



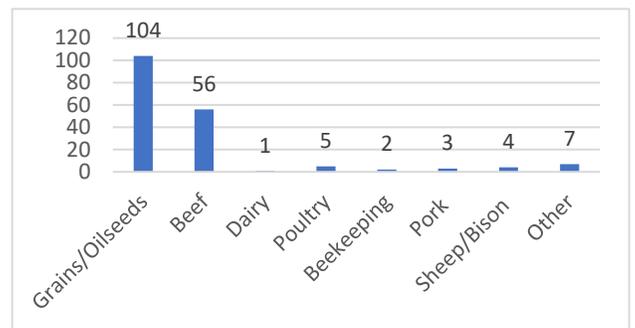
COVID-19 Survey Results (April 6-12, 2020)

Introduction

APAS is conducting a weekly online farm survey to collect information about the impacts of COVID-19 on Saskatchewan agriculture. The results below are an overview of data collected from April 6 to 12, 2020, which included a total of 128 responses. Respondents were asked to report on their experiences during the period March 31 to April 5. Based on these results, APAS has updated the survey questions and will continue to collect data on an ongoing basis during the pandemic. New versions of the survey will be released each Monday morning at apas.ca/survey.

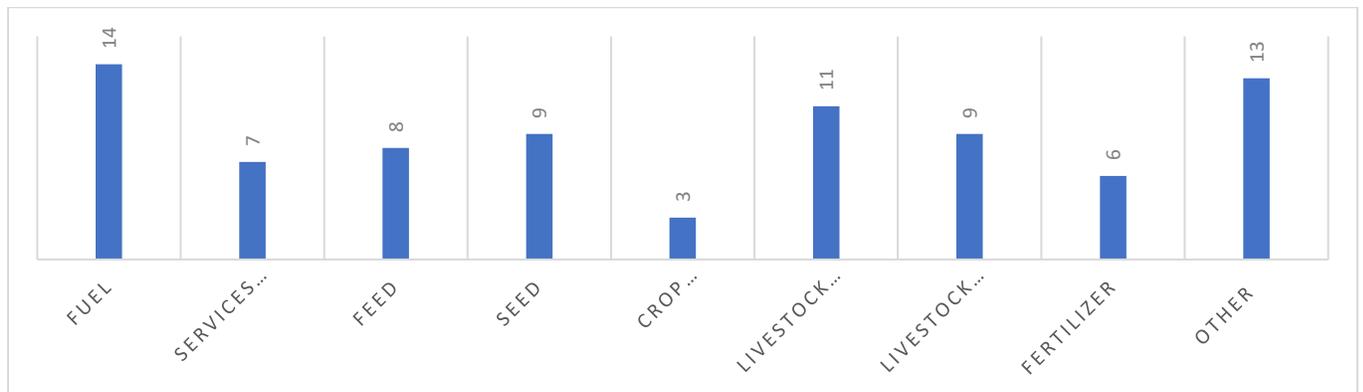
Farm Type

When asked to describe their operation, 104 respondents (of 128 total) chose Grains and Oilseeds; 56 chose Beef; and 22 chose other operations.



Disruption of Input Purchases & Deliveries

Thirty-two percent of producers indicated that they were experiencing some form of disruption to the purchase or delivery of farm inputs, with fuel, parts, and livestock supplies (including veterinary services) being most reported.



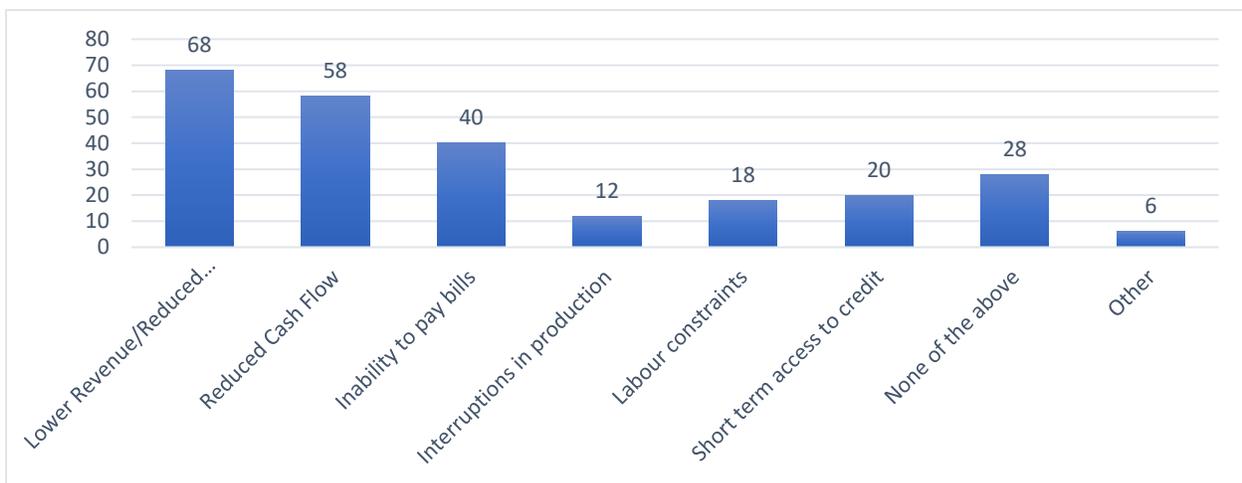
Input Costs and Delays

Forty-six percent of respondents noted that they have not seen the price of their inputs increase. However, 22% of respondents have seen the cost of inputs increase, with 32% of respondents reporting they are unsure whether increases are a result of COVID-19. When asked to indicate where they were experiencing cost increases, responses varied greatly, with fertilizer costs being the most reported.

Thirty-one percent of respondents reported experiencing a delay in the delivery and sale of farm production, while 59% have not yet experienced delays. Of those that have experienced delays, most described these occurring at the point of sale as processing facilities adjust to the affects of COVID-19, and markets work to stabilize.

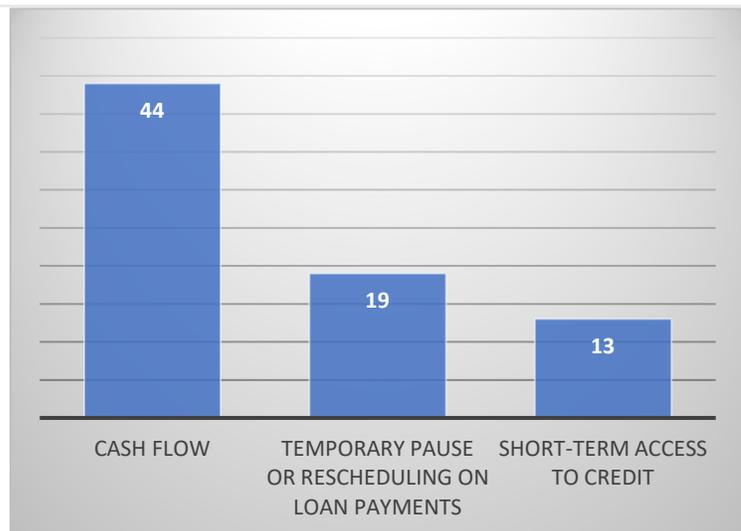
Business Concerns as a Results of COVID-19

When asked about business concerns experienced because of COVID-19, most respondents anticipate the following: Lower Revenues/Reduced Commodity Prices (55%); Reduced Cash Flow (47%); and an Inability to Pay Bills (32%).



Financial needs for Operations

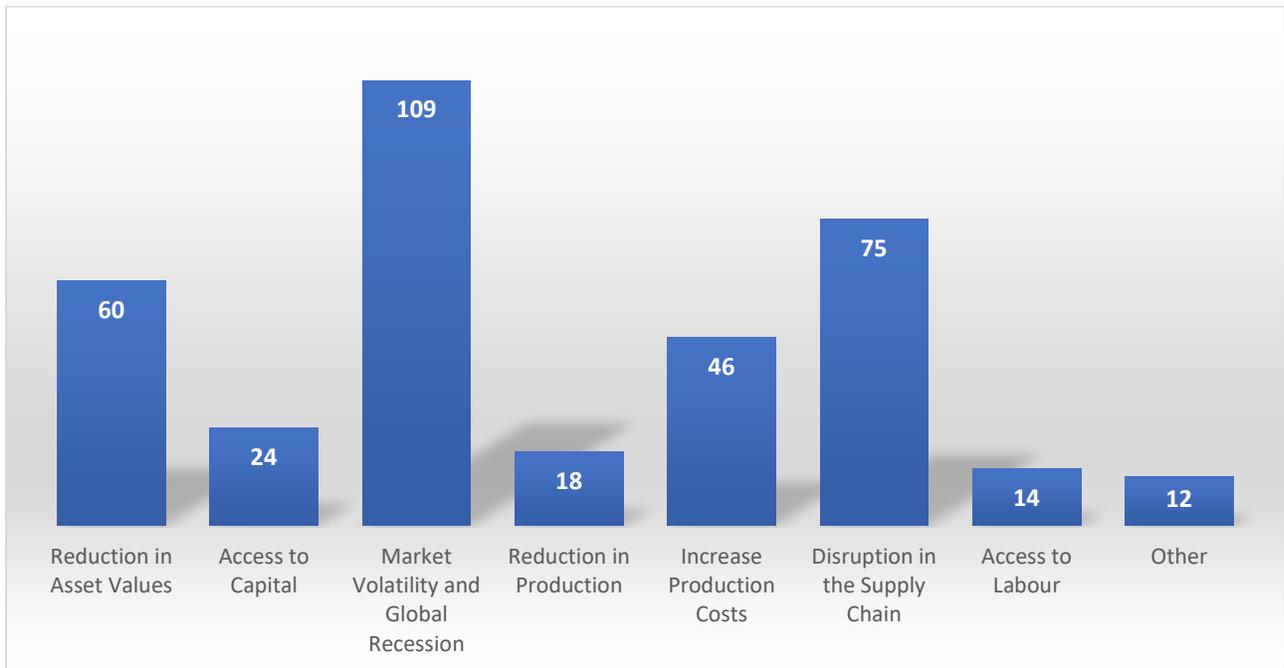
Thirty-six percent of producers noted that they were experiencing immediate financial needs for their operations. Of those experiencing immediate need, 93% reported issues around cash flow; 40% reported issues around loan payments; and 27% reported needing access to short term credit.



Dealing with Financial Institutions

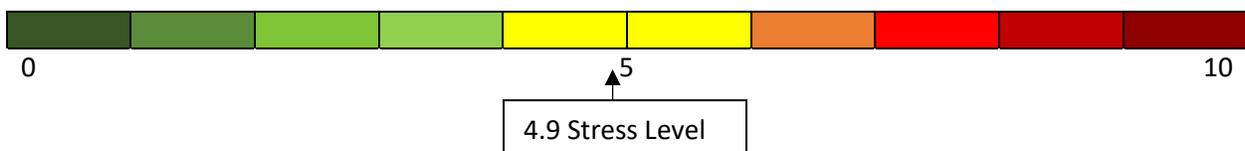
When asked if they were having difficulty or encountering restrictions with their financial institutions as a result of COVID-19, 32% producers responded that they are, while 57% did not report having difficulty dealing with financial institutions. Of those experiencing difficulties, 61% reported that their difficulties were related to managing and repaying existing loans, and 50% reported difficulties in financing for future operations. Several respondents noted that the closure of local branches across the province has added difficulties for those that cannot access online banking options.

Top Three Business Concerns



Stress Level

Producers reported an average stress level of 4.9 (a 1.2 reduction from the previous week), with the lowest reported stress level being 1 and the highest reported stress level being 10. Six percent of respondents reported a stress level of 10 (unbearable).



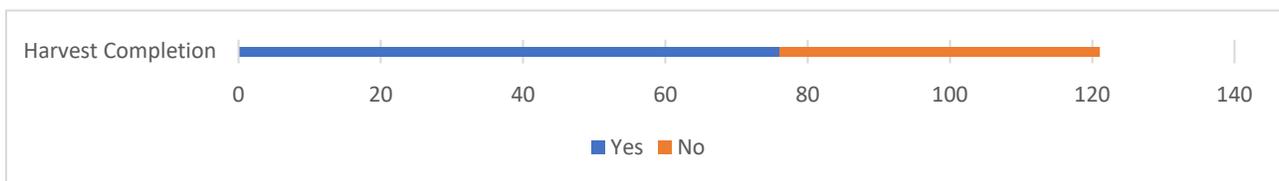


Additional Issues

In recent weeks, producers have contacted the APAS office to report several other agricultural, financial, and supply chain issues. We have updated our survey questions in response to these concerns, and the following section highlights some of these issues.

Harvest 2019

This week APAS included a question asking producers if they had completed their 2019 harvest. Sixty-three percent indicated that they have, while 37% have yet to complete their 2019 harvest.



Bandwidth

Producers have informed APAS of telecommunications disruptions that have created problems with online auction services for machinery, parts, and livestock. In this week's survey, 51% of respondents noted increased service disruption, and 40% have not experienced increased service disruption.

Meat Processors

Livestock producers have reached out to APAS in recent weeks to note continued difficulties in dealing with meat processing facilities. When asked, 10% of survey respondents noted that they have experienced difficulties with processors, while 86% have not experienced difficulties. Comments indicate long waits as prices have declined, and processing plants work to adjust to COVID-19.

On-Farm COVID 19 Plans

The majority of producers indicated that they were unsure if they would find value in the creation of an on-farm COVID-19 action plan, with only twenty-three percent indicating that they would find such a plan useful. When asked what they would like included in a plan, respondents noted: communication plans, sanitation procedures, transporting and operating facilities, and procedures if someone becomes infected.