

Business Plan

2026-27

Ministry of Agriculture

Statement from the Minister



*The Honourable David Marit
Minister of Agriculture, Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation and
Water Security Agency*

I am honoured to present the Ministry of Agriculture's 2026-27 Business Plan, which highlights our commitment to support one of Saskatchewan's most vital economic sectors. This plan focuses on program and service delivery to foster a strong and resilient agriculture industry, as well as policies to help us achieve Saskatchewan's Growth Plan goals.

Last year, Saskatchewan producers were impacted by international trade volatility and dry conditions in some parts of the province. In the coming year, Saskatchewan will continue to strengthen relationships with international trading partners through our network of nine international offices. We will also focus on diversifying markets to balance volatility in traditional markets. At the same time, we will advocate for the federal government to prioritize the interests of producers when negotiating resolutions to trade disputes with major partners such as the United States and China. We will work to ensure business risk management programs address emerging producer needs. We will also continue to strengthen foreign animal disease response and preparedness to reduce risks to livestock exports.

This government will advocate for Saskatchewan producers and agribusinesses as negotiations begin to shape the next federal-provincial-territorial agricultural policy framework to replace the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership when it expires March 31, 2028.

Investing in agricultural research is key to competitiveness, which is why we have invested nearly \$170 million over the past five years to drive innovation in agriculture. We will continue to support livestock and crop-related research to help producers stay competitive in global markets and position the sector for continued growth.

The ministry will continue working with industry to ensure we have an effective regulatory environment that supports sector growth and protects producers, livestock and citizens. In 2025-26, we enacted new regulations to strengthen *The Saskatchewan Farm Security Act*. We will continue to work with the Farm Land Security Board to ensure effective regulatory monitoring and compliance. Also, last year, we introduced amendments to *The Animal Protection Act*, which will strengthen animal welfare enforcement accountability. We plan to implement the new Act and enforcement model in the coming year.

The plan supports a resilient, growing agriculture sector, supported by responsive and relevant government programs and policies. We look forward to working with the sector as we make continued progress towards achieving our 2030 Growth Plan goals.

2026-27 Budget Highlights

1	Building resilience through improved business risk management programming: \$524.3 million in Crop Insurance Premiums and Wildlife Damage Compensation Program payments. Crop Insurance Program continues a status-quo program with updated prices, yields and premium rates. Wildlife Damage Prevention program initiative that uses unmanned aerial vehicles and artificial intelligence to modernize the wildlife damage claims process.
2	Fully funding animal welfare enforcement for both livestock and companion animals in Saskatchewan through the newly formed Saskatchewan Animal Enforcement Agency. Animal welfare investigations are costly as they require intensive resources including trained officers, interagency collaboration, seizures, expertise in animal handling and health, equipment, transportation and facility to house seized animals. Animals seized often require veterinary assessment, care and daily housing.
3	Continued investment of \$89.4 million for strategic programs under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership agreement to support a strong Saskatchewan agri-food sector: Funding priorities include agricultural research and innovation, markets and trade, growth and competitiveness, agricultural sustainability and resiliency and public trust, as Saskatchewan continues to be a leading agri-food exporter with a growing value-added sector.
4	Continued investment in research and science: \$37 million for agricultural research, including funding for institutions and research chairs that conduct state-of-the-art research in Saskatchewan, project funding and programs that promote the implementation of new technologies.

Government Vision and Goals

Saskatchewan’s Vision

“...to be the best place in Canada—to live, to work, to start a business, to get an education, to raise a family and to build a life.”

>> Government Goals

A Strong Economy Strong Communities Strong Families

Saskatchewan’s vision and three goals provide the strategic direction for organizations to align their programs and services to build a strong Saskatchewan.

All organizations will report on progress in their 2026-27 Annual Reports.

Ministry of Agriculture Overview

Overview

The ministry helps the agriculture industry manage risk and enable a globally competitive, thriving and sustainable agriculture and food sector by supporting farmers, ranchers and agri-businesses.

Mission

The ministry enables a prosperous, market-driven agricultural industry through a supportive legislative framework, policies, programs and services.

Goal 1: A policy environment that fosters sustainable and competitive growth

A strong policy environment is critical to the success of Saskatchewan's agriculture sector. In 2026-27, we will focus on advancing Saskatchewan's priorities in federal-provincial-territorial (FPT) negotiations, securing federal investments, and shaping trade policies that protect and expand market access. We will also develop evidence-based policies to address emerging challenges such as weather and market volatility, ensuring producers have the tools and information they need to manage risk and remain competitive.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Advocate for Saskatchewan's interests at the FPT level

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Advance Saskatchewan's priorities in the next FPT agriculture policy framework negotiations
- Attract and leverage federal investment into Saskatchewan
- Improve livestock disease emergency preparedness and response
- Improve the long-term sustainability and responsiveness of business risk management (BRM) programming

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Advise on trade policies to expand, secure and maintain domestic and international markets

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Clarify and prioritize trade negotiation goals
- Participate in forums aimed at market access and growth
- Provide technical analysis to industry and other levels of government

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Develop evidence-based policy to support producer and industry needs, including risk management

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Develop relevant provincial policies and programs that respond to strategic imperatives
- Implement evidence-based decision making across entire value chain
- Develop a crown land sales strategy

Performance Measures: *What success looks like*

Crop production, livestock cash receipts, agri-food exports and irrigation development

Key agriculture goals in Saskatchewan's 2030 Growth Plan include increasing annual crop production to 45 million metric tonnes, increasing annual livestock cash receipts to \$3 billion, growing agri-food exports to \$20 billion annually and expanding irrigation in the province by adding 85,000 new irrigated acres.

Goal 2: A regulatory system that supports sector growth and competitiveness while building public trust

Predictable, outcome-based regulations are essential for building confidence and enabling growth. In 2026-27, we will review and modernize regulatory frameworks for Crown land, game farms and range health, while strengthening compliance processes. These efforts will maintain public trust and ensure Saskatchewan's regulatory system supports innovation and competitiveness without compromising environmental stewardship.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Advocate for federal regulatory approaches that support Saskatchewan's producers and business environment

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Advocate for approaches at the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) that are responsive, and consider health, safety and economics
- Work with the CFIA to ensure amendments to the *Safe Foods for Canadians Act* and Regulations support internal trade without compromising international trade

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Pursue a predictable outcomes-based system for provincially-enforced regulations

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Review the regulatory framework for the administration of beds, banks and shores
- Review approach to range health assessments on Crown land
- Support the outcomes from the Red Tape Reduction Committee, including the Intensive Livestock Operation approval process, agriculture water management, and irrigation approval process
- Implement new legislation and enforcement model for animal welfare
- Ensure farmland ownership aligns with policies and legislation

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Establish a consistent compliance framework across the ministry for provincially-enforced regulations

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Develop principles for a regulatory compliance framework to ensure a consistent approach
- Help improve public understanding of our regulatory and compliance framework

Performance Measures: *What success looks like*

Prioritize public trust and manage risk

The ministry aims to maintain a positive score of at least 85 per cent in its annual public trust survey, in which Saskatchewan residents are asked if they have a positive perception of Saskatchewan agriculture.

Goal 3: Provide programs and services that support our Growth Plan goals and build resiliency

Saskatchewan's agriculture sector is a key driver of economic growth, and a strong value chain ensures long-term prosperity. In 2026-27, we will work with producers and processors to increase productivity, expand irrigation and grow value-added processing capacity. By promoting research, innovation and market diversification, we will advance Growth Plan targets for crop production, exports and value-added revenue, while supporting sustainability and public trust.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Provide timely and relevant information to farmers, ranchers, and agri-businesses

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Promote sustainable management practices that increase productivity and profitability
- Support growth of small to midsize enterprise value-added businesses through programming and pathfinding
- Promote and deliver research projects and findings
- Advance economic reconciliation with First Nations and Métis communities

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Support stakeholders and partners to grow and diversify markets

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Create and deliver a market development and diversification strategy
- Assess needs to support increased slaughter and meat processing capacity

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Design and deliver relevant and responsive programs and services

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Increase the effectiveness of demonstration programming
- Develop relevant and innovative programming for the next policy framework
- Review programming to align continuous improvement with client needs
- Increase producer investment of on-farm irrigation infrastructure

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Facilitate science and innovation in the province

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Invest in applied science with a focus on improving livestock research outcomes
- Support commercialization and value-added research

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Improve sector preparedness for economic shocks and volatile weather

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Enhance foreign animal disease response and preparedness
- Support industry to access programs and services to manage variable weather events, including drought and moisture
- Support efforts to strengthen supply chains to manage economic shocks stemming from trade and geo-political unpredictability

Performance Measures: *What success looks like*

Increase the processing of primary production in Saskatchewan.

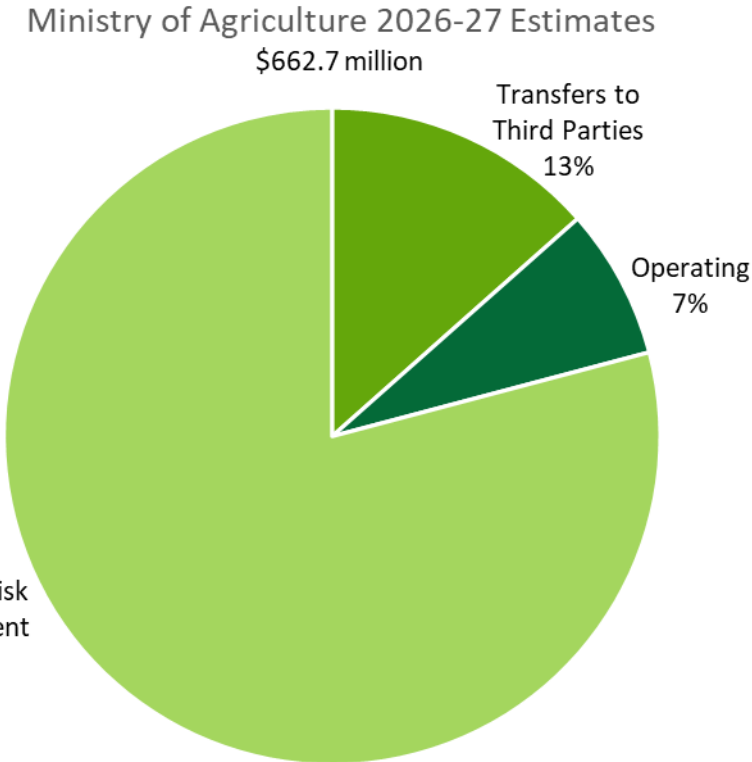
Canola processing currently represents the largest portion of revenue from Saskatchewan's value-added sector. Key agriculture goals in Saskatchewan's 2030 Growth Plan include crushing 75 per cent of the canola produced in Saskatchewan, processing 50 per cent of Saskatchewan pulse crops and doubling meat processing revenue to more than \$1 billion including animal feed processing.

2026-27 Improvement and Innovation Highlights

1	<p>Enhance client experience through online digital offerings.</p> <p>To improve accessibility and increase efficiency in service delivery, the ministry will expand digital platforms and self-service options. This innovation will provide citizens with faster, more convenient access to services while reducing administrative burden and delivering cost savings for government.</p>
2	<p>Improve wildlife claim processing using drones.</p> <p>To reduce delays and improve accuracy in wildlife damage assessments, the ministry will deploy AI-enabled drones for field inspections. This innovation will accelerate claim processing, ensure fair compensation and deliver cost-effective, technology-driven solutions for citizens and government.</p>

Financial Summary

Ministry of Agriculture 2026-27 Estimates (\$662.7 million)	(in thousands of dollars)
Central Management and Services	\$11,072
Industry Assistance	\$4,726
Land Management	\$5,925
Policy, Trade and Value Added	\$6,272
Research and Technology	\$38,258
Regional Services	\$34,119
Programs	\$36,170
Business Risk Management	\$524,300
Total Appropriation	\$660,842
Capital Asset Acquisitions	(\$300)
Non-Appropriated Expense Adjustment	\$2,125
Total Expense	\$662,667



Links to more information

- [Ministry of Agriculture](#)
- [Government of Saskatchewan Budget, Planning and reporting](#)