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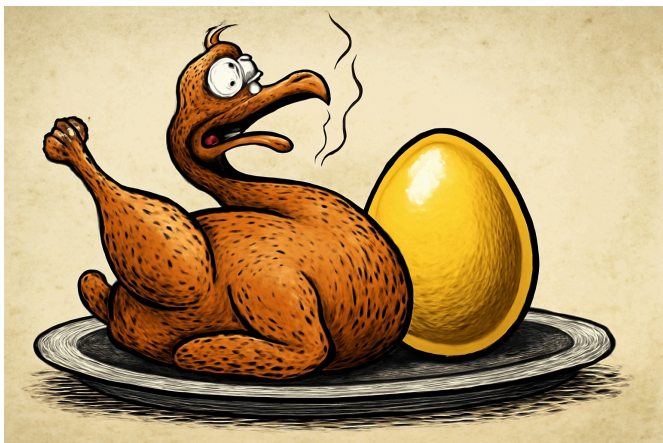
Ag Matters

January 29, 2026



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AAFC Cuts Could Cost Canadian Farming Big Time



Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) is shutting down seven vital research stations, including two big ones in Saskatchewan at Scott and Indian Head. On top of that, they're slashing 665 positions across the country. These research centers have been the goose that's kept Canadian farming strong, competitive, and sustainable for decades—but now they're on the chopping block.

Sure, there are folks who say it's okay to eat this goose— it was old and now we have an opportunity to get a new one in the next policy framework in 2028 - 2033 and we'll grow it bigger and better and we'll get more golden eggs. But here's the problem: the current Agreement (SCAP) already prioritizes research and innovation as key pillars and we're carving up the goose. So the question is, how do we lead in sustainability and adaptation while we're plucking the feathers off this goose right now?

Why Eating This Goose Is a Huge Mistake

APAS President Bill Prybylski doesn't mince words: "When you tear down the farms and labs where discovery happens, you sacrifice long-term benefits for short-term savings."



These research stations don't just help farmers—they bring fundamental knowledge that fuels our nation's food security and global leadership. Scott and Indian Head provide crucial agronomic data tailored to Saskatchewan's conditions, while sites in Alberta and Manitoba are key to forage, meat science, and local crop studies. How do Canadian producers adapt and innovate without the very research infrastructure that equips them to do so?

The Real Cost

It might look like a quick budget fix to close these centers, but the long-term fallout will leave Canadian agriculture hollow and struggling. These cuts go directly against SCAP's goals of resiliency, climate-smart practices, and sustainability. Farmers can't implement new solutions without solid research and data.

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What APAS Is Asking For

APAS isn't standing by. We're calling on the federal government for transparency. Farmers deserve answers about why this research is being gutted now and how we're supposed to keep building a sustainable farming future without it. An immediate impact assessment is essential—producers need to know what's at stake before we start seeing the consequences of these decisions.

This isn't just about a few budget cuts. It's about whether Canadian farming has what it takes to thrive tomorrow. We can't afford to eat the goose — and pretend another one will just hatch by itself. Let's make it clear: Canadian farmers deserve better.

CFIA - Livestock Traceability

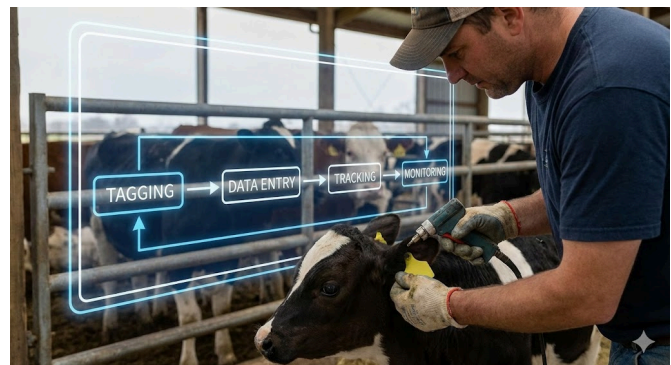
APAS has weighed in on the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's (CFIA) proposed livestock traceability regulations, supporting the principle of stronger traceability to improve disease response and bolster market confidence. But the big issue remains: who pays for it?

THE COST QUESTION



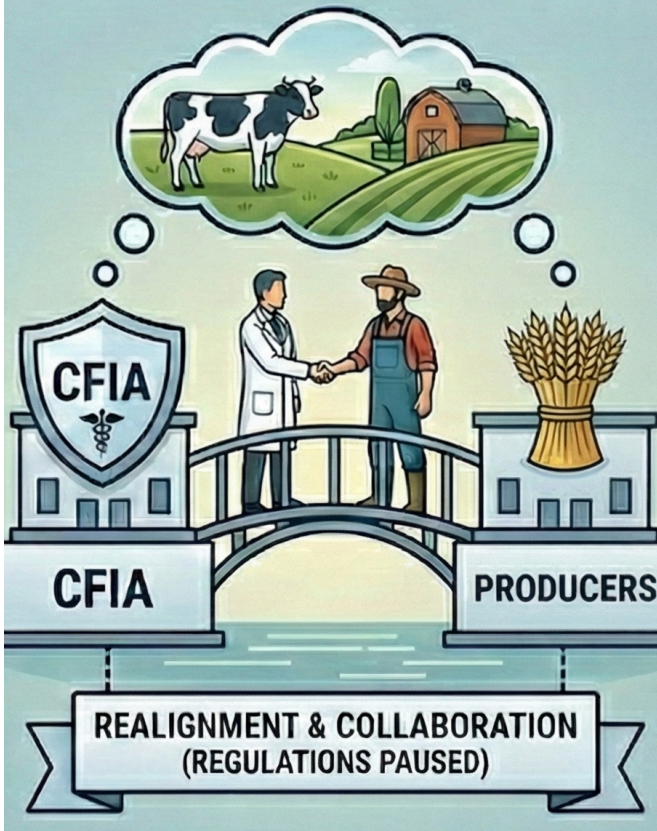
APAS is pushing for fair cost-sharing and practical implementation, emphasizing that no regulation should undermine the long-term sustainability of livestock producers.

We also argued that CFIA needs realignment under Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada to ensure animal health policies are developed with farmers' realities in mind.



“The growth of the livestock industry must guide these changes,” Prybylski explained. “CFIA has an opportunity to

A BALANCED FUTURE



—not just regulators.”

With CFIA temporarily pausing the progression of its traceability regulations, APAS remains committed to advocating for solutions that balance animal health benefits, market access, and producer viability.

Now that the CFIA has captured the attention of producers, initiating proactive consultations would be wise.

Canada-China Trade Agreement



Canada-China Trade Deal: Big Win for Saskatchewan Producers

APAS applauds the newly announced Canada-China trade agreement, marking a major victory for Saskatchewan agriculture. Thanks to extensive collaboration and hard work from elected and non-elected officials, including Premier Moe and Prime Minister Mark Carney, the agreement will reduce tariffs on Canadian canola seed to 15% by March 1 and expand export opportunities for Saskatchewan

“This agreement is a major breakthrough for our producers, who have faced severe export barriers to China,” said APAS President Bill Prybylski. “It improves market access and strengthens economic stability in the agriculture sector.”

While APAS celebrates the progress, challenges remain. Canola oil (currently facing a 100% tariff) and pork (subject to a 25% tariff) were excluded from the deal, leaving key export products without much-needed relief.

“Securing access to global markets is essential for Saskatchewan’s agriculture producers,” Prybylski adds. “We’ll keep urging the government to address remaining barriers and continue diversifying trade opportunities to protect our sector from future uncertainties.”



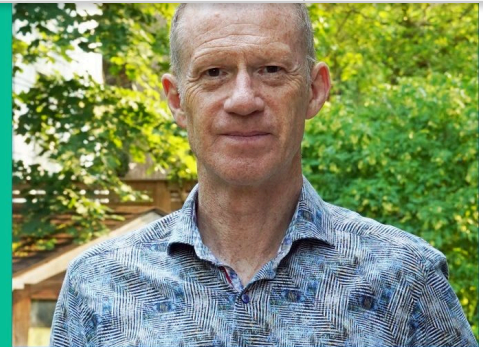
APAS will continue working with governments to ensure Saskatchewan’s producers can access stable and expanded markets.

Value Chain Productivity Initiative

Free Webinar: Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food Value Chain Productivity Initiative (VCPI)

This webinar will introduce a national effort to help farmers uncover hidden inefficiencies, cut input costs, and strengthen long-term resilience using proven, low-risk management approaches drawn from real-world farming and food systems. The team behind the VCPI is now seeking farmers and agri-food businesses to participate in pilot projects, as well as partners interested in supporting or funding the initiative.

If you want to be part of shaping an approach that boosts profitability without requiring major new investments—and helps build a stronger, more sustainable value chain—this session is an opportunity to get involved early.



Martin Gooch, PhD

Chief Executive Officer
Value Chain Management International
Inc.

February 18th, 2026

11:00 a.m. - Noon Eastern

Register for free today!

APAS in the News

APAS President, Bill Prybylski, joins Rosemary Barton to talk about expectations of a trade deal between Canada and China. January 11.



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