

## COVID-19 Impacts on Agricultural Supply-chains

APAS is closely monitoring agricultural supply-chain impacts arising from the COVID-19 crisis. Critical supply-chains for Saskatchewan agriculture include rail and port infrastructure for export; the primary elevator system; livestock auction markets; feed processors; meat and dairy processors; and the supply of essential farm inputs such as fertilizer, fuel, chemicals and veterinary medicines.

### Supply-Chain Updates & Reports

#### Provincial Designation of Essential Service & Functions

- Agricultural production, processing, retail and related supply-chains continue to be listed as “Allowable Business Services” in the Government of Saskatchewan’s health order, dated April 9, 2020. Full list is available [here](#).
- With spring seeding around the corner, the Government of Saskatchewan has issued a reminder that farms and agricultural service providers are considered essential workplaces. All producers and agriculture industry partners who serve those producers must ensure their occupational health and safety guidelines are up to date and in force to prevent the transmission of respiratory illnesses.

Farm businesses are reminded to follow all preventative measures to stop the transmission of COVID-19 in your yard, shop and field.

- All travellers returning from international destinations – including the U.S. – are subject to a mandatory self-isolation order.
- Anyone identified by a Medical Health Officer as a close contact of someone with COVID-19 shall go into mandatory self-isolation for 14 days from the date of having been exposed.
- Actively monitor for symptoms. At the first sign of cough or fever, immediately self-isolate for 14 days.
- Practice physical distancing in the workplace, including those workplaces that are outdoors. Maintain a two-metre separation between individuals.
- Wash your hands often. Cough or sneeze into your elbow or tissue and wash your hands immediately.
- Frequently disinfect shared surfaces and equipment like vehicles, tools, doorknobs, work benches, etc.

For more information on COVID-19 and agriculture, including access to the Farm Stress Line, visit <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/business/agriculture-natural-resources-and-industry/agribusiness-farmers-and-ranchers/sask-ag-now/covid-19-information-for-producers-and-agribusiness/support-for-producers-covid-19>

# COVID-19 UPDATE

April 14, 2020



## Federal Designation of Essential Service & Functions

- Agricultural services continue to be designated as essential in the federal listing of critical services and functions during the COVID-19 pandemic, published on April 2. Read the Guidance document [here](#).
- Transport Canada has worked with the trucking industry to develop a “Confirmation of Employment – Essential transportation worker” letter template that can be used to confirm employment in a critical service capacity. The letter template is available [here](#).

## Export Grain

- Reports indicate that recent improvements in rail performance have narrowed the shortfall in export volumes from last crop year to date. Despite the implementation of spring road bans, producers still delivered 1,370,000 tonnes of grain to primary elevators in Week 35 (ending April 5), while terminal ports accepted 969,400 tonnes of inbound grain and loaded 841,500 tonnes for export. According to the latest *Quorum Report*, there were 23 vessels waiting for grain at Vancouver (7 vessels fewer than week prior) and 8 vessels at Prince Rupert (same as week prior). Terminals at Thunder Bay unloaded 800 rail cars. Read the complete report [here](#).
- Highways hotline has an interactive map with up to date spring weights and other road restrictions on provincial highways, available [here](#)

## Farm Input Supply

- Many crop input retailers have adjusted their operating practices or adopted specific health guidelines in response to COVID-19 risks. **Producers should call ahead and visit the website of their crop input dealers to understand these requirements prior to visiting these businesses.**

## Livestock Supply-chains

- There are reports that COVID-19 related issues have resulted in the temporary closure of several Canadian and US meat processing plants. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency are working closely with industry, provincial governments and producers to work through these issues and resume operations as soon as possible. This article from Beef Central magazine has a good summary of the COVID-19 impacts on meat processing, available [here](#).
- APAS is collecting information about how these closures are impacting Saskatchewan producers, Producers experiencing market access and sale issues, reduced prices, feed supply, etc. should complete the weekly survey so results can be forwarded to government. Complete the APAS weekly survey [here](#).
- The CFIA has a webpage with information about animal health and food safety during the COVID-19 pandemic available [here](#).

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- Livestock auction markets may also have adjusted their sale schedules or operating guidelines due to COVID-19. **Producers may want to call ahead to understand these requirements when booking or planning to attend a sale.** A complete list of Saskatchewan auction marts with contact information is available [here](#)

## Cross Border Movement of Agricultural Goods

- The movement of agricultural goods and supplies through the Canada/US border continues to be exempted from the restrictions on non-essential travel between the two countries. Canada Border Services Agency Information Line has expanded its hours of operation to help businesses seeking basic information about cross-border movement. CBSA Border Information Service Line (BIS) 1-800-461-9999.

## **Your feedback is needed**

As the situation is changing daily, we need to hear from Saskatchewan producers about how COVID-19 is impacting these critical supply-chains. If you are unable to sell your production or purchase essential inputs, please let us know by completing the APAS survey. All responses will remain anonymous and the information will be forwarded to the APAS Board, government officials and the Canadian Federation of Agriculture to inform the ongoing policy response. Please complete the survey [here](#).

**For more information on APAS's work on issues related to the COVID-19 crisis, visit our website at [apas.ca](http://apas.ca).**