

# Business Plan

2024-25

Ministry of Agriculture

*Saskatchewan!* 

# Statement from the Minister



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

I am pleased to present the Ministry of Agriculture 2024-25 Business Plan to support one of the province's most dynamic and important economic sectors.

Our government is focused on supporting the resiliency of the sector through challenging conditions such as drought. We have frozen the Crown land grazing rate in 2024 at 2022 levels and will be offering reduced rates in scenarios where lessees must reduce their stocking rates due to drought. These decisions support continued good stewardship of Crown land. Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC) is also showing its commitment to meet the changing needs of today's industry with program enhancements in 2024-25. This includes the addition of a weather-based insurance program for both intercropping and mixed forage, offered in partnership with the federal government. The corporation is also adding weather stations across the province for the 2024 growing season as well, and investing in satellite imagery and soil moisture data to enhance the program into the future.

The ministry and SCIC are driven by a commitment to excellent client service, with a team of experts in offices across the province to serve producers. Last year, there was a record-breaking level of payments under the SCIC Forage Rainfall Insurance Program, offered by the governments of Saskatchewan and Canada. There was also strong interest in the new federal-provincial Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership strategic programs, which the ministry successfully introduced to producers and agri-businesses in 2023-24. We anticipate seeing a large volume of applications again in 2024-25 in areas such as irrigation programming, the Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program, and the Saskatchewan Lean Improvements in Manufacturing Program. This year's budget includes \$89.4 million for this suite of strategic programs, including \$38.2 million in funding to advance agricultural research.

In addition to enabling a competitive and sustainable industry, we will continue telling Saskatchewan's agriculture sustainability story. New research outlined by the Saskatoon-based Global Institute for Food Security demonstrated that the major crops grown in Saskatchewan have a carbon footprint significantly lower than global competitors. This data brings Saskatchewan's sustainability story clearly into focus and reinforces our global reputation as a leader in agricultural technology and best practices. With innovative producers, a growing value-added sector and strong agricultural exports, Saskatchewan agriculture continues to lead the way. We look forward to continuing to work with the sector in 2024-25.

# 2024-25 Budget Highlights

1	<b>Supporting producers dealing with prolonged dry conditions and ensuring continued good stewardship of Crown land:</b> Crown land grazing rates will be frozen in 2024 at 2022 levels, while lessees who must reduce stocking rates due to drought will be eligible for a lease discount.
2	<b>Building resilience through improved business risk management programming:</b> Crop Insurance Program enhancements for the 2024-25 year will focus on improving weather-based programs. This includes a weather-based insurance program for intercrops and mixed forage and increased provincial cost-shared premium of \$1.5 million and operating pressure of \$2 million, for additional weather stations and an investment in satellite imagery and soil moisture data.
3	<b>Continued investment of \$89.4 million for strategic programs to support a strong Saskatchewan agri-food sector:</b> 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	<b>Continued investment in irrigation:</b> The ministry will continue to deliver irrigation development programming and support producers through the irrigation development process to develop 20-25,000 new acres.
5	<b>Continued investment in research and science:</b> \$38.2 million for agricultural research, including funding for institutions that do 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 2024-25 annual reports.

## Ministry of Agriculture Overview

### Mandate

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: Grow the primary agriculture sector.

Primary production is the foundation of economic growth in the sector and is the focus of several Growth Plan goals. Saskatchewan continues to invest in a strong primary production system by growing crop production in the province and increasing livestock cash receipts. Growth will be driven by more research and development in new crop technologies, improved livestock genetics, increased adoption of modern farming techniques, expansion in irrigation and use of new crop varieties. Growth in agri-food exports will follow from increasing primary production in the province, supported by efforts to diversify markets and capitalize on new market opportunities.

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

Enhance the business environment to attract investment and support growth.

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

- Identify and facilitate opportunities for growth in the primary agriculture sector.
- Influence federal policies and regulations to reflect Saskatchewan's priorities and support economic growth in the agriculture sector.
- Support increased Indigenous participation in the agriculture sector.
- Support irrigation development and expansion.

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

Advance research, innovation, and knowledge transfer to improve productivity and sector competitiveness.

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

- Promote management practices that increase productivity and profitability on rangeland.

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

Create trade opportunities.

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

- Identify and collaborate with key partners domestically and internationally to advance Saskatchewan's trade interests.
- Promote the Strong. Sustainable. Saskatchewan. brand for the agriculture sector.

**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 crop production to 45 million metric tonnes, increasing annual livestock cash receipts to \$3 billion, growing agri-food exports to \$20 billion and expanding irrigation in the province by adding 85,000 new irrigated acres.

## Goal 2: Grow the value-added sector.

Value-added production is one of the most important economic drivers for the growth of Saskatchewan's economy over the next decade, as noted in Saskatchewan's Growth Plan. Turning raw products into ingredients and enhancing the processing of primary products within Saskatchewan will increase value-added agricultural revenue. Saskatchewan has experienced one of the fastest growing value-added industries in Canada, with rapid growth from \$3.5 billion in revenue in 2012 to \$7.5 billion in 2022. A higher crop yield in Saskatchewan will also support the growth of the value-added processing sector.

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

Enhance a competitive business environment and attract investment.

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

- Identify and address constraints and opportunities in the value-added sector.
- Support the development of resources that showcase Saskatchewan's competitive advantages.
- Promote research and commercialization funding for the value-added sector.

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

Support value-added agriculture businesses to improve competitiveness and profitability.

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

- Engage with Saskatchewan's international trade offices to support opportunities for value-added products and businesses.

**Performance Measures:** *What success looks like*

### **Value-added revenue**

Saskatchewan's 2030 Growth Plan has set an ambitious target to grow Saskatchewan's value-added sector to \$10 billion in revenue.

### **Increase the processing of primary production in Saskatchewan.**

Canola processing currently represents the largest portion of revenue from Saskatchewan's value-added sector. The target is crushing 75 per cent of the canola produced in Saskatchewan by 2030, processing 50 per cent of Saskatchewan pulse crops by 2030 and doubling meat processing revenue to \$1 billion by 2030, which includes animal feed processing.

### Goal 3: Improve the agriculture sector's long-term resiliency and public trust.

Economic, environmental and social sustainability are important pillars of a resilient agriculture industry. To ensure producers can sustainably produce food into the future, Saskatchewan must continue to anticipate and prepare for emerging risks and opportunities that may impact the agriculture sector. The Ministry of Agriculture further supports public trust by collaborating with industry to act responsibly, providing effective assurance systems and educating the public about modern agricultural production. Ensuring the public understands and appreciates the role agriculture plays in Saskatchewan and how it contributes to our quality of life, helps ensure the industry maintains consumer confidence and access to the tools and technology needed for producers' continued success.

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

Improve sector preparedness for natural and economic shocks.

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

- Develop and promote best practices for crop and livestock biosecurity, including surveillance, response and mitigation.
- Strengthen emergency preparedness initiatives.

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

Support the sector in managing business risks and capitalizing on opportunities.

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

- Targeted work on Business Risk Management (BRM) programming to ensure it remains effective and meets the needs of industry.
- Assess the sector implications of domestic and global disruptions.

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

Increase resilience of the natural landscape to support a healthy environment.

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

- Address climate change priorities for Saskatchewan agriculture.
- Ensure continued protection of critical habitat on Crown land.
- Design and implement policies and programs to maintain natural landscapes on Crown land.
- Increase adoption of nutrient stewardship practices that protect the environment and enhance productivity/resiliency.
- Control the spread of invasive weeds on private and Crown agricultural land.

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

Build public trust in the agriculture sector.

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

- Work with industry stakeholders to identify present and emerging public trust concerns in Canadian and international markets.
- Proactively communicate information about regulatory and monitoring activities to the public.
- Support the industry to connect with consumers and youth to build awareness about modern agriculture.
- Support the industry to improve sector transparency.

**Performance Measures:** *What success looks like*

**Meet climate change targets while the industry remains competitive and productive**

Prairie Resilience, A Made in Saskatchewan Climate Change Strategy, includes several agriculture-related measures and targets intended to strengthen Saskatchewan's ability to thrive within a changing climate. For agriculture, this includes ensuring crop diversification, specifically that no one crop type will rise above 50 per cent of the cultivated area in Saskatchewan; maintaining the area of natural land at the 2016 level of just over 19.9 million acres; encourage the adoption of 4R Nutrient Stewardship practices (right source, right rate, right time and right place) on at least 25 per cent of the total farmland as a means to improve fertilizer efficiency and reduce emissions; and, targeting realized net farm income to not decrease by 50 per cent from the previous five-year average.

**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. This score has been as high as 91 per cent in recent years.

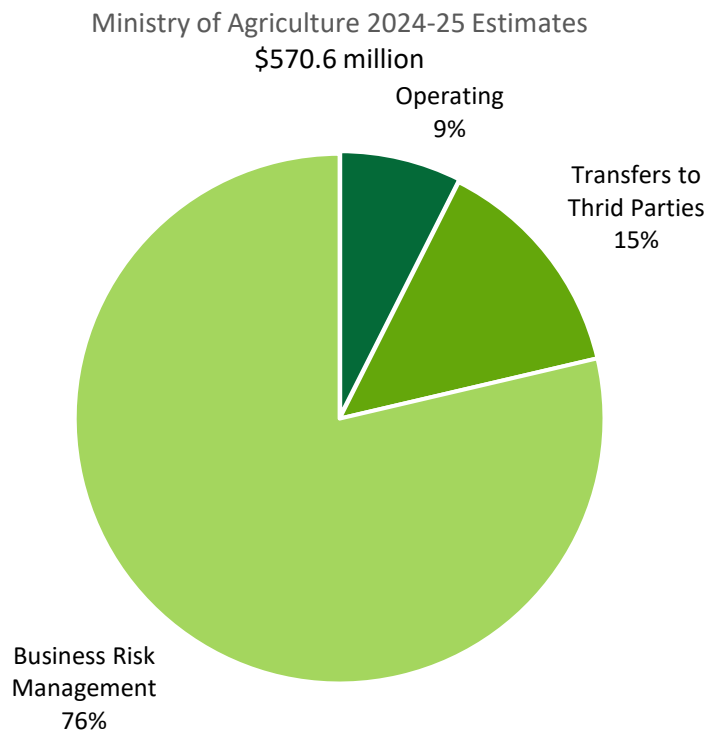


# 2024-25 Improvement and Innovation Highlights

1	<b>Introduce a new Crop Report Platform:</b> To empower producers with reliable information throughout the year, the ministry will introduce an online platform for crop report surveys and data visualization. This platform will provide accurate and timely information on crop status to help farmers make informed decisions and navigate market fluctuations.
2	<b>Amplify Saskatchewan's leadership in sustainable agriculture:</b> To communicate Saskatchewan's leadership in sustainable agriculture, the ministry will develop innovative media tools (videos, social media and educational resources) tailored to diverse audiences to promote Saskatchewan's agriculture environmental sustainability story.
3	<b>Strengthen resilience to current environmental challenges:</b> The ministry will work with industry and federal, provincial and international governments to evaluate the Business Risk Management (BRM) programs for livestock, identifying critical improvements to address producers' concerns about drought and extreme weather events.

# Financial Summary

Ministry of Agriculture 2024-25 Estimates (\$570.6 million)	(in thousands of dollars)
Central Management and Services	\$12,640
Industry Assistance	\$4,726
Land Management	\$5,714
Policy, Trade and Value Added	\$5,946
Research and Technology	\$38,178
Regional Services	\$33,656
Programs	\$35,992
Business Risk Management	\$431,700
<b>Total Appropriation</b>	<b>\$568,552</b>
Capital Asset Acquisitions	\$ -
Non-Appropriated Expense Adjustment	\$2,087
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$570,639</b>



## Links to More Information

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