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Ag Matters

March 31, 2026



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**2026 Agricultural
Policy Framework
Summit**



The event focused on shaping Canada's next agricultural policy framework, bringing together farmers, policymakers, and industry leaders to discuss priorities that will drive the future of agriculture.

Dr. Richard Gray - Realigning Priorities



Professor Richard Gray presented a compelling case for a strategic shift in the Canadian Agricultural Policy Framework.

His analysis underlines the need to reassess and redirect funds from traditional Business Risk Management (BRM) programs, which have become less effective over time, towards more impactful areas such as agricultural research and crop breeding.

Gray's recommendations highlight an opportunity to enhance productivity and ensure the long-term resilience of the farming sector.

1. **Reallocating Resources** - shifting funds from Business Risk Management (BRM) to agricultural research and crop breeding in the 2028 APF.
2. **Low Returns of BRMs** - Originally designed for a 1991 farm financial crisis, BRMs now offer low Benefit/Cost (B/C) ratios and fail to address modern market needs.
3. **High Returns of Agricultural Research** - Public investment in research yields B/C ratios greater than 20:1, driving productivity and long-term farm viability.

4. **Declining Public Investment** - Government spending on agricultural research has steadily decreased since 1986 despite proven value.
5. **Policy Recommendation** - Shift \$100M from AgriInvest to research by matching producer check-offs, modeled after Australia, to boost productivity by \$2–\$3 billion annually.

Ken McDougall, MNP - BRM's

Ken McDougall from MNP critically evaluated the suite of BRM programs, highlighting their strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and strategic recommendations for future policy adjustments.

Top 5 Policy Recommendations

1. Retain AgriStability's margin-based approach for consistent income stabilization.
2. Modernize program delivery and parameters for today's agricultural and economic conditions.
3. Strengthen program transparency and communication to build producer trust.
4. Maintain policy consistency to facilitate long-term planning in farm businesses.
5. Boost financial literacy with tools and advisory services for better understanding of required financial standards.



Karlah Rudolph - SaskSoil

Karlah discussed modern strategies aimed at enhancing soil health within the agricultural sector. She outlined key principles, innovative practices, and robust policy recommendations



Policy Recommendations

1. **Support Networks** - Establish SaskSoil as a key partner in peer-learning initiatives.
2. **Support for Equipment and Seeds** - Financial support for advanced farming tools and costs related to seeding cover and perennial forages.
3. **Crop Insurance Adjustments** - Continue support for diverse cropping systems and develop markets for specific crops like winter cereals.
4. **Financial Incentives** - Reward long-term commitments to soil-enhancing practices such as multi-year perennial rotations and comprehensive soil health assessments.

Pierre Petelle - CropLife Canada

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Pierre outlined the challenges facing global agricultural productivity and the critical role of plant science innovation and trade in addressing these issues. Below is a summary of the key points.

Recommended Regulatory Reforms

- Update PMRA's mandate and re-evaluation processes.
- Set clear performance benchmarks for risk-assessment.
- Implement advanced regulatory practices.



Global Trade Priorities

- Tackle barriers, particularly around Maximum Residue Levels and EU mirror clauses.
- Optimize benefits from the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement.
- Formulate a National Food Security Strategy.

Eric Harvey - Railway Association of Canada



Eric highlighted the significant role railways play in agricultural supply chains and outlined challenges and policy recommendations to enhance trade and logistics efficiency.

Key Policy Recommendations

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1. **Competitive Tax Policies** that encourage private sector investment through infrastructure tax credits and accelerated depreciation.
2. **Streamlined Approvals** - Implement a "one-window" approval process for quicker decisions with public consultation.
3. **Modernized Labour Laws** to support resolution of labour disputes to safeguard supply chain stability.

Scott Day - Fall Line Capital

Scott presented "New Tech Considerations for Prairie Agriculture," focusing on the rapidly evolving role of technology in agriculture.

Scott emphasized the transformative potential of technology in agriculture and highlighted a number of technological innovations:

Biotechnology & Crop Protection

- GreenLight Biosciences' cost-effective products for pest control.
- New bio-insecticides *Calantha* (targets Colorado Potato Beetle) and *Norroa* (combats Varroa mite).



Livestock & Animal Health

- Maize-based oral vaccines.
- Smart Ear Tag for real-time cattle health and tracking.

Farm Management & Supply Chain

- FarmerTitan app for equipment maintenance and tracking.
- GrainTracker for automated digital grain inventory and traceability.

Electrification & Machinery

- Donut Labs' solid-state batteries and rare-earth-free motors.
- High-voltage EV platforms, autonomous drones, and electric tractors.

Artificial Intelligence

Candace Mitschke - Sask Farm Stewardship Association



Candace presented on "Agricultural Water Management: A Critical Link in Climate Resilience and Food Security," illustrating the essential role of effective water management in Saskatchewan, which hosts 40% of Canada's farmland and 74% of the Prairie's food acres. Efficient water management is paramount to national food security.

Recommendations for Policy Framework

1. **Comprehensive Funding** - Support for drainage stewardship, irrigation efficiency, and collaborative efforts like SK DEN.
2. **Permanent Research Positions** - Establishing agricultural water research roles, potentially including an Ag Water Research Chair at the University of Saskatchewan.
3. **Testing and Validation of BMPs** - Funding for demonstration sites to test Beneficial Management Practices across diverse soil zones.
4. **Enhanced Knowledge Sharing** - Targeted investments in extension networks and field learning for better dissemination of knowledge.

Jason MacDonald - Imperial Oil Ltd

Jason focused on the potential and development of Renewable Diesel (RD).

Regulatory and Policy Landscape

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Clean Fuel Regulations: By 2030, there's a mandated 15% reduction in Carbon Intensity (CI) from 2016 levels, with set renewable volume standards in fuels.



Policy Recommendations - Imperial stresses the need for technology-neutral policies, focused on carbon intensity and backed by transparent, scientific data. Policies should encourage private investment without favoring specific technologies.

Strathcona Refinery Project & Economic Impacts

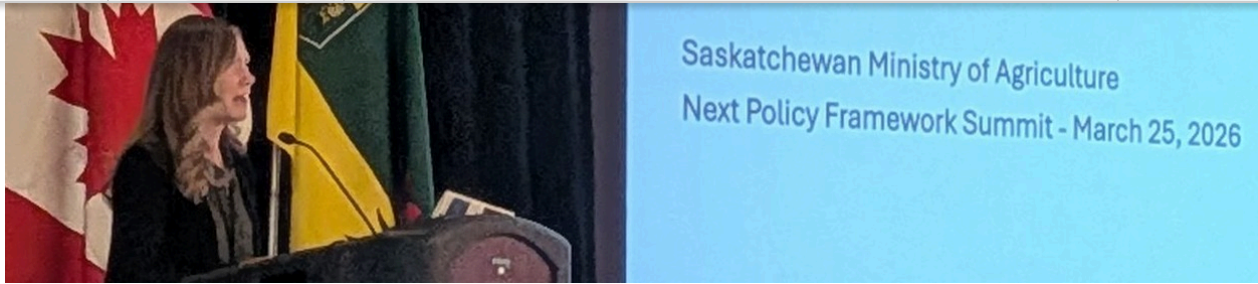
- Canada's Largest RD Facility - The project at Strathcona will output up to 20,000 barrels per day of low-carbon diesel, supporting large-scale canola usage and creating significant agricultural demand.

Economic Ripple Effect:

- Canola farming stimulated by a demand for 2.5 million tonnes annually, supporting 40,000 farmers.
- Necessitates building 2-3 seed crushing plants, fostering about \$1 to \$1.5 billion in investments and generating hundreds of jobs.
- Extensive transport needs, including over 11,000 railcars annually for seed oil.
- Industrial investment for RD production and associated low-CI hydrogen production totaling over \$2.3 billion, creating more than 3,100 construction jobs.

This comprehensive approach aligns agricultural policy with environmental sustainability through renewable diesel, showcasing significant sector-wide benefits and encouraging policy support for technology-agnostic frameworks.

Federal and Provincial Governments



The Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) outlined the process for developing the 2028-2033 Next Policy Framework (NPF) during the Summit. This initiative builds on the foundations set by the current \$3.5 billion Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP), which runs from 2023-2028 and allocates \$485 million specifically to Saskatchewan.

Key Aspects of Current and Future Frameworks

Funding & Priorities - The CAP, operating on a 60:40 cost-share basis between federal and provincial/territorial governments, prioritizes climate action, innovation, market development, sector growth, and resiliency.

Business Risk Management (BRM): Annually, \$1.98 billion supports BRM programs like AgrilInsurance and AgrilInvest, crucial for managing sector risks.

Timeline for NPF Development

- July 2026 - Release of the Ministerial Policy Statement setting the vision for the sector.
- July 2027 - Signing of the Multilateral Framework Agreement by FPT Ministers.
- April 2028 - Official launch of the NPF through bilateral agreements.

Stakeholder Engagement & Feedback

Current Phase - Feedback is being gathered to determine the effectiveness of the CAP and to set priorities for the NPF. Key areas identified for increased focus include market development, competitiveness, scientific innovation, and resilience.

Influences - The direction of the NPF will be shaped by ongoing global economic pressures, market volatility, and the necessity for policy continuity.

The approach aims to refine agricultural policy in Canada, fostering growth and sustainability in the sector amid changing global conditions.

[Catch the Replay - Ag Summit 2026](#)

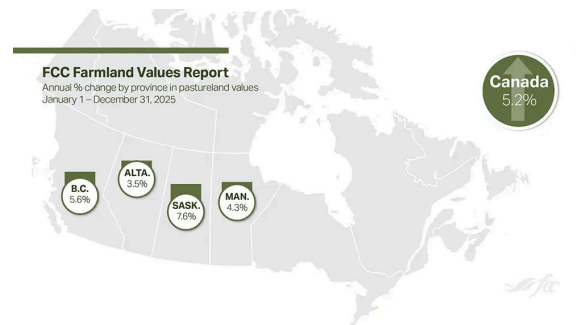
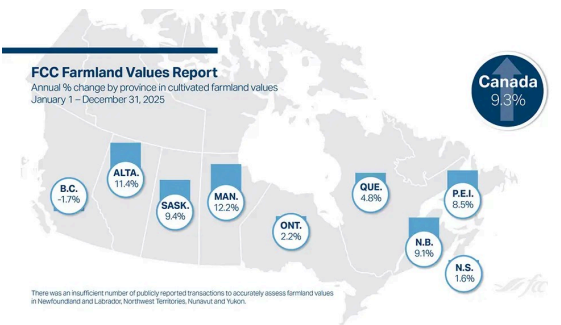
Farmland Values

Farm Credit Canada

2025 FCC Farmland Values Report

This report covers the period from January 1 to December 31, 2025

Published on
March 24, 2026



[Read the FCC Report](#)

Big News - for some areas!

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Strychnine Emergency Registration Use area

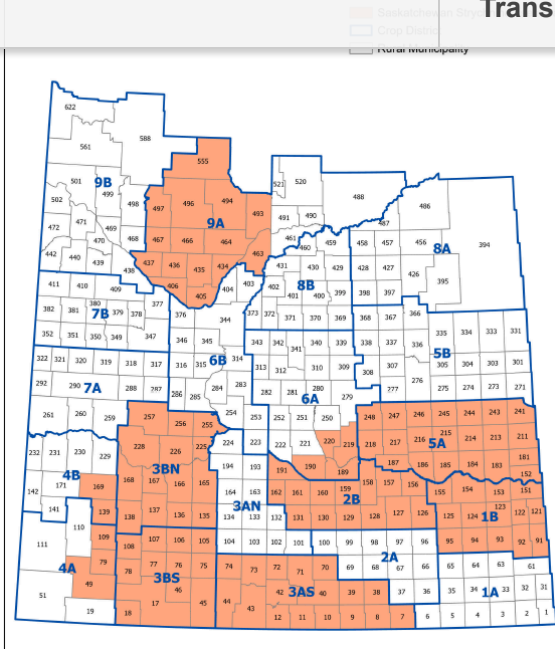
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TOOLS FOR THE 2026 SEASON

Strychnine is temporarily back for gopher control.

New mitigation measures ensure responsible use while protecting pastures and crop yields from RGS damage.



The PMRA has approved the emergency use of 2% liquid strychnine in select areas of Saskatchewan to manage Richardson's ground squirrels. While this is a win for pest control in agriculture, the **approval is limited to certain regions** based on species-at-risk considerations.

If your area is not covered and you face gopher infestations, we encourage you to contact your local Member of Parliament or MLA to raise your concerns.

Let's continue working together for a long-term solution to this issue for a stronger, more resilient agriculture sector!

[Read the Federal Gov't Statement](#)

APAS in the News

[SaskToday - Ag Summit - March 27](#)

[PA Daily Herald - Provincial Budget, March 26](#)

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SaskToday - Fertilizer Prices,
MARCH 25

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Farms.com - Budget Panel,
March 24



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