

2025 SFP Projects

April 2026



Strategic Field Program (SFP) Projects for 2025-26

- **Five** projects were approved by SFP for a total of **\$513,207**.

Institution	Number of Approved Projects	Total Amount Funded
Prairie Swine Centre Inc.	1	\$176,500
South East Research Farm	1	\$140,652
University of Saskatchewan	2	\$170,870
Western Applied Research Corporation	1	\$25,185
Total	5	\$513,207

Prairie Swine Centre

Development and Field Demonstration of Testing Protocols for the Application of a Rapid Detection Kit for Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus (PEDv) (20251573)

Principal Investigator: Bernardo Predicala, Prairie Swine Centre

Ministry Lead: Brad Marceniuk

Location: Saskatoon

Objectives:

- Demonstrate the feasibility of a rapid PEDv detection test kit as an assessment tool for barn biosecurity and post-infection cleanup surveillance.
- Develop and implement PEDv testing protocols for using rapid test kits in high-traffic areas.
- Analyze the economic impact of PEDv test kit deployment for barn biosecurity and high-traffic area screening and surveillance.
- Disseminate the practical utility of PEDv test kits.

SFP Funding: \$176,500

South East Research Farm

Nutrients, Salinity and Compaction as Drivers of Kochia Establishment in Saline Low-Lying Areas of Southern Saskatchewan: an Observational and Manipulative Study to Develop Targeted Management (20251587)

Principal Investigator: Lana Shaw, South East Research Farm

Ministry Lead: Augustine Osei

Location: Redvers

Objectives:

- Quantify how nutrient accumulation, soil salinity, compaction and other soil chemical parameters interact to influence crop competition and kochia establishment and in saline low-lying areas.
- Evaluate nitrogen management interventions for effects on kochia pressure and crop competition in sodium-rich, high pH saline zones.
- Evaluate amendment interventions that improve crop competition with kochia and improve crop productivity in sodium-rich, high pH saline zones.

SFP Funding: \$140,652

University of Saskatchewan

Investigation of Accuracy of Sampling Pooling for Lead Exposure Investigations in Saskatchewan Beef Cattle Herds (20251572)

Principal Investigator: Vanessa Cowan, University of Saskatchewan

Ministry Lead: Wendy Wilkins

Location: Saskatoon

Objectives:

- Explore the use of pooled blood sampling methods versus individual blood samples from a herd with diagnosed lead poisoning to reduce the cost of sampling lead-exposed animals.
- Identify lead-exposed cattle with diagnosed poisoning and monitor blood lead level over time.
- Estimate minimum lead testing requirements for a regulatory framework to monitor lead exposed cattle in Saskatchewan.
- Test the usefulness of ear-notch testing to monitor lead in cattle.

SFP Funding: \$51,470

Extrusion-Based Production of Low-Glycemic Pulse Starch Ingredients (20251574)

Principal Investigator: Yongfeng Ai, University of Saskatchewan

Ministry Lead: Erin Hopkins

Location: Saskatoon

Objectives:

- Demonstrate two starch modification methods using extrusion technology and characterize the modified starch in comparison to native starch.
- Demonstrate the use of extruder, mill, rapid-visco analyzer, texture analyzer, differential scanning calorimeter and colorimeter to analyze and characterize the functional properties of the starch ingredients.
- Develop and showcase food application prototypes incorporating modified versus native starch with different functional properties.
- Evaluate the scalability of the extrusion-based process compared to other processes for producing low-glycemic starches, including economic feasibility, production efficiency and other key considerations for commercial adoption.
- Produce knowledge transfer materials highlighting the commercial readiness of the technology and support future outreach for research adoption by local Saskatchewan industry, as well as global ingredient companies.

SFP Funding: \$119,400

Western Applied Research Corporation

Cut or Spray? Harvest Tactics Against Canola Diseases (20251578)

Principal Investigator: Kayla Slind, Western Applied Research Corporation

Ministry Lead: Allie Noble

Location: Scott and Yorkton

Objectives:

- Compare the effects of ground spraying and swathing on the development and spread of powdery mildew and verticillium stripe in canola under varying field conditions.
- Assess how each harvest method influences canola yield, seed quality and residue management in relation to disease incidence and severity.

SFP Funding: \$25,185