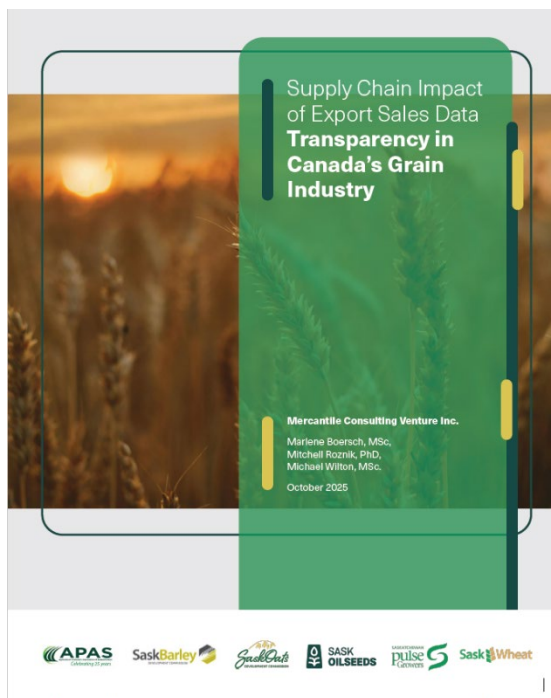


# Ag Matters

October 30, 2025



## Why Farmers Need Better Access to Grain Export Data to Compete



*"We produce world-class grain, yet we're in a global race with one hand tied behind our backs because we lack the export sales data that U.S. and European competitors have."*

*"This isn't just policy—it's about sharpening our competitive edge and ensuring the success of our agricultural industry on the world stage."*

APAS President, Bill Prybylski

In the competitive world of global agriculture, Canadian grain stands among the elite. Yet, our farmers are missing a crucial piece of the puzzle, access to real-time export sales data. Unlike our U.S. and European counterparts, Canadian producers are left making decisions without the market transparency critical for planning and growth. This information gap doesn't just leave Canada at a disadvantage; it stifles innovation, weakens supply chains, and limits our ability to position Canada as a key trading partner on the world stage.



Imagine a future where Canadian agriculture doesn't just thrive on quality but becomes synonymous with market intelligence. A future where farmers make confident, strategic decisions, building an industry that is resilient and forward-thinking. This vision is achievable, and it starts with a commitment to transparency.

Discover how we can transform Canadian agriculture into a global leader.

[Read the Report](#)

## Rolling Up Our Sleeves: APAS Advocacy in Action



This week, APAS is in Ottawa, not just participating but actively shaping conversations as part of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture lobby day.

In addition to the CFA Lobby Day meetings, APAS has several meetings lined up, including meetings at the US and Chinese embassies, the Port of Vancouver, Railway Association of Canada, Canadian Chamber of Commerce, and with key elected officials.

APAS is tackling issues crucial to Saskatchewan farmers, from trade and tariffs to transportation and supply chain infrastructure.



Canadian Federation of Agriculture Board



L-R Devon Walker, APAS Director, MP John Barlow, Jeremy Welter, APAS VP, Curtis Hemming, APAS Director of Stakeholder Relations



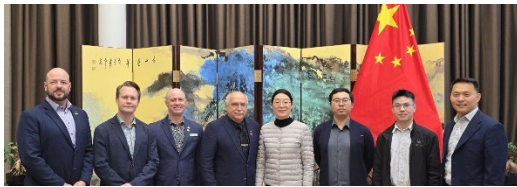
Saskatchewan Conservative Caucus



L-R Lance Strong, Canadian Honey Council, Drew Spoelstra, President, Ontario Federation of Ag, Curtis Hemming (APAS), Senator Lewis, Devon Walker, APAS Director.



L-R Drew Spoelstra, MP Steven Bonk, Devon Walker, APAS Director, Lance Strong



APAS meeting Counsellor Zhao Na at the Chinese Embassy in Ottawa.

L-R APAS Director Devon Walker, APAS VP, Jeremy Welter, Buckley Belanger, Secretary of State, Rural Development, and Curtis Hemming.



APAS President, Bill Prybylski with Kerry-Leigh Burchill, Director General, Canada Agriculture and Food Museum, and Senator Black.

L-R Erika and Lance Strong from Rocanville, with the Saskatchewan Bee Keepers Development Commission, Devon Walker, APAS Director, and Jeniffer Crowson and Gwen Young with the Alberta Sugar Beet Growers.







Jake Berg, from Melfort SK, Chair, Canaidna Honey Council and APAS VP, Jeremy Welter.

## Saskatchewan's Trade Challenges: Pea Tariffs and The Triffid Flax Incident Reflect Similar Pitfalls



Do you remember the Triffid Flax Incident in 2009?

As we continue discussions about recurring trade challenges like tariffs, it's essential to reflect on the lessons learned from such challenges.

As farmers continue grappling with trade disruptions across peas, pork and canola, there is a striking similarity between the Triffid flax incident of 2009 and today's Chinese tariffs on peas. Beyond just the immediate economic impacts, they show a pattern of production dominance, market reliance, and vulnerability that calls for strategic changes in agricultural practices and policies.

### Production Dominance in Saskatchewan

In 2008, Saskatchewan farmers planted approximately 1.6 million acres of flax. Prices during this period hovered around \$10-11 per bushel. However, the discovery of genetically modified Triffid flax in shipments to the EU created market uncertainty, prompting a dramatic reduction in flax acres by 2011, before seeing a partial recovery to 1 million acres in Saskatchewan by 2013.



This concentration of production acres heightens the province's exposure to trade risks, with both peas and flax sharing this common feature.

## **Export Market Dependencies and Consequences**

Trade disruptions have laid bare the perils of dependence on primary export markets. The imposition of China's steep pea tariffs led to a full stop in exports, mirroring the Triffid flax incident's catastrophic loss of the European market – both root causes for drastic reductions in Saskatchewan's exporting capacity.

## **Price Declines and Economic Stress**

The pea tariffs and the Triffid incident have shown how quickly market disruptions translate into severe downward price pressure, with pea prices dropping approximately 35% and flax prices declined by about 32%.

The vast acres in production for both crops amplify the extent of financial distress experienced by Saskatchewan farmers. In the case of pea tariffs, the implications were immediate. The tariffs, compounded by a general oversupply in the market, have caused steep declines in prices, putting farmers under significant financial strain. For example, yellow pea prices plummeted from an average of \$10.20 per bushel to just \$6.73 per bushel in October.

Similarly, the Triffid flax incident reverberated through market pricing structures. Prior to the disruption, flax prices hovered around \$10-11 per bushel. However, the closure of the European market, which had been a major destination for Canadian flax, led to an immediate price collapse—approximately a 32% decline, with prices dropping by \$2-4 per bushel across Saskatchewan. Flax producers faced a period of economic instability as they struggled to absorb and adapt to the new market conditions.

Over time, prices stabilized, albeit at a lower level, and partly because China stepped in to become a significant buyer, seeing an opportunity amidst the crisis.

## **Diversification as a Shared Solution**

These similar experiences underline the critical necessity for market diversification and the exploration of value-added processes to stabilize returns. The pattern of overreliance on single markets compels a rethinking of how Saskatchewan manages its large production acres, aiming to build resilience against such disruptive trade events.

Drawing from history and recent experiences, Saskatchewan must continue focusing on diversifying its agricultural economy, reducing the market risks for certain crops, to protect farmers and secure a more stable future for our expansive production acres.

**Shout Out to Harvest 2025**



*Photo Courtesy - Nick Partyka, RM 436  
Douglas (east of North Battleford, SK)*



*Photo Courtesy - Nick Partyka, RM 436  
Douglas (east of North Battleford, SK)*

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