

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

Federal Designation of Essential Service & Functions

- On April 2, the federal government published a guidance document listing services deemed essential for the health and well-being of Canadians during the COVID-19 Pandemic, including a range of agricultural services classified as essential under the “Food Sector”. While the federal designation is primarily advisory in nature, the services and sectors outlined in the list will allow for targeted planning and coordination of critical infrastructure. Read the entire list [here](#).

Provincial Designation of Essential Service & Functions

- Provincial governments have public health authority within their jurisdictions and have ordered businesses to close as part of their emergency health orders. In Saskatchewan, “Agricultural production, processing and supply-chains” continue to be considered “Allowable Business Services” designated under the latest (March 31) Emergency Health Order, available [here](#).

Export Grain

- The grain handling transportation system is continuing to accept deliveries, transport grain to ports and load vessels for export. In Week 34 (ending March 25), producers delivered over one million tonnes of grain to primary elevators, and export ports accepted 791,000 tonnes of inbound grain and loaded 686,000 tonnes for export.
- According to the latest *Quorum Report*, there were 39 vessels waiting for grain at west coast ports. Terminals at Thunder Bay have begun to load their first vessels of the shipping season. Read the complete report [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 a webpage dedicated to its members’ response to COVID-19 supply-chain issues, available [here](#).

COVID-19 UPDATE

April 6, 2020



Livestock Supply-chains

- There are reports that COVID-19 related issues have resulted in the temporary closure of several Canadian meat processing plants. There are also concerns that the reduced availability of CFIA inspectors has limited processing capacity. 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. The April 6-12 APAS Survey includes a question about how issues related to meat processors are affecting Saskatchewan farmers.
- The CFIA has a webpage with information about animal health and food safety during the COVID-19 pandemic available [here](#).
- 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.