

# Ag Matters

December 17, 2025



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## Season's Greetings! Welcome to Our 2025 Year in Review

It's hard to beleive that 25 years ago, Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities delegates voted to create an organization dedicated solely to agriculture policy in Saskatchewan!

And now, 25 years later, as we approach the end of a challenging yet transformative 25th year at APAS, we wish to extend our warmest Season's Greetings to you and your loved ones.

We are immensely grateful for your continued support and engagement with APAS as we advocate for the future of farming. Together, let's reflect on the past year and look forward to new opportunities in 2026.

2025 presented a series of challenges for Saskatchewan's farm families, from global trade disputes and regulatory instability to policy gaps and financial uncertainty. Yet, amidst these adversities, there have been encouraging developments and promising steps forward.

## ompetition Concerns and Stalled Value-Added Projects



The agricultural supply chain faced concerns over competition, specifically regarding grain handling and domestic processing capacity.

### Bunge-Viterra Merger Oversight Failure

APAS opposed the government's decision to allow the Bunge-Viterra merger, noting that the imposed conditions were insufficient,. The Competition Bureau itself raised serious alarms that the arrangements failed to preserve competitive markets for farmers. The decision did not directly address the projected **\$800 million financial loss to farmers** or control over 45% of Vancouver Port's capacity.

Processing Setbacks

Value-added processing efforts were delt a setback when Federated Co-operatives Limited (FCL) paused its renewable diesel facility and canola crush project, stalling market diversification opportunities.



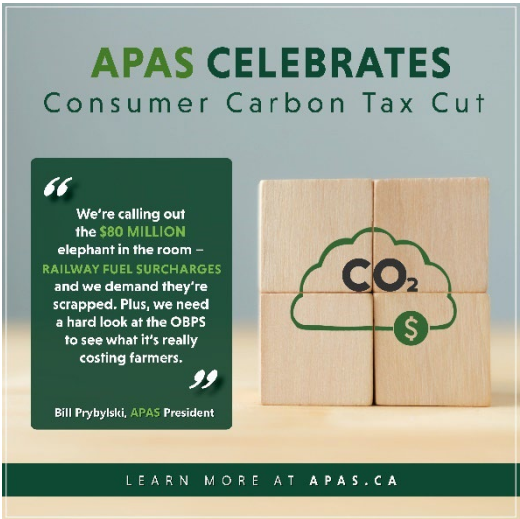
Taxes and Reform



2025 marked significant victories in taxation that directly benefit the agricultural sector demonstrating the power of persistent advocacy and dialogue.

Carbon Tax Removal

The removal of the federal carbon tax is a substantial relief for the agricultural sector. APAS has long argued against the disproportionate burden placed on farmers due to carbon pricing. This achievement not only alleviates some of the operational costs for producers but also underscores the recognition of agriculture's role in ecological stewardship and carbon sequestration.



Railway Carbon Surcharge Removal

Coupled with the carbon tax win, eliminating the railway carbon surcharge marks a double victory. This was an estimated \$80M hidden tax that was passed down to farmers.

Capital Gains Tax Reversal

Initially, the announced changes to capital gains tax threatened to complicate farm succession planning and impose heavier financial burdens on farm families.



APAS joined concerted lobbying efforts by multiple organizations that led to a pivotal retraction of these proposed changes, ensuring continued predictability and financial security for farmers. This win preserves the integrity of generational farm transfers and supports the sustainability of farming as a livelihood.

These tax-related wins signify the resilience and impact of persistent advocacy.

Global Trade and Tariffs



The once-stable trade routes and partnerships were disrupted in 2025, carving out a new landscape marked by uncertainty and adaptation. These events created new challenges and opportunities for Saskatchewan’s agricultural sector.

U.S. Tariff Threats

The looming threat of U.S. tariffs started the uncertainties. The potential for a 25% tariff on Canadian agricultural exports to our closest trade partner created an environment of heightened anxiety and strategic recalibration among Saskatchewan’s ag sector.

Chinese Market Barriers

A pivotal challenge came in March with China's imposition of a 100% tariff on key Canadian agricultural products including peas, canola oil, meal, and pork, further compounded by a 75.8% tariff on canola seed in August.

This not only jeopardized a crucial export channel but also signaled a daunting year for producers, grappling with significant financial uncertainty amidst these restrictions.



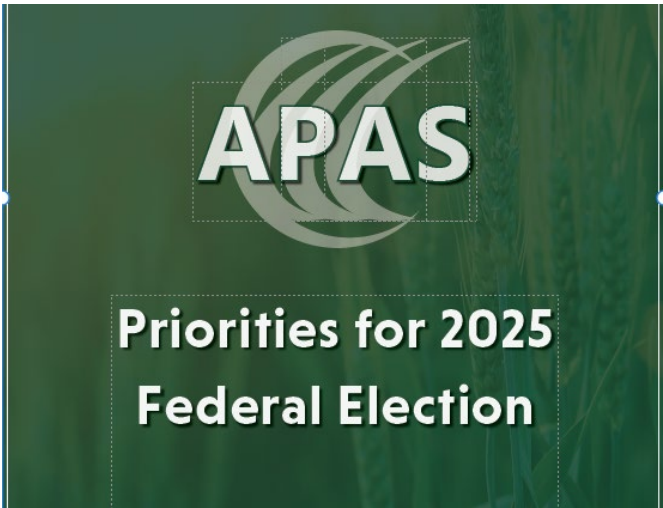
Ripple Effects of Tariffs

The decision by India to implement a 30% tariff on yellow peas further exacerbated the situation, undermining one of Saskatchewan’s critical export markets. The combined impact of these tariffs has not just been financial; it has infused a layer of unpredictability into trade strategies, forcing a reevaluation of market dependencies and export diversification.

In response to the growing trade and tariff uncertainties that emerged early on in 2025, APAS partnered with key agricultural organizations for a unified discussion on the challenges facing Saskatchewan producers. This unprecedented meeting brought together all crop commissions, Sask Eggs, Sask Pork, Sask Cattle, and other stakeholders, highlighting the seriousness of the situation and the need for collective solutions.



**Federal Election**



The April 28 federal election ushered in a shift in the political landscape, sparking restrained optimism and potential change in tone for the agricultural sector in Saskatchewan.

Encouragingly, there seems to be a consensus to prioritize agricultural issues more prominently within the new government's agenda. This shift presents an opportunity to address longstanding challenges with fresh perspectives and renewed commitment.

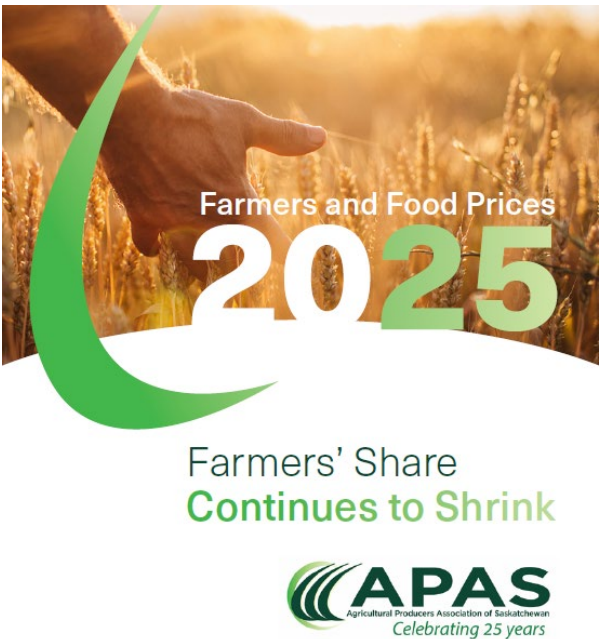
APAS is strategically positioning itself to advocate effectively under the new political environment. Our focus remains on communicating the needs and challenges of Saskatchewan’s producers, ensuring they are understood and acted upon by the federal government.

**Rising Food Costs; Declining Farm Share**

**Setting the Record Straight**

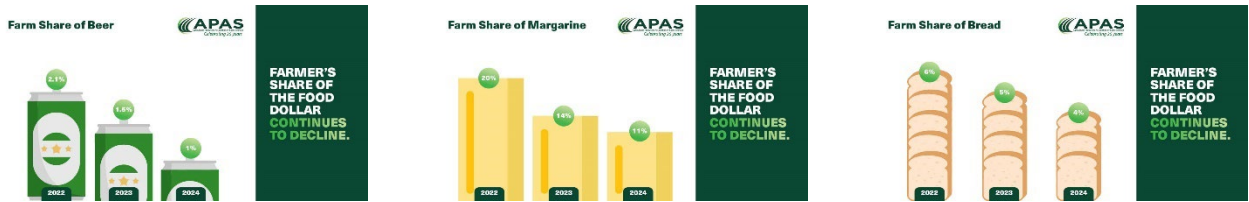
APAS released the Farmers and Food Prices Report to bring clarity and facts to an issue that affects every Canadian: the rising cost of food.

As prices at the grocery store increase, this report highlights an important truth – rising food prices are NOT due to farmers. In fact, Saskatchewan producers continue to shoulder increasing costs while receiving a shrinking share of the retail dollar.



Standing Up for Farmers and Families

The report makes one thing clear – Saskatchewan farmers are key to Canada’s food security and affordability, but they need support to sustain their vital work. APAS is committed to advocating for policies that reduce costs for farmers, strengthen Canada’s food supply chain, and ensure fairness for both producers and consumers.



Policy Gaps and Future Opportuntiy



APAS recognized the federal offer to enhance AgriStability, eyeing it as a vital step toward more comprehensive farm protection. Nevertheless, the benefits of these enhancements were contingent upon provincial acceptance and action.

In July 2025, the province ultimately adopted the improved measures including increasing the compensation rate to 90% and doubling the payment limit, which APAS views as a positive development for Saskatchewan agricultural.

AgriStability Program Enhancements for 2026

Adjustments will be made to the feed inventory pricing, providing a more accurate reflection of on-farm use valuation, especially in dry years. Additionally, grazing expenses on leased land are proposed to be eligible for AgriStability coverage, acknowledging such costs as allowable expenses for producers.

Advanced Payments Program

The federal decision to double the interest-free portion of the Advance Payments Program (APP) to \$500,000 was welcomed by canola farmers.

However, this supportive measure excluded the pulse sector, which also endured substantial financial stress due to trade tariffs.



APAS has repeatedly emphasized the significance of pulses in Saskatchewan's agricultural landscape, both economically and environmentally. The lack of federal support for pulse farmers not only undermines their financial stability but also fails to acknowledge the role pulses play in sustainable farming practices and soil health.



Another hidden tax on farmers!

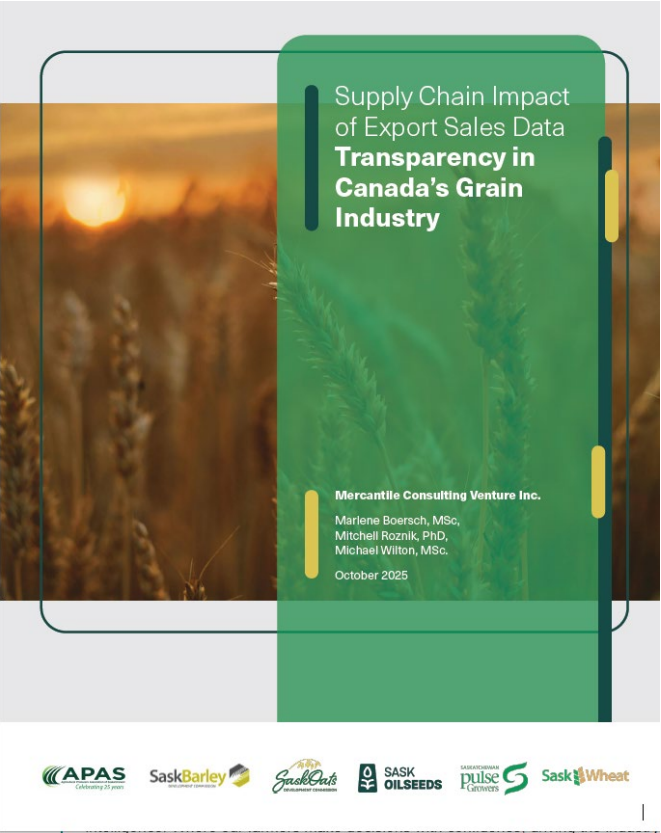
Saskatchewan farmers are losing tens of millions of dollars.

In the complex and globally intertwined world of agriculture, information is power. Transparency in export sales is not just beneficial; it's essential for maintaining a fair and competitive market environment.

Recognizing this, APAS partnered with SaskCrops to advocate for the implementation and enhancement of the Export Sales Reporting (ESR) program.

This initiative aims to provide timely and accurate data on export sales activity, offering critical insights that can help shape strategic decisions for Saskatchewan's agricultural producers and the broader Canadian agricultural supply chain.

As global agricultural markets continue to evolve, the need for accurate and comprehensive export data will only grow. The Export Sales Reporting program represents a vital tool for ensuring that Canadian agriculture remains competitive, profitable, and sustainable.



APAS is committed to ensuring that this program receives the necessary support and resources to achieve these goals, advocating for policies that bolster Saskatchewan’s agriculture and contribute to the well-being of Canada’s economy as a whole.

Celebrating 25 Years



Jim Smalley - MC



25th Year Anniversary



Senator Todd Lewis



James Thorsteinson - MLA  
Cut Knife-Turtleford



Trent Wotherspon - MLA  
Regina Mount Royal



Bill Prybylski  
APAS President



Terry Hildebrandt - APAS  
Founding President



APAS President's  
L-R Ian Boxal, Bill Prybylski,  
Todd Lewis, Terry  
Hildebrandt, Norm Hall



APAS Founders



Celebrating 25 Years



Celebrating 25 Years

Looking Forward to 2026...

Farm families across Saskatchewan face mounting challenges—rising operating costs, market uncertainty, environmental pressures, and outdated systems that fail to serve their needs.

Now, more than ever, farm families need a strong voice to advocate for fairness, sustainability, and progress.



Photo Courtesy: Farm and Food Care Saskatchewan

APAS is your partner in driving change for Saskatchewan’s agriculture. In 2026, APAS will be working on critical areas to support producers and tackle the barriers threatening their livelihoods.

Farmland Ownership

As stakeholders in agriculture we must advocate for policies that prioritize farmland ownership within the farming community and encourage the entry of new and young farmers.

Working together to promote access to land for farmers, facilitating



Photo - Farm and Food Care Saskatchewan

generational transfers, and implement ownership regulations that reflect our commitment to safeguarding farmland for current and future generations of producers.

We’ll continue the dialogue on this important issue and strive for a framework that supports a thriving agricultural landscape.



Standing Up for Farmers

**Fair Contracts** Farmers deserve fair and transparent grain contracts reflective of their contributions to Canada’s economy. APAS is working to modernize grain contracts, ensuring balanced terms for producers.

Photo - Farm and Food Care Saskatchewan

**Market Transparency** By advocating for a real-time export sales reporting program, APAS aims to give farmers access to accurate data that empowers better decision-making in global markets.

**Protecting Producer Rights** APAS will launch a "Know Your Rights" handbook to help producers navigate issues like grading disputes and payment delays.

**Reducing Costs and Tackling Market Concentration**

**Fighting High Costs** APAS is pushing for investigations into anti-competitive practices in machinery manufacturing and agricultural input markets, ensuring farmers aren’t unfairly restricted.



Photo - Farm and Food Care Saskatchewan

**Tax Relief** APAS is advocating to end Provincial Sales Tax (PST) on equipment and farm-related goods, putting money back in the hands of producers.

Additionally, we will continue working on enhancements to **Farm Roll-Over tax** changes, clarity on the **Productivity Super-Deduction** as well as transparency on the **industrial carbon tax** impact on fertilizer pricing.

**Domestic Input Solutions** APAS is calling on governments to strengthen domestic production of fertilizer and other agricultural inputs to reduce dependency on expensive imports.



**Modernizing Risk Management and Insurance**

**Fairer Coverage** APAS will advocate for regulatory changes to hail insurance programs, ensuring producers aren't penalized with reductions in indemnity.

Photo - Farm and Food Care Saskatchewan

**Reducing Risk for Crop Diversification** APAS is working to encourage innovation by pressing for crop insurance premium caps for diversified crop options, helping producers explore new opportunities without added financial strain.

**Tackling Livestock, Land, and Farm Services Challenges**

**Better Pest and Disease Management** APAS will advocate for support programs like gopher control and compensation for cleaning measures related to controlled diseases.



Photo - Farm and Food Care Saskatchewan

**Wildlife Management** Farmers need more solutions for the increasing elk population and wildlife damage—APAS will be recommending extended hunting seasons and more funding for population counts to address these issues.

**Expanding Farm Services** APAS will be engaging service providers advocating for better access to competitively priced utility services to support farm modernization.

**Stronger Together**

Farm families across Saskatchewan are facing these challenges—and APAS is here for them.

Being a part of APAS means you amplify your voice, enabling greater advocacy and influence to ensure agricultural policies truly work for farmers.

Our collective strength ensures that agricultural concerns are heard by provincial and federal governments.

Our goal is to fight for equitable policies, sustainable practices, and the long-term success of Saskatchewan agriculture. Together, we work to build a brighter future for farm families and rural communities.

Be a part of the solution for Saskatchewan’s producers. Let’s ensure that agriculture remains the backbone of Saskatchewan’s economy—and that farm families thrive for generations to come. Together, we’re stronger.

**Merry Christmas and See You in 2026!**

