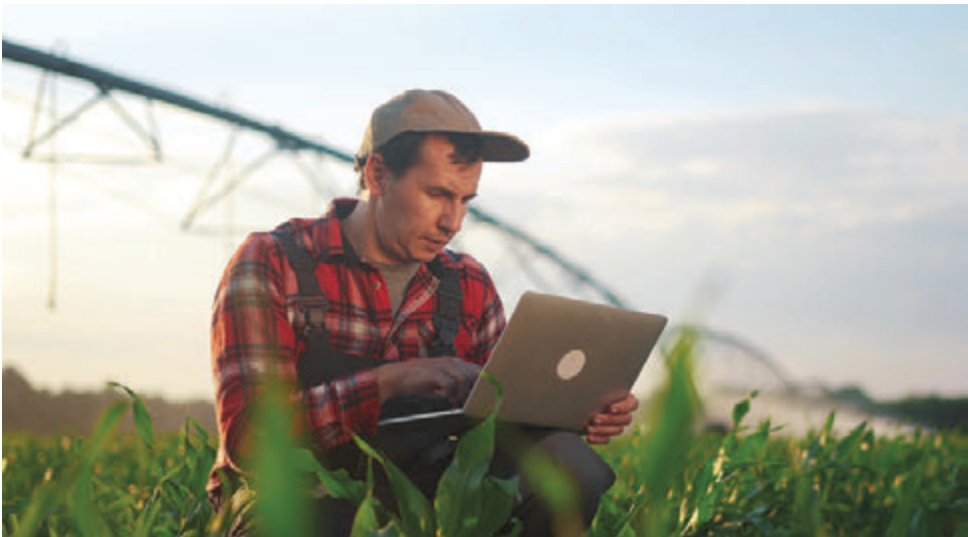
Understanding cyber security

Unfortunately, awareness rarely keeps pace with the evolution of technology. But the first step toward protecting your farm operation is to deepen your understanding of cyber threats and what to look out for.

As mentioned above, only seven percent of respondents felt very knowledgeable about cyber security. However, knowledge levels varied by age. Most farmers, particularly between the ages of 35 and 54, ranked themselves as somewhat knowledgeable. This is likely because they likely actively use technology in day-to-day operations but are mostly focused on immediate priorities. Younger farmers tend to have better awareness, while older generations, who may rely less on technology, often believe they aren't at high risk for an attack.

But farm size also matters. Limited resources and lack of dedicated IT support likely keep smaller farms less aware of cyber security, where larger farms have the resources to invest in technology, training, and safeguards.

That all being said, even if you're only



using email and a web browser, your farm is still a potential target.

The top four cyber threats for your farm

According to our survey, only nine percent of farmers believe their operation has been the victim of a cyberattack. But that number is likely far too low. Why? Because many cyberattacks are designed to go undetected. You might click on a fake invoice or reply to a seemingly normal vendor request without realizing something's wrong.

Here are the four most common cyberattacks reported by Canadian farmers:

Phishing

At 39 percent, phishing is the most common attack for agriculture operations. And it's often the most effective. Typically, phishing shows up as an email or a text message that looks real but isn't. These messages might:

- Ask you to verify payment
- Pretend to be someone you know—like a supplier or a government agency
- Contain a link or an attachment that installs malware

The goal is to trick you into clicking a link, responding to the message, or giving up sensitive information.

Malware

As per our report, malware has been experienced by 25 percent of farmers who were impacted by a cyberattack. Malware is a software that sneaks into your systems through infected links, downloads, or USB drives.

Once inside your system, it can:

- Monitor your activity
- Access your passwords and financial information
- Slow down or even crash your devices

Ransomware

At 13 percent, ransomware ranks up there with the top cyberattacks against Canadian farms. This type of threat typically exfiltrates sensitive data, locks down your files and systems until you pay a ransom—essentially holding your data, sensitive information, and infrastructure hostage.

A ransomware attack can be devastating to a farm operation, especially if they freeze your:

- Feeding, ventilation or irrigation systems
- Accounting of payroll systems
- Inventory or customer databases

And even if you pay the cybercriminals, there's no way to guarantee you'll regain access to your files and systems.

Password attacks

Also coming in at 13 percent, password attacks are tied for the third most common cyberattack against farm operations. These attacks rely on guessing or stealing your login credentials. And once they're in, these criminals can:

- Gain access to your banking and email accounts
- Lock you out
- Pose as you to scam others

Reused or weak passwords make it easier for attackers to gain access. And make it harder for you to stop them in the first place.

The common thread

What do most cyberattacks have in common? They rely on human error.

According to Mimecast's State of Human Risk Report, around 95 percent of global organizations expect cyber security incidents in 2025 to involve someone clicking the wrong thing, repeatedly using the same weak password, or trusting the wrong message. Plus, farmers are busy—it's understandable that cyber threats may be the last thing on your mind when you're juggling equipment, labour shortages, and unpredictable weather.

That's why social engineering tactics, like phishing emails and business email compromises, remain the most common threat to agriculture operations.

So, what's the next step?

The good news? A little awareness and training can go a long way. Farms of all sizes and farmers of all ages must prioritize knowledge, proactive planning, and resilience.

Even simple safeguards, like developing an incident response plan and implementing some basic cyber security measures, can go a long way in reducing risks. The cost of inaction, on the other hand, is steep. Not only could your farm face financial losses but it also holds the potential to disrupt food supply chains.

A good place to start is to focus on the 80/20 rule—meaning that 80 percent of risk can be reduced by address 20 percent of the most common vulnerabilities. For a farm operation, that may look like verifying communication details (like email sender information), not clicking on suspicious links, turning on multi-factor authentication (MFA), and making sure your systems are regularly updated.

Cyber security training program

One of the best ways to raise your awareness of cyberthreats is with a cyber security training program. Because if you don't know what you're looking for, how can you protect your farm from it?

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Kevin Weedmark took this photo of a wheat field south of Moosomin.

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

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

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

This growth reflects a complex mix of market forces and regional dynamics, with some provinces surging ahead while others remaining flat. Manitoba led the country with an 11.2 per cent increase, followed by New Brunswick (9.4 per cent) and Alberta (6.6 per cent). Saskatchewan matched the national average at 6.0 per cent, while Quebec (2.6 per cent), Prince Edward Island (2.3 per cent), and Nova Scotia (1.0 per cent) posted modest gains. Ontario and British Columbia recorded no change, highlighting the uneven nature

of the market.

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

Despite notable gains in certain regions, over the past six months, the overall range of sale prices per acre has increased only modestly. Provinces that experienced strong growth in recent years are now seeing a softening in farmland prices, while regions with previously more modest increases continue to see solid gains. Overall, the market appears to be stabilizing.

Gervais noted that farm cash receipts fell 1.6 per cent in 2024, mainly due to a drop in grain and oilseed revenue, while livestock receipts rose. In early 2025, grain and oilseed receipts increased slightly, though results vary by crop and region. Looking forward, receipts for grains and

oilseeds are expected to decline overall in 2025 by 6.0 per cent. Easing interest rates and healthy farm balance sheets should provide underlying support to farmland values. Yet the farm economy may reflect a more cautious environment in the second half of 2025 and 2026 when it comes to the demand for farmland.

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



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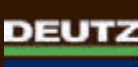
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FCC lays out strategies to diversify Canadian food exports

Canada has an opportunity to diversify \$12 billion of food and beverage exports to non-U.S. markets to protect against trade disruption, enhance global competitiveness and build a more resilient agriculture and food system. That's according to a report by Farm Credit Canada (FCC) titled 'The \$12-billion trade shift: Canada's opportunity to diversify food exports beyond the U.S.'

Canada's food and beverage sector is heavily reliant on the U.S. as over three-quarters of its exports were destined to the southern neighbour, compared with 31 per cent of primary agricultural products in 2023. In terms of imports, 65 per cent of food and beverage products came from the U.S., compared to 78 per cent for primary agriculture. This reliance leaves Canadian ag and food producers vulnerable to unpredictable trade dynamics. The U.S. economy will always remain a key market for Canadian exports, but the evolving trade landscape underscores the need to diversify to non-U.S. markets.

"Canadian agriculture and food producers rely on international trade to thrive, but ongoing trade disruptions have created uncertainty and barriers to growth. Diversifying food and beverage exports beyond the U.S. will not only strengthen producers' resilience but also benefit Canadian consumers and the broader economy," said Justine Hendricks, FCC president and CEO. "This report is FCC's effort to focus Canadian dialogue on how diversification is important, viable and an opportunity we can't miss out on."

FCC's recommended \$12-billion diversification strategy focuses on three key areas:

- Strengthening inter-provincial trade, redirecting \$2.6 billion in exports from the U.S. to meet domestic demand. This approach reduces import reliance, supports Canadian producers and helps stabilize the food system nationally;
- Maximizing benefits from Canada's 15 existing free trade agreements, which collectively cover 51 countries and 66 per cent of global GDP, to expand Canadian food and beverage exports globally; and
- Forging new international partnerships to capture emerging opportunities in high-value markets in Europe, Asia and Latin America, targeting \$9.4 billion in growth beyond the U.S.

The report identifies trade diversification opportunities across commodity groups, including prepared foods, vegetable oils and animal feed. Prepared foods represent the largest category, making up 19 per cent of Canadian food and beverage exports, which totaled \$8.6 billion in 2023, with 90 per cent currently destined for the U.S. Boosting inter-provincial trade can replace approximately 10 per cent of these exports domestically, while the remaining 90 per cent must be redirected to high-value markets in Europe and rapidly expanding markets in Asia.

"Investing in infrastructure, innovation and expanding product offerings will be critical to supporting this transition. Shifting \$12 billion in exports will reduce risk



and secure stability for the Canadian agriculture and food sector," said J.P. Gervais, FCC's chief economist. "A balanced trade portfolio will make the ag and food industry more competitive, adaptable and prepared to succeed in a changing global economy."

Additional strategies highlighted in the report include promoting the "Buy Canadian" movement to stimu-

late domestic demand and enhancing Canada's global brand to signal quality, safety, and versatility of Canadian food products. Expanding domestic value-added processing will allow Canada to capture a larger share of the food dollar; while exploring a variety of protein sources and sustainably processed items will open new opportunities both at home and abroad.

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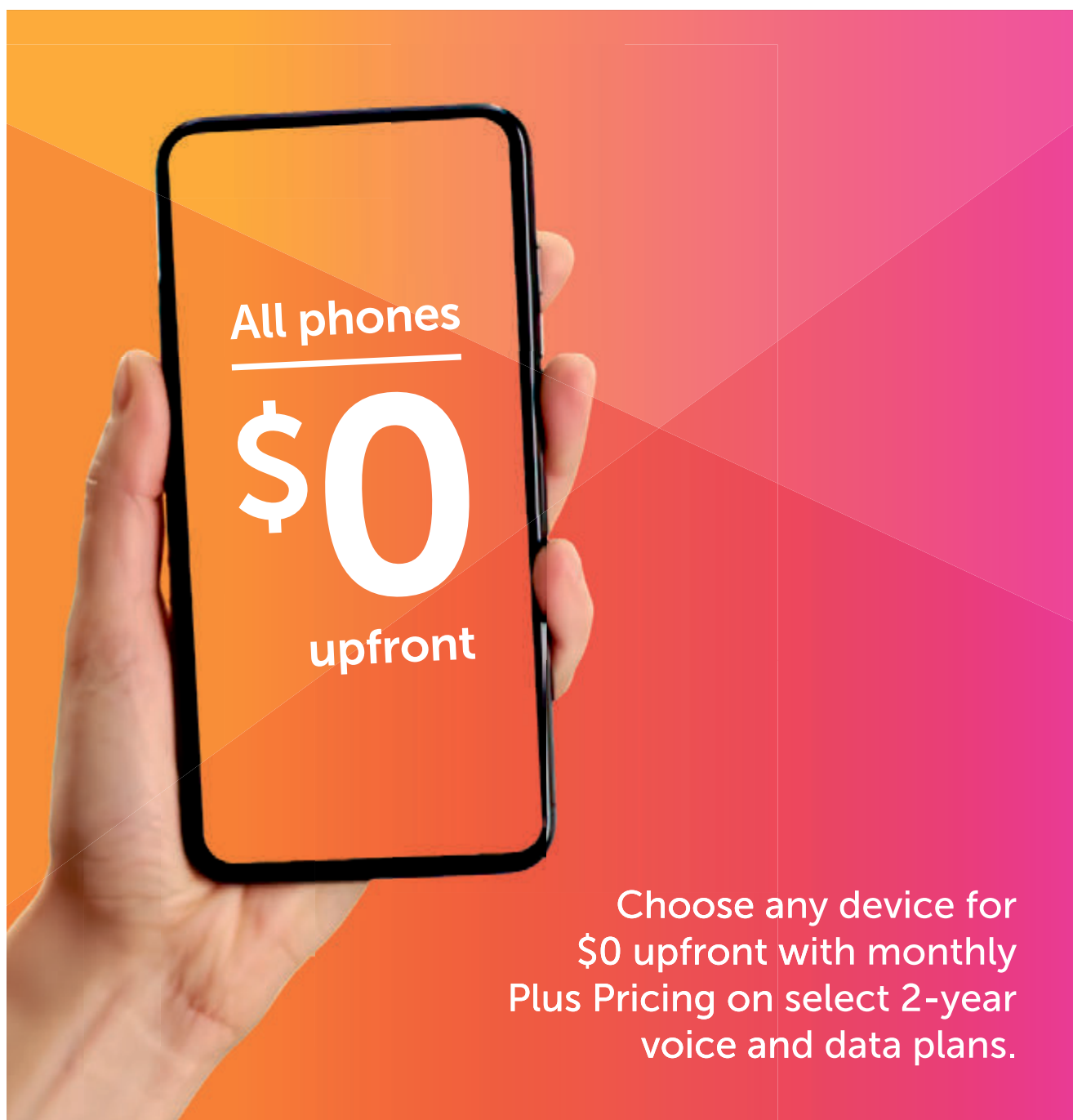
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Below: People enjoying the lunch in the field before the harvest.



The harvest kicked off with a barbecue lunch in the field.



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Preliminary outlook: Possible cost pressures in 2026 reinforce drive to find efficiencies



While harvest is just winding up across the country, it's not too early to start thinking about profitability for next year. Prices and expenses are always top of mind for farmers. Although input costs have decreased from their peak in 2022, they have remained elevated and are once again trending higher. Unlike 2022, when rising crop input costs were offset by strong commodity prices, 2026 is shaping up very differently. Crop prices are forecast to trend in the opposite direction, squeezing margins and impacting productivity. This pressure is compounded by global trade disruptions, including the tariffs on Canadian canola and peas by China.

With margins under pressure, managing costs is more important than ever. While trade and geopolitical issues are largely out of your control, focusing on what is within your control can make a difference. Decision aids, agronomic advice and other value-added support from input suppliers can help farmers make better decisions, improve efficiency, and boost revenue.

Continued on page 35



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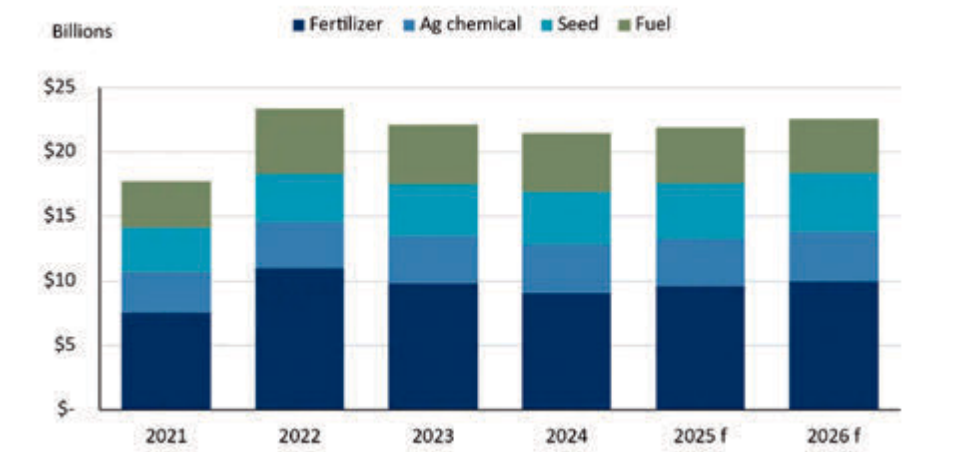
Preliminary outlook: Possible cost pressures in 2026 reinforce drive to find efficiencies

Continued from page 34

Below is our first look at the factors impacting the crop input market for 2026, which is intended to help farmers plan for the year ahead.

Crop input costs expected to rise again in 2026
Canadian farmers are expected to spend \$22.5 billion on crop inputs in 2026 (Figure 1). This could make 2026 one of the most expensive crop years, potentially rivaling the record set in 2022. Expenditures on chemicals and seeds are rising due to inflationary pressures. Fuel is the only cost expenditure projected to decline. However, fertilizer, the largest expense category, is forecasted to reach nearly \$10 billion driven by elevated prices and is the focus of our analysis.

Figure 1: Canadian crop input expenditures expected to remain elevated in 2026



Sources: Statistics Canada and FCC Economics

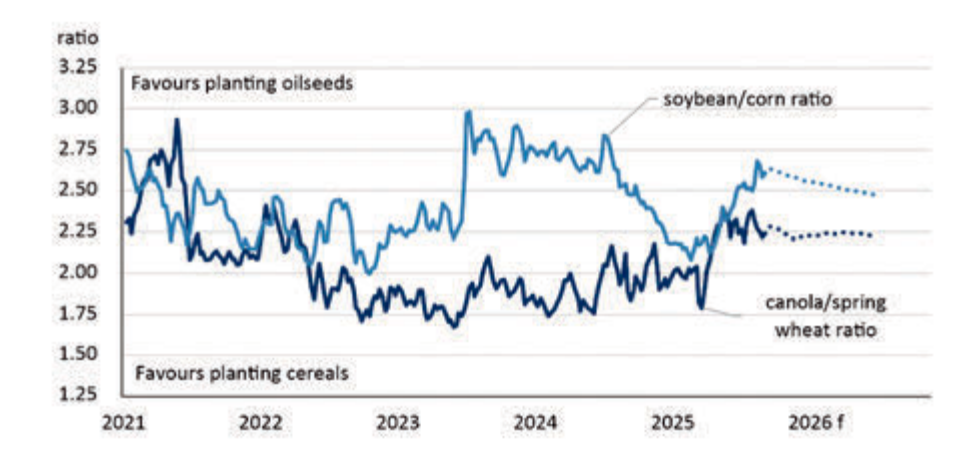
Fertilizer prices remained elevated
Fertilizer prices have been rising over the summer, even though this is usually a quiet time when prices tend to drop. Nitrogen fertilizer has stayed high across North America because U.S. farmers planted a lot more corn, estimated at 97.3 million acres, up 7.4% from last year. This increase has driven up demand for nitrogen, especially for summer top-dressing.
On the global market, strong demand has also pulled nitrogen into other markets including Europe. Phosphate prices remain high as global supply is tight. India has been driving much of the summer demand for urea and phosphate.
In contrast, in Canada, high fertilizer prices have kept summer demand low. Many farms delayed purchases for next year, instead taking a wait-and-see approach amid market uncertainty. Retailer summer fill programs were quiet due to limited price incen-

tives. As global demand stays strong and supply tight, fertilizer costs may remain high, just as crop prices are expected to fall, putting more pressure on farm margins.

Increased production could pressure crop prices
U.S. farmers are on track to harvest a record-breaking corn crop this year, thanks to record yields and expanded acreage. Despite improved grain and oilseeds prices earlier in the summer, the increased production, along with the loss of Canadian canola and pea export opportunities to China, and the impact of U.S.–China tariffs, are expected to put downward pressure on commodity prices. As prices fall, farmers may become more cautious with planning for next year’s acres and inputs, with reduced cash flow and profitability in mind.

Crop price ratios
Crop prices ratios such as soybean-to-corn and canola-to-wheat reflect the current state of supply and demand. Essentially, it’s a market signal to help farmers make planting decisions. Higher ratios favour planting oilseed (canola or soybeans) acres while a lower ratio favour planting cereals (corn or wheat).
Currently, the crop price ratios are favouring planting oilseed over cereals. Even though the ratio currently favors oilseeds due to strong biofuel demand, future demand and acreage will depend on the trade disputes with China, both Canada and the U.S. Canola prices are expected to be pressured unless Canada’s trade issues with China are resolved before spring. On top of that, China hasn’t bought any new crop soybeans from the U.S. because of ongoing tariffs. If this continues, both soybean and canola prices could drop further, and crop price ratios may shift back in favor of planting more corn and wheat by spring (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Crop price ratios could favour planting cereals by spring



Sources: Barchart and FCC Economics

Continued on page 41



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New hands, new horizons: Transitioning to non-family successors

BY CRAIG LESTER

They're not family or staff, but you believe they're the best option for continuing your farm's legacy.

Transitioning the farm to someone uninvolved or unconnected with the operation is rare. If there are no children or the next generation isn't interested, the for-sale sign is usually put up at the end of the driveway, and the bidding begins.

But not in all cases. Joel Bokenfohr, a business advisor with FCC, has handled some of these rare situations. "It's not as common in agriculture, but very common in other industries," he says.

As the farming community faces the dual challenges of limited succession partners and the financial barriers for younger generations entering agriculture, it's clear that other paths need to be explored.

Bokenfohr has seen two scenarios where this occurs:

- Passing the farm to passionate non-family or non-staff members
- External management to bridge generations

Outside-the-box succession

Passing the farm to passionate non-family or non-staff members can be rewarding. However, the journey to achieving this goal can be challenging.

Bokenfohr says in the cases he's seen, the legacy of the farm is important. "They are often looking for somebody external with passion to step in and continue that legacy, continue what they've spent their life building."

Perhaps the biggest challenge to achieving this is finding the right person. Avenues to explore include local agricultural organizations or provincial farm succession and land matching programs. It may also be fruitful to reach out to farm transition advisors, or network through farming events and social media.

One key from Bokenfohr is to be clear on your goals from the beginning, which a professional can help with. An external manager can be brought onto farms that have seen considerable growth and bring fresh perspective and clarity. "You start seeing a little bit of external help that has managed these businesses coming in to provide a bit

of a gap between parents and children," Bokenfohr says.

Not only does this make sure that the farm is taken care of between generations, but it also creates a second option in situations where the next generation decides it doesn't want to take over the operation.

In this case, the manager will have gained considerable experience and understanding of the management and stewardship practices of the farm, which makes them the perfect candidate to enter into a transition plan with the owner.

Planning the transfer

When planning a non-family transition, the first step is to have an equity transfer plan.

This could involve a gradual transfer of ownership through financing or discounts, allowing the new manager to gain ownership over time while ensuring the family's financial needs are met.

Bokenfohr adds that using equity (land, buildings or quotas) can help the successor sustain and grow the farm. In some instances, farms offer stock options or management roles to entice prospective individuals into the farm's leadership without immediately transferring full ownership.

Regardless of the route, owners must have a clear financial plan for their retirement needs, ensuring their cost of living is met while facilitating the farm's transition.

Bringing it all together

Succession can be tricky, and transferring to a non-family or staff member adds another layer to an already complex issue.

So why not just sell the farm and be done with it?

The reward of seeing your operation passed to a person you trust to manage it, knowing that your legacy will live on, might be your priority. It all depends on your goals. If protecting your farm's legacy is a goal, the transition can be easier if you make sure the plan includes you sticking around for the first couple of years so that the incoming owner has the benefit of the extra experience and possibly an extra set of hands around the farm if needed.

If you do move forward with this, remember:

- Have a plan even before you start looking for a successor

- Use a professional to help make this process easier

- Give it time. Make sure you have the right fit

- Use equity to smooth the transition and help the successor sustain and grow the business

- Ensure you are taken care of after the transition is done

By making these arrangements, you can balance your financial needs as the retiring owner with those of the successor and ensure the farm's continuity and your legacy.



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How to protect your farm from misinformation

We face an avalanche of information, making it hard to identify what’s credible. Misinformation pervades all industries, threatening efforts and hindering critical decision-making. As a farm operator, it’s essential to identify what’s valuable and question what isn’t.

But how do you do that?

Pause and assess social media

Social media platforms like Facebook, X and TikTok are especially prone to misinformation. Dr. Timothy Caulfield, Faculty of Law professor in the School of Public Health at the University of Alberta, says that misinformation is designed to engage users emotionally.

Caulfield suggests asking questions when you interact with social media content. “Is this messaging playing to my emotions or values? Is it trying to make me angry?” These questions can help identify red flags, revealing cognitive biases at play,” he says.

Caulfield also suggests a simple trick: be patient. Avoid rushing decisions based on something you saw while scrolling. “Pause for a moment,” Caulfield says. “Take a moment and ask yourself if the headline or content is accurate. Good, credible research shows that pausing and reflecting before you internalize the messaging makes you more resilient to misinformation.”

Ask your experts

Eugenie Officer, sales enablement manager at FCC, echoes that sentiment. She suggests taking time to digest the infor-

mation and stresses the importance of seeking the insight and opinions of the ag experts you deal with.

“Consulting different experts helps ensure you’re always supported in the decision-making process,” she says. “Whether it be an agronomist, your lender, your lawyer or your accountant, they specialize in dealing with complex issues and might have more relevant information than you’ll find on social media or a Google search.”

Most specialists have professional standards to maintain. Officer says it’s less likely you’ll find yourself dealing with potential negative consequences if you seek professional help instead of doing your own research. “Any decision that might have legal or financial ramifications for your operation where you’re missing context or not 100% informed might result in some big impacts for you,” Officer says. After all, being an expert in all areas is unrealistic and making decisions that may impact your business can be stressful. This is where trusted advisors can be particularly helpful in bringing specific expertise to your operation.

Be mindful of AI

AI, or artificial intelligence, has exploded online and permeated many aspects of our digital lives. When it comes to AI, there’s good news and bad news, according to Dr. Caulfield. The bad news is that AI is going to make the situation worse. “AI can be used to make fake but very realistic-looking social media content quickly,” he says. “It can make fake news

articles and fake research to support that content. That will make it so much more difficult to fact-check because you might be met with more AI-generated misinformation.”

However, there is good news. “There’s emerging research that we might be able to use AI tools to identify misinformation and create AI-generated chatbots that can help people navigate the conspiracy theories,” Caulfield says. “So, you can engage with these chatbots, and studies have shown that these really can help.”

It seems counterintuitive, using AI to weed out AI. “AI is not going away,” Caulfield says. “We’ve got to figure out how to work with these technologies to make things better.” Be mindful when engaging with AI so it works for you and not against you.

Develop critical thinking skills

Cultivating critical thinking skills is essential to deciding what’s legitimate and what’s not, particularly when it comes to your operation. “I think farmers are

so well-placed to use critical thinking because they’re like interdisciplinary researchers already,” Caulfield says. “They know a lot about agriculture, business and the economy. I think the farming community already has built-in critical thinking skills.”

Key elements of a critical-thinking mindset to navigate misinformation:

Verify sources: Gather information from a variety of reputable sources rather than relying on a single study or article.

Understand context: Put whatever information you find into context by asking how it compares to industry norms or past practices.

Self-awareness: Recognize when information triggers strong emotions. Ask, “Is this trying to provoke me?”

Create a network of trusted advisors: Reach out to experts and rely on their expertise when making complex decisions about your business.

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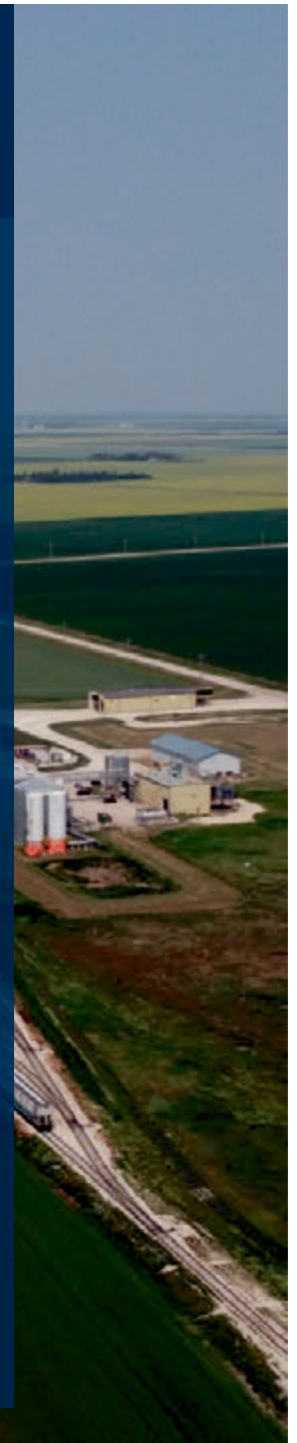
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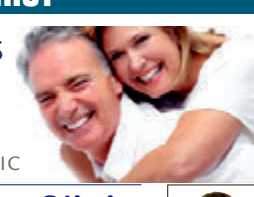
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Chris Hendrickson photo

The Canadian Barley Research Coalition (CBRC) has provided \$1.8 million for the continued support of the USask Crop Development Centre's barley breeding program.

CBRC commits \$1.8 million to CDC barley breeding activities

BY CANADIAN BARLEY RESEARCH COALATION
The Canadian Barley Research Coalition (CBRC) has announced it will provide \$1.8 million in funding over three years to the University of Saskatchewan's (USask) Crop Development Centre (CDC), to extend the core breeding agreement and support the development of varieties with improved agronomics, disease resistance and end-use quality.
The CBRC is a collaboration between the Saskatchewan Barley Development Commission (SaskBarley), Alberta Grains and Manitoba Crop Alliance.
"The keys to past success within the CDC barley breeding program have been the skilled staff, our in-house malt and molecular marker labs and the ability to evaluate large numbers of breeding lines. This CBRC funding will support these pillars moving forward," said Dr. Curtis

Pozniak (PhD), director of the Crop Development Centre.
"This renewed investment ensures Western Canadian farmers can expect new barley varieties from a world-class program, keeping barley competitive with improved yield and agronomic benefits," said CBRC Chair Cody Glenn (who also chairs SaskBarley). "The CDC is uniquely positioned to deliver effective results for Western Canadian agriculture. This funding extension will allow the program to continue delivering improved varieties and capitalize on new opportunities."
Leaders from CBRC's member organizations echoed this sentiment, highlighting the practical benefits for farmers.
Scott Jespersen, chair of Alberta Grains, emphasized the real-world impact of the funding: "The CBRC's investment in the CDC reflects the importance of providing

farmers with access to high performing, resilient barley varieties. This funding will deliver on-farm benefits that help barley farmers improve yields, manage disease pressure and stay competitive in global markets."
Jonathan Hodson, chair of Manitoba Crop Alliance, pointed to the CDC's impressive history: "The CDC has an excellent track record of developing high-performance barley varieties for a variety of end-use markets. The CBRC's continued support for this innovative breeding program will ensure barley remains a productive and profitable crop for farmers across Western Canada."
Continuing the funding agreement with the CDC was a priority for CBRC and is in line with the organization's goal of facilitating long-term investments aimed at improving profitability and competitiveness for Western Canadian barley farmers.

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Helping food security locally and internationally:

Harvest of Hope has raised over \$700,000

☞ *Continued from page 21*
“John Deere, for example, has seeded the crop in the past and sprayed the crop in the past,” said Penner.
“They came out for harvest this year and provided equipment and labor hours on some of their equipment that they either want to teach people in their organization how to operate it or demo with potential customers and use the field that way, but at the same time help us to produce a crop every year.”

Community project

Harvest of Hope is made up of local farmers and volunteers who simply want to help feed people.
“It is a community project,” says Penner. “One of the values that the Canadian Foodgrains Bank puts forward is to engage the community in conversation about food security, and when you engage the community, you get volunteers who come back year after year to support the project. I know that within all of the organizations and the farming communities that come out to support us, they understand that the work we are doing feeds people directly—and obviously they have a passion for making a difference.”
He says the group involves many passionate local volunteers. “I think in a given year you would see the 20-some or 30-some people putting in the time to make the project happen. There is a core group of about six of us that take more a leadership and organizational role in the project. I help with all of the activities that are less directly related to farming.”

This year's crop

“The wheat crop seemed to do okay given the growing conditions that we had. We had a late start with seeding, we had the cool summer, we had the rain just prior to harvest, and all of those things impacted its ability to be as good as it could be, but overall, we are happy,” says Penner. “We produced around 150,000 bushels. We haven’t sold the grain quite yet so we don’t have the final net revenue yet. The field is rotated so next year it will likely be canola.”
Harvest of Hope donates 75 per cent of the crop’s proceeds to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank.
“After all of the bills are paid, we take whatever is left and we portion it with 75 per cent going to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank that helps distribute foreign aid internationally for Canada and nationally within Canada around food security initiatives and in terms of an impact charity it is pretty substantial,” said Penner.
“To date, since the 1980s when they were founded, they have enjoyed a relationship with the federal government that can leverage any donations up to 4-to-1. If we give a dollar, through that leveraging, it can have the impact of \$5 on the other end and typically it is in addressing immediate food security needs like buying food on the ground for the people who need it. So that is where 75 per cent of the net revenue goes and the other 25 per cent is divided between the Moosomin and Rocanville Food Banks. We’ve been doing that now for the last several years.”

Donations to local food banks

Penner says Harvest of Hope has been fortunate enough to donate thousands of dollars to Moosomin and Rocanville Food Banks during the holiday season.
“We’ve given them tens of thousands of dollars over the last few years and I know just based on talking with Sam (Campbell) how the demand for the services of the food bank has increased year after year since Covid, and I think even now they are at a higher demand from some of the other challenges. If money is tight to the point where people are going to the food bank, that means that more people aren’t able to donate, so they get hit both with higher demand and less input, and our project is set up hopefully so we can help offset some of that lower input and really help the food bank to be a sustainable source of food for people who need it locally.”
He adds, “Our project feeds people locally, but also all over the world. That is

pretty exciting to think that something so grass roots in Moosomin can do so much. Harvest of Hope is about feeding hungry people in food security needs, locally, and abroad.”

‘Because I care’

Why does Penner volunteer his time for Harvest of Hope? “I do it because I care. It is a project that I think aligns with some of my personal values—peoples’ lives matter, having access to good nutrition matters. Lots of the people who access food bank services or are receiving foreign aid, they are not there because they chose to be. A lot of people that we feed overseas are displaced by war—well, they didn’t start a war, they are in a spot where they didn’t choose where they are but should be able to access food securely the same as we can here. So that is why I help.”

Grateful for volunteers

Penner says the group is thankful for the support from all the volunteers who help from seeding to harvest each year.
“We start with a lot of gratitude toward all of the people who volunteer their time, energy, and equipment in order to make the project progress. That is the backbone as to why this project has been as successful as it is because people are willing to participate, willing to come back, and willing to volunteer so we are grateful to all of those people.
“We are grateful to the people who have come later to the project, newer people who have signed up and said, ‘We want to join you in this.’ That is always exciting to get someone who hasn’t been involved to step in and help. That is really nice to see more engagement. Obviously, we couldn’t do the project without help like that.”
He adds Harvest of Hope’s contribution last year fed thousands. “Last Christmas when we made our donation—depending on how that leveraging ratio turned out—we were able to feed between 4,000 and 12,000 people for a month with the revenue we generated last year. You think about what you gave versus what the impact was globally—that is a pretty substantial amount of people we were able to help.”

Food Bank thankful for Harvest of Hope

Samantha Campbell of the Moosomin Food Bank says Harvest of Hope is the main supporter of their food hampers during the holiday season.
“It means a great deal to the food bank. They usually give us a great donation at Christmas time which is when we are trying to raise a bunch of funds for our Christmas food hampers and our costs kind of go up a little bit more than throughout the year because we are trying to do a full Christmas hamper for our clients. It will be even more appreciated just because our numbers are so high. We are hoping we are able to fundraise more and get a bit more donations, so we are able to cover what we are needing to.”
Campbell says the Harvest of Hope donation purchases food for their clients.
“Last year Harvest of Hope donated \$12,000 and the year before was \$8,500. We use that money strictly for food. We usually reach out to Borderland Co-op to do salads and the Elks usually donate some of the turkeys and hams, but this year we have more than doubled our hamper list. So, the donation strictly goes all toward food.”

Food Bank needed

Campbell says each week their client list for food hampers is growing. “Each month our list is growing. Last year we were averaging about 40 to 50 hampers around Christmas time and now we are at 80 hampers and then at Christmas time we usually get a couple who just need it during the holidays so we usually add on between five to 10 hampers as well.”
She says the Harvest of Hope donation is their biggest donation during the holidays.
“The Harvest of Hope donation we strictly used for Christmas and to cover our expenses at Christmas time, but it also depends on how much we get from donations elsewhere as well. To give perspective, on an average month in July or

August when we have no extras to buy we spend \$5,000 to \$6,000 a month just on groceries. Then, come September—since we have been seeing a steady increase in clients, we are getting between two to four new clients probably every two weeks, so in September we actually had to cut back. In September we cut back the amount of food we are giving away just because we can’t afford to keep going the way we are going. At Christmas time from the Harvest of Hope and all of the donations coming in, that is when we see our big increase in monetary donations.
“We try to make those donations last throughout the year to keep buying food because we don’t see monetary donations as much after February until October when they start to come in again.”
Moosomin Food Bank supports food hampers to clients through monetary donations from individuals and local initiatives.
“Depending on the grants, a lot of grants are just for capital, so we are able to get a new fridge or new freezer,” said Campbell. “A lot of them don’t usually give us money for the food bank operation so we rely on our monetary donations strictly for the food portion of it.”
She says the food bank is thankful for Harvest of Hope’s donation to help support their clients throughout Christmas time.
“We are very grateful. Without the big donation from the Harvest of Hope each Christmas we probably wouldn’t be able to do a big Christmas for our client list.
“For October, we didn’t do a Thanksgiving supper that we have usually done in the past—I have been here for the past eight years now—and this is the first time we didn’t do a Thanksgiving supper simply just because we couldn’t afford it because we give away that much more food, but we are trying to make it last.
“We are really hoping with the Harvest of Hope donation that comes in—we are going to be hopefully relying on them giving us a larger amount where we don’t have to cut back for the Christmas supper this year.”

Donations needed
The Moosomin Food Bank is looking for donations to help support the people within local communities with food.
“If anyone is looking to give a monetary donation, we will take any donation,” said Campbell.
“With the Canada Post Strike going on it might take a bit to send one in the mail, but they are more than welcome to come to our location, or they can e-transfer as well. We do have a credit card machine at the store, so if they do come down and they do want their credit card points we can take their donation that way.”

Largest growing project in Saskatchewan
Rick Block of Foodgrains Bank Canada explains there are growing projects across the province that help support the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, but Moosomin is the largest.
“This year we have 25 projects in Saskatchewan similar to Harvest of Hope. One of those projects specifically is unique and it’s called ‘Grow Hope Saskatchewan’ and within that project there are seven field locations across the province.
“In total though we have about 32 field locations that are official growing projects in Saskatchewan and similar to Harvest of Hope in Moosomin. Outside of that, we also have at least three dozen growing partners and that is individual farm families, Hutterite colonies, and individuals who choose to donate to the Foodgrains Bank. Their donation represents work that is happening in the agriculture field even if they are not an official growing project.
“With the 25 growing projects plus the ‘Grow Hope’ sites—over the 32 sites—there would be approximately 3,800 acres that is committed to the Foodgrains Bank as registered growing projects in Saskatchewan.”
Block says the growing projects help raise millions of dollars for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank each year.
“Annually, from the growing projects

in Saskatchewan we are usually between \$1 million to \$2 million—there are two big things that impact as well, the number of acres is pretty consistent, but the yield will fluctuate, and the price of grain will fluctuate so we will go from \$800,000 all the way up to \$2 million just on those growing projects.”

Foodgrains Bank
Block explains some background of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. “The Foodgrains Bank originated as an organization in 1983. It was born out of a movement from prairie farmers who were growing more grain than could be exported and at that time it was controlled by the Canadian Wheat Board and farmers were telling the federal government, ‘it is not right to see piles of grain rotting on the ground when we know from watching the six o’clock news that there are people in other parts of the world that are suffering from hunger and starvation.’ So they advocated to find a way to donate their grain so people around the world could access it. So, years ago those grain donations were Canadian grain that was shipped as food aid—that no longer happens—now we use the financial resources from the grain.
“The activity of farmers and community groups like the Harvest of Hope which manage a growing project—they often represent around 45 per cent of the \$18 to \$20 million that the Foodgrains Bank brings in in donations each year. They also represent not just 45 per cent of the donations, they really are an inspirational source for many people who choose to donate even though they are not farmers.
“Many donors would have a farm background, and many donors would say, ‘I like the blueprint of people working together toward a cause’ and that is really a part of the Foodgrains Bank’s identity. It is not on the shoulders of just a few people. This is about many people who are coming together under a common mission and cause. The government matching dollars is certainly an additional motivator as well, knowing we can leverage further money through our partnership with Global Affairs Canada.”
He says the Canadian Foodgrains Bank has consistently supported 35 countries with food aid over the past decade.
“I work for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank and we are a registered Canadian Charitable Organization and we are known as a Christian response to global hunger. The Christian part because we are comprised of 15 church and church-based agencies, essentially relief and development agencies, representing 30 denominations.
“We are a response to global hunger because of all of these 15 agencies that choose to work together under the banner of the Foodgrains Bank—they all have their own international network. They are essentially relief and development organizations that respond to humanitarian needs and are involved in development work all around the world. Over my past 10 years the Foodgrains Bank year over year is consistently working in 35 countries around the world and sometimes up to 40.”
Block says the money raised through growing projects and donations to the Foodgrains Bank helps where it is most needed internationally.
“The money that is raised in Saskatchewan and also across Canada goes to the Foodgrains Bank. There are several government matching grants, and all of that money is actually then deployed to our partners within the international context. That is how the Foodgrains Bank supports the work in so many different locations and it is because of this vast network of these agencies that have been working for decades with local partners internationally.
“We have a longstanding connection with Harvest of Hope in Moosomin. They have been supporting the Foodgrains Bank for many years, but Moosomin Harvest of Hope has also responded quite well to the voices and perspective in the Moosomin and Rocanville area where there is a certain level of hunger in that region as well, so they are choosing to earmark some of their donation aside to help support local food banks.”



The Harvest of Hope crop north of Moosomin was harvested on Monday. There were 14,500 bushels of wheat taken off using volunteer labour and donated combines. This is the 14th year of the Harvest of Hope, which has raised over \$700,000 to date for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank to feed hungry people around the world. Conexus Credit Union served lunch in the field on Monday to help feed the volunteers who came out to harvest. Above left: Conexus serving the lunch. Above right: Liesl Paulsen enjoying a bun.

Helping food security locally and internationally:

Harvest of Hope has raised over \$700,000

Continued from page 39

Support local growing projects

Block encourages donors to support local growing projects such as the Harvest of Hope to help support food aid around the world.

“People can always support the Foodgrains Bank by going to our website. I want to emphasize, though, one way in making your donation go further is by supporting your local Foodgrains Bank growing project. So for the readers of the World-Spectator, I would consider giving a donation to the Moosomin Harvest of Hope



Volunteers climbing into the combine.

because they are going to put seed in the ground and they’re going to grow that donation by growing a crop.

“We have always been a grassroots organization and I think there is nothing better than to see supporters say ‘I want to support a local project that is doing a lot of good’ and I really appreciated the work of Kyle and Crystal Penner of Moosomin who are not farmers themselves, but they’re leaders of the community and they know one

of the gifts they can offer is to provide the leadership and administration of a project and let’s let the farmers do their thing.”

To support Harvest of Hope, you can etransfer your donation to harvestofhope.moosomin@outlook.com or send a cheque to The Harvest of Hope, Box 57 Moosomin, SK, S0G 3N0.

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Preliminary outlook: Possible cost pressures in 2026 reinforce drive to find efficiencies

Continued from page 35

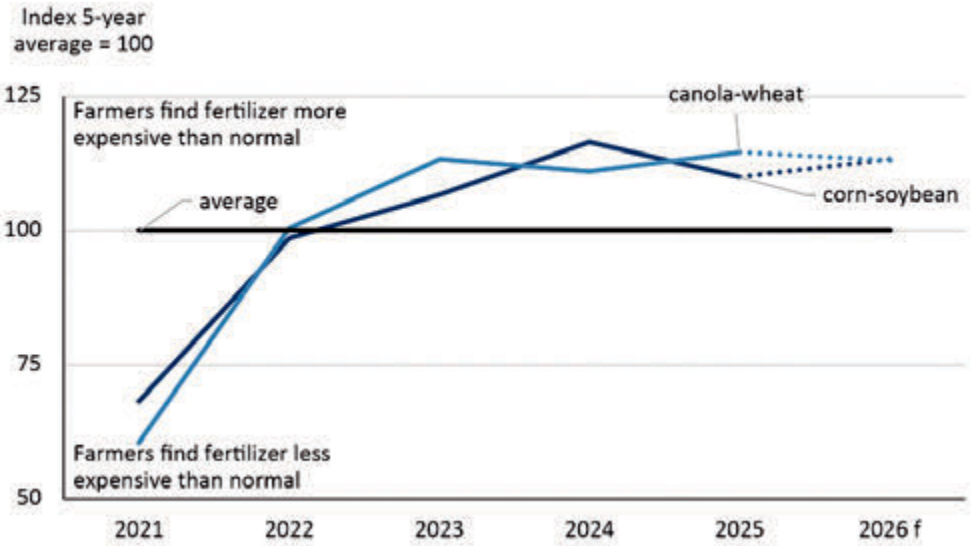
Since corn requires higher amounts of nitrogen fertilizers, any shift to increased corn planting tends to drive up demand for nitrogen fertilizers, pushing up fertilizer prices. Thus, as planting approaches monitoring the crop price ratio as a proxy for U.S. nitrogen fertilizer demand. U.S. corn acreage for 2026 will once again factor into nitrogen fertilizer prices.

Fertilizer to crop price ratios

The fertilizer-to-crop price ratio measures the cost of fertilizer relative to the revenue farmers expect from their crops. A high ratio means fertilizer is expensive compared to crop prices. And conversely, a low ratio suggests fertilizer is more affordable. This ratio influences farmers’ input decisions on which crops to grow and how much fertilizer to use to maximize profitability.

Our projected fertilizer-to-crop price ratio is currently showing slight affordability declines for 2026 (Figure 3). Furthermore, there’s potential for crop prices to move lower, while fertilizer prices could continue to rise. This combination of downside risk for crops and upside risk for fertilizer means the fertilizer-to-crop price ratio could increase even further.

Figure 3: Fertilizer to crop price ratios remain elevated and could trend higher



Global trade and geopolitics continue to influence the supply side of the fertilizer market. Russia’s war in Ukraine remains a key factor, especially for fertilizer. A peace deal could ease energy and fertilizer prices, helping restart European nitrogen plants. However, continued conflict would keep prices high. U.S. tariffs on Russia may raise nitrogen costs, especially in eastern Canada, which relies on UAN (Urea Ammonium Nitrate) fertilizer imports from the U.S., where Russia is a major supplier.

China has resumed limited exports of urea and phosphate fertilizers after years of restrictions. Even small volumes could ease global shortages, but it’s unclear if exports will increase further.

Enhanced uncertainties do not mean farmers should remain passive to external developments. They should focus on what they can control. Building strong relationships with input suppliers and agronomists is key. Many producers are now using economic decision tools to improve efficiency and productivity to protect profitability.

Practices like 4R Nutrient Stewardship involve applying the right fertilizer source, rate, time, and place are now used on over 25 million acres, or nearly 27 per cent of total cropland in Canada, helping reduce costs.

Economic thresholds help determine when inputs like pest or fungicide treatments are worth the cost, focusing on profitability rather than field appearance. Tools like fertilizer efficiency calculators (e.g., Manitoba Agriculture) guide optimal use and yield targets, while fungicide thresholds help weigh yield gains against input costs—avoiding unnecessary spending.

Aerial spraying is gaining ground due to its speed and reduced crop damage. While it is slightly more expensive per acre, it becomes cost-effective when accounting for trampling losses from ground equipment.

Together, these approaches reflect focusing on what you can control, where working collaboratively across the supply chain is key to maximizing returns. It helps with planning crop rotations, booking fertilizer and seed needs for next year, even when risks are high.

Bottom line

Canadian farmers are facing a challenging outlook for 2026, with the combination of elevated crop input costs and softening commodity prices squeezing margins. Global trade tensions, particularly with China, and geopolitical instability further cloud the outlook. In this highly uncertain environment, finding cost efficiencies and focusing on productivity gains are more critical than ever. Leveraging agronomic expertise, economic decision tools, and collaborative relationships with suppliers can help producers realize efficiencies and sustain profitability.

Sources: Alberta farm input prices, Statistics Canada and FCC Economics

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USask’s VIDO celebrates 50 years of protecting health, food security, and vaccine sovereignty

The University of Saskatchewan's (USask) Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization (VIDO) is marking its 50th anniversary

Events last month celebrated half a century of world-leading discoveries that protect the health of people and animals, safeguard Canada’s food supply, and strengthen the country’s ability to prepare for future pandemics.



firsts, that have helped farmers protect their herds and flocks, kept food affordable and available for families, and strengthened Canada’s food security and trade. This ability to protect both people and animals underscores VIDO’s unique role at the intersection of human health, animal health, and global food systems.

Looking ahead, more than \$150 million in federal, provincial, municipal and private funding has been invested in new infrastructure, alongside ongoing operational sup-

port from the Canada Foundation for Innovation and the Government of Saskatchewan. New high-containment laboratories and animal housing facilities are under construction, and the Vaccine Development Centre is now producing prototype vaccines for both humans and animals. Together, these investments position VIDO as one of the most complete end-to-end vaccine development environments in the world, advancing Canada’s vaccine sovereignty and strengthening global preparedness.

Founded in 1975 as a Prairie-based livestock lab, VIDO has since grown into one of the world’s leading infectious disease research centres. Occupying nearly 10 acres on USask campus, VIDO is recognized as Canada’s Centre for Pandemic Research and a leading national science facility. The organization plays a pivotal role in the global race to stop emerging infectious diseases and strengthens Canada’s vaccine sovereignty.

“VIDO’s impressive success story reflects USask’s commitment to solving global challenges,” said USask President Peter Stoicheff. “This anniversary is both a celebration of past and present impact and a clear signal of VIDO’s critical role in ensuring Canada’s health security for decades to come.”

VIDO is home to more than 200 scientists, trainees, technicians and staff. The organization is a key Canadian partner in the global “100 Days Mission”, an initiative spearheaded by the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) and endorsed by the G7 and G20 nations. The mission aims to create new vaccines within 100 days of identifying a pandemic threat. Building on its leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic when VIDO isolated SARS-CoV-2 from the first Canadian case and was the first Canadian academic institution to move a vaccine candidate into clinical trials, the organization is now developing a broadly protective and adaptable coronavirus “platform vaccine” with millions in funding from CEPI.

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\$129/wk OAC

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