

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.

These supply-chains are deemed essential for maintaining the integrity of Canada's agri-food supply. APAS is involved in discussions with government departments and other farm groups about how the COVID-19 crisis is impacting agricultural supply-chains in Saskatchewan.

Supply-Chain Updates & Reports

Export Grain

- According to the latest information available, primary elevators in the country and terminal elevators at ports are continuing to accept grain and load rail cars and vessels for export.
- *Quorum*, Canada's Grain Monitor, releases weekly reports on rail system performance, vessel line-ups and port operations. Although vessel line-ups on the West Coast remain at historical levels due to recurring service disruptions throughout the 2019-2020 shipping season, the latest report indicates that terminal unloads have begun to recover in recent weeks to levels more consistent with seasonal averages. The weekly reports are published every Wednesday. Read the latest *Quorum Report* [here](#).
- The Canadian Grain Commission is continuing to provide services related to inspection and weighing of grain for export, producer payment protection, and other producer safeguards such as grade dispute resolution and binding grade determinations. An update from the CGC is available [here](#).

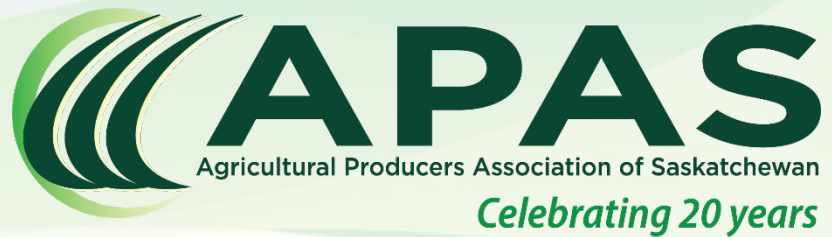
Farm Input Supply

- 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.**
- Fertilizer Canada has released a statement expressing its members commitment to maintaining fertilizer supply chains for 2020 seeding season. Read their release [here](#).

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COVID-19 UPDATE

March 24, 2020



Livestock Supply-chains

- 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.** Complete list of Saskatchewan auction marts with contact information is available [here](#).
- The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has had to adopt new operating guidelines for the onsite presence of meat inspectors at Canadian processing plants. Reports have suggested they are calling retired inspectors in order to ensure adequate staffing levels in the event of staff shortages. A complete guide to CFIA operating guidelines and information about food safety and animal health during the COVID-19 pandemic is available [here](#).

Cross Border Movement of Agricultural Goods

- The movement of agricultural goods between the US and Canada is critically important for Canada's agri-food system in terms of both food supply and primary production. Because it is considered commercial traffic, the transportation of agricultural goods is currently exempted from the non-essential travel restrictions that were announced on March 21, 2020.
- The transportation of food and fuel were specifically mentioned as being exempted in the Prime Minister's announcement, available [here](#).

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.