



Saskatchewan's food ingredients industry is renowned worldwide as an innovative manufacturing cluster, producing high-quality, safe, and sustainable agricultural products, including ingredients for a variety of healthy foods such as plant-based alternatives, cereals, beverages, baked goods, snacks, and bars.

The strength and diversity of Saskatchewan's production base are ideal for many ingredient processors. Major crops include cereals (hard red milling wheats and durum wheat, oats, barley and rye), oilseeds (canola, flax and hemp), pulses (dry peas, chickpeas, lentils and fava beans), specialty crops (various mustards, camelina, fenugreek, coriander, quinoa, ancient grains, canary seed and wild rice) as well as fruit crops (saskatoon berries, haskap and sour (tart) cherries).

Saskatchewan's agri-food exports were valued at \$18.5 billion in 2024, representing 18.5 per cent of Canada's total agri-food exports.

Saskatchewan is home to over one-quarter of Canada's certified organic land, comprising 1.17 million acres and 1,025 certified operations.

Functional Food Ingredients

- Beta-glucans from oats and barley
- Plant proteins, dietary fibre
- Camelina oil and phytosterols
- Flaxseed lignans and omega oils
- Fenugreek (and guar gum-like fraction)
- Hempseed products – omega 3 & 6, protein
- Pea, chickpea, fava bean and lentil - (GF, starch, fibre, protein)
- Micronized pulses and (malted and toasted) grains
- Culinary and medicinal herbs
- Mustard seed (yellow, oriental, and brown)
- Specialty 'super fruits' (Saskatoon berries, sour cherries, haskap berries and seabuckthorn berries).

Cereals

In 2024, Saskatchewan produced more than 21.1 million metric tonnes of cereal grains (wheat, barley, and oats).

Saskatchewan is the world's number one exporter of oats, with 23 per cent of world oat exports. Oat drink, milk replacement, and plant-based food makers will find abundant opportunity in Saskatchewan.

Wheat and pasta are already big business in Saskatchewan. Long known as the 'bread basket' of the West, the province also grows over 76 per cent of Canada's durum wheat. Saskatchewan exports more durum than any other province, sending nearly 3.7 million tonnes to 35 different countries.

Saskatchewan produces some of the world's finest barley and malt barley, accounting for more than half of Canada's barley-related exports. Saskatchewan is also a leading exporter of rye.

Oilseeds

Saskatchewan is one of the world's top exporters of:

- canola seed (4.7 million metric tonnes)
- canola meal (2.5 million metric tonnes)
- canola oil (1.7 million metric tonnes)

There are currently four large-scale canola processing facilities, one of which was recently expanded. Two additional projects are currently underway which will significantly increase the province's canola crush capacity to service current and future food and fuel demand.

Food Ingredients Industry

Canola has traditionally been processed to make healthy food-grade oil and animal feeds. However, the crop is now finding new food ingredient uses of isolated proteins in meat analogs and aquafeed, as well as other plant-based food and beverages.

Saskatchewan is a world flaxseed leader. The province exports over 86 per cent and 13 per cent of Canada's flax, accounting for nearly 15 per cent of global flax exports.

Saskatchewan is Canada's leading producer of mustard seed. Saskatchewan's mustard production accounts for 71 per cent of Canada's annual production. The province produces yellow, Oriental, and brown types of mustards, as well as camelina.

Pulses

Sustainably produced pulse crops are in high demand in food ingredients and protein markets. Saskatchewan is a global leader in the production of pulses with 87 per cent of lentils (2.1 million metric tonnes), 51 per cent of dry peas (1.5 million metric tonnes), and 85 per cent of chickpeas (242,800 metric tonnes) produced in Canada – reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 130 per cent for lentils and 96 per cent for dry peas. Pulse protein concentrate and protein isolate markets are in high demand for plant-based foods and protein fortification, aiming to replace meat and dairy products. Pulse fractions for fibre and gluten-free flours with a low glycemic index also continue to see market traction. Pulses also offer interesting opportunities for the production of fermented and cultured products.

Fruit

The Saskatchewan fruit industry is small but mighty and bursting with potential. Saskatchewan has several "super fruit" options for ingredient processors making syrups, juice, or whole (fresh, frozen, or dried) fruits. These fruits are also great as natural colourants and flavourings, especially in plant-based foods.

Saskatoon berries are packed full of antioxidants and are a source of eight essential vitamins and minerals. Saskatchewan has 28 per cent of Canada's Saskatoon berry orchards, and 34 per cent of Canada's total acreage. Saskatchewan's acreage for commercial Saskatoon berries is about 1,100 acres.

Sour (tart) cherries production is growing in Saskatchewan. These locally bred cherries have dark red flesh and contain dark red juice. Saskatchewan has about 17 per cent of Canada's sour cherry orchards (210 acres).

Haskap or "honey berry" (also known as a "fountain of youth" fruit) is grown on about 250 acres in Saskatchewan. It has a blueberry flavour with extremely high ORAC values compared to most fruits. They specifically have high levels of natural anthocyanins, polyphenols and bioflavonoid compounds. The "dissolving" soft skin of these berries makes it excellent in ice cream, yogurt and dessert applications.

Lake Diefenbaker Irrigation Projects

Saskatchewan is well-positioned to add further value to its agriculture sector by utilizing its resources to develop the necessary infrastructure for large-scale irrigation production. In 2020, the Government of Saskatchewan announced the Lake Diefenbaker Irrigation Expansion Project. This 10-year, \$4 billion initiative is expected to create 200,000 hectares of new irrigable land, providing Saskatchewan with the opportunity to create a sustainable and secure food supply chain for Canada.

Expanding irrigation in the province will support the growth of diverse, high-value crops, including fruits and vegetables. This will increase on-farm profitability, value-added processing opportunities, business attraction and employment.

Carbon Footprint

The carbon footprint of Saskatchewan-produced canola is 67 per cent lower than that of competing jurisdictions in Canada. The carbon footprint of Saskatchewan-produced canola is 90 per cent lower than that of international canola and soybean production.

For non-durum and durum wheat, Saskatchewan's carbon footprint is 62 per cent lower and 78 per cent lower than competitive jurisdictions. For dry field peas, the rate is 96 per cent lower, and for lentils, it is 130 per cent lower than in competitive jurisdictions.

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