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The Kerrobert & DISTRICT CHRONICLE

The stories that matter because they're ours

Vol. 6, Issue 11

Tuesday, March 17, 2026

Kim Gartner, MLA
Kindersley-Biggar Constituency



(306) 463-4446 • kgartnermla@outlook.com
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Students pose with the Grey Cup during a visit to Kerrobert Composite School on March 11. Students, staff and community members were invited to stop by the school to have their photos taken with the iconic Canadian Football League trophy. More photos from the event are available on the Kerrobert Composite School Facebook page.

PHOTO COURTESY KERROBERT COMPOSITE SCHOOL

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FoodMesh continues to serve Kindersley and area

BY JOAN JANZEN

The FoodMesh program looks forward to serving Kindersley and area for years to come. In order to ensure there is adequate food available for everyone who comes through its doors, it has introduced several changes in the administration of the program.

Each day, an undetermined amount of food is received from various sources. Therefore, FoodMesh is asking that each household, meaning everyone who resides at the same address, pick up one hamper during distribution evenings.

If an abundance of food comes in on any given evening, patrons will be permitted to select more dairy, produce, fruit or bakery items according to amounts available. This will help ensure quantities of food are available for each family or individual who comes to shop at FoodMesh.

Those individuals who require a friend or family member to pick up a food hamper on their behalf must pre-register before 6 p.m. that evening by phoning 306-460-9942. To ensure there are enough supplies for everyone, hampers will not be supplied to anyone who does not pre-register.

As always, the volunteers at FoodMesh look forward to serving their community with an abundance of food and goods. The program is only made possible because of the generosity of local grocery stores, Hutterite colonies, farmers, businesses, dedicated volunteers, and considerate and understanding patrons.

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Non-Profit & Volunteer Events & Fundraisers

We're always glad to help spread the word about local events and fundraisers whenever we can.

We're a small, locally owned newspaper, and advertising is what keeps the paper going each week. It helps cover printing, delivery, and the work that goes into keeping local news and community updates in front of people. For that reason, we aren't able to provide free advertising by request — if we did, we simply couldn't stay in business.

That said, we do have a couple of great options for non-profit groups:

1) Upcoming Events Listing (no charge):
 We offer a basic non-profit listing on our Upcoming Events page. We keep it short (about 20 words) — the what / when / where plus a contact number (no pricing or extra details).

2) Discounted Non-Profit Advertising:
 If you're looking for more visibility, we also offer a reduced non-profit advertising rate, and we're happy to work with almost any budget (even a small one) to get you the best reach possible.

Send us the event details and your deadline — and let us know whether you'd like the free Upcoming Events listing, an ad option, or a mix of both! We are happy to help!

Call Kate Winquist at 306-463-2211 or email: kate@yourwestcentral.com

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MARCH IS FRAUD PREVENTION MONTH

Fraud Prevention Month is an annual awareness campaign designed to help people recognize, reject, and report fraud. Over the next few weeks, we will highlight the various types of fraud to increase awareness and offer ways to help yourself! Watch our socials for information on AI Scams, Investment Scams, Online Scams & Fraud, Mass/Phone Scams, Relationship Scams, and more!




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 Wishes to thank all those who supported us at our "Christmas in November 2025"

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Thank you to our guest speaker Marnie Forsberg and to the fashion show models. Thank you also to our committee members Heather McIntyre, Maureen Jacobson, Barb Derbawka-Stevenson, Shari Collinge and our MC Verna Thompson.



Since April 2021, Grade 4 student Mady Adamson from Kindersley has been teaching her peers and younger children about agriculture and where their food comes from. PHOTO BY JOAN JANZEN

Young agriculture ambassador inspires youth learning

BY JOAN JANZEN

Agricultural Safety Week is the perfect opportunity to acknowledge the contributions of one of our youngest and most enthusiastic educators. Mady Adamson began sharing her agricultural knowledge in April 2021. She started by rolling out videos detailing agricultural practices. Now the Grade 4 student focuses on sharing agricultural knowledge with her peers and younger children.

"I love sharing about agriculture because of how important an industry it is. I want to have a small part in helping people understand where their food comes from, and that starts with youth. They are always so fun and eager to learn," she observed.

Mady uses every opportunity to help people learn. You may find her at an ag trade show, in a classroom, on a farm tour, at an ag dealership or as a guest at a public speaking event. No matter what the venue may be, she is up to the challenge.

"Every scenario is different, but what makes me the happiest is the excitement and willingness youth have toward learning. They want to know how things work and why," she observed. She loves how youth engage in conversation, ask questions and share stories. These kinds of group projects make her visits "really fun."

She may be young, but she has already become an

accomplished public speaker who comes well prepared to every event. "I have a pretty good idea of what I am doing and what I need. Whoever is hosting me has always been great at explaining what they want, and we are able to work together to complete the rest," she said.

Mady's family also works together to help with material preparation and by putting together needed supplies. "They listen to me when I practice presentations," she added.

There have been many special moments for Mady as she pursued her goals. "Sharing the story of where food comes from was my goal, and I think I achieved it," she said. "I'm not the only one sharing this story, and that is what is important."

She is joined by farmers, ranchers, support staff, researchers, industry workers, producers, retailers, dealers and safety experts who all share their expertise. There are so many people involved in agriculture who are telling their stories about where our food comes from.

"I have gone many places and worked with so many amazing people," she said. "I love being able to scroll back on my social media and relive the moments. They have all been so positive!"

And Mady has been a big part of that positive experience. Thank you for all the amazing work you have done.

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Lessons learned beneath the Dankin elevators

BY KATE WINQUIST

Agriculture Safety Week always gets me thinking about the little lessons you learn growing up on a farm. Not the big lectures. The quiet ones that simply became part of everyday life.

I always felt safe with my dad.

Something is missing from the landscape now as I drive down Highway 21 between Glidden and Eatonia. A new landscape is rising with the development of the Dankin Colony, but it's just not the same.

Those old grain elevators at Dankin used to stand like prairie sentinels. I spent many hours riding around them with Dad on the tractor as he worked the land. Whether it was seeding, summerfallowing or harvesting, I always felt safe with him behind the wheel of that old Case tractor.

My dad was a small farmer. He did almost everything himself, with the odd bit of help during harvest. Up early. Home before dark. He did his own mechanical work too. I don't ever remember a piece of machinery going into town to be fixed. He just looked after things. He didn't need fancy new equipment. He got the job done with what he had.

Late last year I spoke with Dave from the McGee Colony. He asked me about being the gal from Glidden. Dave told me he had lived at the Glidden Colony for 55 years before moving to McGee in 2011.

I told him about my family ties to the area and mentioned my dad, George Drummond.

"Oh yes, yes," he said right away.

He knew Dad well. Dad had a reputation for his handiwork and mechanical abilities. He had a lathe in his shop and always seemed to be fixing something for a neighbour.

I was always fascinated by the tools in Dad's shop, but I learned early not to touch anything in there. Little fingers did not belong. And don't look directly at the sparks flying off the welder or you might go blind.

It wasn't the cleanest shop in the world, but somehow Dad always knew where everything was. And he could make use of darn near anything.

Trips to the nuisance ground were a regular occurrence. Not so much to dump garbage, but to see what treasures might be left behind. Glidden's nuisance ground was, and still is, just a few miles east of the village.

As a kid, I loved that trip. Turning off the highway, across the railway tracks and up the winding hill.

Those trips came with a safety lesson too. I was never allowed outside the truck cab while Dad backed up and unloaded garbage into the pit below.

I remember one trip with my brother Garth and sister Carrie. Carrie and I were in the cab while Garth was unloading the garbage when the truck suddenly started to roll backward.

Carrie, who is a few years older than I am, stepped on the brake, clutch and gas all at the same time.



Meanwhile, I'm sure Garth never moved so fast in his life to get himself and his little sisters to safety.

Years later, in 2015, when I was still living in southwest Saskatchewan, Robert, the kids and I took a road trip. I made sure to take them out to see the nuisance ground. That's also where Dad once found an old trumpet. He cleaned it up for me, and I later played it in the school band.

From the top of that hill you could see Glidden, Mom and Dad's farm and, a little farther west, the Dankin elevators.

As we drove back down the hill, I pointed out where Cutbank Lake's waters flowed and told them the story about how their grandpa nearly drowned in that same lake as a young boy, a few miles upstream.

I always felt safe on the farm. Those little lessons that were engrained in me as a young girl still stay



with me more than fifty years later.

And every time I drive that stretch of Highway 21, I still find myself looking for those elevators at Dankin.

I miss them.



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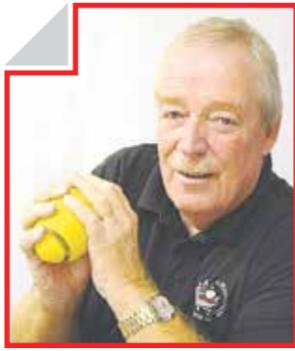
As part of the merger, the Morgotch Team (including Chantal) will remain practicing in their current offices located at 107 2nd Avenue East (Kindersley).

We look forward to continuing to serve Kindersley for years to come.

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Crosby's absence left a huge void in Milan



Sports
By Bruce Penton

For Canadian hockey fans, sad was the 2-1 overtime loss to the U.S. in the gold medal game at the Milan/Cortina Olympic Games. Sad, too, was that future Hall of Famer and Canadian captain Sidney Crosby had to watch the game from the press box, nursing a lower-body injury.

Crosby, of course, will one day go into the Hockey Hall of Fame with the phrase 'Golden Goal' front and centre, thanks to his overtime heroics in the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver, where he put Canada on top of the hockey world. How much his absence affected the final outcome of this year's gold medal game will never be known, but if you consider that Canada's team significantly outplayed the Americans for about 45 of the 60 minutes, and did it without Crosby, it's not too absurd to suggest Canada might have won by a comfortable margin had Crosby played a regular shift.

At 38 years of age, Crosby is still a world-class player performing at a high level. At the Olympic break, he stood 20th in points in the youth-dominated NHL scoring race. His 59 points in 56 games had sparked a resurgence in Pittsburgh, where the Penguins were in a solid playoff position after last year losing 14 more games than they won and not coming close to a playoff spot.

When Crosby went down with an injury in Milan, not only were Canada's gold-medal chances dampened, but the dark mood quickly crossed the ocean to Pennsylvania, where Penguin fans feared the worst.

The good news is that Crosby's injury is not believed to be season-ending. Doctors suggested the injury was to the MCL in his knee and that he could return around April 1, two weeks before the playoffs begin.

Canada's team significantly outplayed the Americans for about 45 of the 60 minutes, and did it without Crosby. It's not too absurd to suggest Canada might have won by a comfortable margin had Crosby played a regular shift.

The continuing excellent play of Crosby and the bounceback by the Penguins has been one of the NHL's best stories this year. Crosby, the No. 1 overall draft pick in 2005 (Alex Ovechkin was No 2) immediately assumed superstar status, living up to his pre-draft hype. He has won two Hart trophies (MVP), led the Penguins to three Stanley Cups and will likely wind up third or fourth in overall career points when he retires.

To see him limping around Milan and being unable to lead Canada on the ice was a sad day for Canadian hockey fans. He tried his best to be in Canada's lineup, participating in a team skate the day before the gold medal game but eventually deciding to sit out.

"It was a tough decision," Crosby said. "Obviously, in your head, you always want to be out there and find every way possible but not at the expense of what needs to be done," he told reporters.

He didn't wear No. 87 for Canada in that final game and the 'C' was worn by team-mate Connor McDavid, but to Canadian hockey fans of this era, Sidney Crosby will always be Captain Canada.

• Steve Simmons of the Toronto Sun: "Coach of a winning hockey team: 'Our players are buying in.'"

Coach of a losing hockey team: 'Our players aren't buying in.' The secret to life: Finding those who will buy in."

- Comedy writer Torben Rolfson of Vancouver: "Norway won the Olympics. Just one letter away from 'No way.'"
- Rolfson again: "Connor Hellebuyck won the President's Trophy last year. He was given the Presidential Medal of Freedom. In Winnipeg, he has a President's Choice Optimum card. One more thing and he'll be a one-man Mount Rushmore."
- Super 70s Sports: "Just got passed by a car with a drink holder on the fender. Didn't see the driver, so I'm just going to assume it was John Daly."
- Brad Dickson of Omaha: "My plans for the weekend appear to have fallen through. I was supposed to go bowling with the Supreme Leader of Iran but he's not responding to my texts."
- Jack Finarelli on his sportscurmudgeon.com site: "The World Baseball Classic final game will be in Miami on St. Patrick's Day. Before you bother to go and look, Ireland is not one of the teams in the field so that sort of serendipity cannot happen."
- A quote from the late basketball coach Lou Holtz, snipped from sportscurmudgeon.com: "Don't tell your problems to people: 80 per cent don't care; and the other 20 per cent are glad you have them."
- Headline at fark.com: "Maxx Crosby tradedd to the Ravenss for two firstt-roundd pixx."
- Another fark.com headline: "(Golden State coach) Steve Kerr explains his wholesome reason for quitting social media. 'I'm really able to avoid reading what a terrible human being and coach I am. That's healthy for me.'"
- Cathal Kelly of the Globe and Mail, on the Leafs overvaluing their players on the trading block: "Dealing with the Leafs must be like going to a yard sale and finding out it's being run by Christie's."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

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Anxiety is like a long-tailed cat in a room full of rocking chairs

Someone wrote, "My uncle always used to say he was more nervous than a long-tailed cat in a room full of rocking chairs." I guess that's what you call being anxious. Everyone experiences anxiety at some time or other; I sincerely hope I haven't unknowingly contributed to your anxiety levels whenever I feed you political information. To help compensate, I'll share some wise words on the subject which were delivered by Vladimir Savchuk. He's a young man who grew up in Ukraine and later moved to North America.



Check It Out
By Joan Janzen

People from my generation are grateful that every stupid thing we've ever done wasn't permanently recorded online. But today's parents have different anxieties such as algorithms influencing their children, their children's safety, education and future.

Everyone experiences seasons of anxiety, and I'm in one of those seasons as I wait for a family member to see a health specialist. Vlad assured his listeners it's OK to have seasons of anxiety, but it's not OK to remain in a state of anxiety. "Meaning your life is good, but you still find things to be anxious about and live in a state of anxiety," he explained. "Some anxiety is caused by temporary situations, but if you don't walk through it correctly, the stressful season will make you a stressful person."

When those seasons end, we need to step into the new season. "Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning" is a proverb that encourages us to do so.

He listed information overload as a significant contributor to anxiety. "The human nervous system was not designed for 24/7 global crisis intake," he said. "Personally I don't watch the news; I read the news from a few sources and I can quickly browse through it so I can be aware of what's happening. But I don't want to sit and watch the shock."

Constant smartphone exposure tends to increase anxiety and disrupt sleep. Social media breeds unrealistic comparisons. Let's face it, everyone puts their best image and actions on social media. Young adults also face uncertainty about their future, digital identity pressure, fear of missing out when they're not in a relationship, peer evaluation, popularity, and they're the first generation to grow up with a permanent digital memory.

Constant smartphone exposure tends to increase anxiety and disrupt sleep. Social media breeds unrealistic comparisons.

As for social media, he advised that we weren't created to know everything about everyone. "Some time ago I deleted social media off my phone and just kept it on my computer. Social media isn't nearly as much fun when it's on your computer," he chuckled. "You are paying for your anxiety by the things you are paying attention to." As an alternative he suggested we work on our own body, on our own life and on our own talents and abilities.

He listed loss of community as a significant contributor to anxiety. While ancient people lived in tribes, we live online. "We know 3,000 people's names, but we don't know our neighbours," he said. "The digital world made the world smaller but at the same time it made us isolated. Anxiety

gets spiked when you prioritize your online community and find excuses to never be engaged with the real community. Your online friends aren't going to be there for your family funerals, your wedding and when crisis hits. That's why you need to prioritize a local community."

Generations before us thrived in community. Talk to any senior and they'll share treasured memories of time spent with neighbours, on baseball teams, at community dances, concerts and sports days.

"Often it's minor things that create major anxiety," Vlad noted. He repeated a quote by Augustine that said anxiety comes from loving temporal things too much; peace comes from loving eternal things first.

"So the goal isn't to find something bigger to worry about; it's to find Someone bigger to seek," he advised.

He also shared a proverb which says, "Anxiety in a heart weighs it down, but a good word makes it glad." So read a good book, hang out with people who challenge you to become a better person, exercise, spend time in nature, help out a friend, volunteer, watch shows that make you laugh and share a cup of coffee with friends.

Vlad's advice will go a long way in helping you overcome the feeling of being as nervous as a long-tailed cat in a room full of rocking chairs.

HAVE YOUR SAY.

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**Councillor: Town of Kindersley
Number to be Elected: ONE (1)**

Voting will take place on **Wednesday, the 25th day of March, 2026 from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.** at the following polling place:

**Town of Kindersley Administration Building
106-5th Avenue East, Kindersley, Saskatchewan**

I will declare the result of the election at the Town of Kindersley Administration Building, 106 - 5th Avenue East, Kindersley, Saskatchewan, on the 26th day of March, 2026 at the hour of 9:00 a.m.

Dated at Kindersley, Saskatchewan this 24th day of February, 2026.

Marty Baroni, Returning Officer

**VOTER IDENTIFICATION WILL BE
REQUIRED TO VOTE**

APAS summit to focus on next farm policy framework

An upcoming summit in Saskatoon will bring together producers, industry leaders and government officials to help shape the next Canadian agricultural policy framework.

The Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan, along with several provincial farm organizations, will host the Next Policy Framework Summit on March 25 at the Saskatoon Inn and Conference Centre.

The event is intended to begin discussions around the 2028 Canadian Agricultural Policy Framework as the current Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership moves toward its conclusion.

APAS president Bill Prybylski said Saskatchewan has an opportunity to take a leadership role in shaping future agricultural policy at a time of both opportunity and uncertainty.

"It's time for agriculture to lead, not follow," Prybylski said in a release. "By focusing on our sector's achievements and resilience, we're not just safeguarding our food security, we are setting global standards of excellence."

He said future policy must keep financially viable

producers at its centre while also recognizing environmental progress and technological change.

According to APAS, the summit will focus on growth, productivity, profitability and strengthening agronomic assets, with an emphasis on innovation, adaptation and leadership.

The agenda includes a presentation by University of Saskatchewan agricultural economist Dr. Richard Gray on rebalancing priorities in the 2028 framework.

Other sessions will examine transportation and supply chain efficiency, soil health and agricultural water management.

Federal and provincial officials are also expected to provide updates on the national and provincial policy development process. Scheduled speakers include Lawrence Hanson, deputy minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and Amy Standish, assistant deputy minister with Saskatchewan Agriculture.

Additional discussions will cover business risk management, innovation and trade, emerging agricultural technologies, and producer perspectives from the grain, livestock and mixed farming sectors.



Volunteers with the Leader & District Arts Council gathered recently as the organization reflects on more than 40 years of bringing music, theatre and visual arts programming to the community. The council says declining attendance and support could put its future at risk if community involvement does not increase.

FACEBOOK PHOTO

Leader & District Arts Council warns next season could be its last

The Leader & District Arts Council says declining attendance and community support could force the long-running organization to close after more than four decades of bringing arts programming to the community.

The council, which has operated for more than 40 years, says it is facing a difficult reality as it plans for the coming season.

What began as a small group of volunteers has grown into an organization that has presented professional performances, brought artists into local schools, and provided arts programming in long-term care homes.

Over the years, the Arts Council has also offered

scholarships for young artists, hosted free community concerts and organized visual art exhibitions open to the public.

But organizers say declining support now threatens the future of the program.

"With declining attendance and community support, there is a real possibility that next season could be our last," the council said in a statement.

If the Arts Council were to close, the community would lose school performances, opportunities for local artists, arts programming for seniors and scholarships for young people, the statement said.

Organizers say the future of the Arts Council depends on renewed support from the community.

Residents are encouraged to attend performances, purchase season tickets, volunteer and encourage others to support local arts programming.

The council says it hopes to continue bringing music, theatre and visual arts to the community for many years to come.

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MARCH 12 8:30 AM-3:00 PM LUSELAND CU

Standard First Aid Level C CPR/AED (Recert / Blended Learning)
APRIL 16 - KERROBERT PCC

Standard First Aid Level C CPR/AED (Recert / Blended Learning)
MAY 4 8:30 AM-3:00 PM LUSELAND CU (PD DAY)

Basic Life Support Training
MAY 21 9:00 AM-3:00 PM - KERROBERT PCC

*** Feel free to contact about private bookings for businesses or groups.*

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Monday: Kindersley AA Meeting
8:00 PM, Legion Hall, 118 - 2nd Avenue East
AA Upstairs, Alanon Downstairs

Tuesday: Brock AA Meeting
8:00 PM, Vesper Club, 1st Avenue North

Tuesday: Leader AA Meeting
8:00 PM, Leader United Church, 1st St. W.

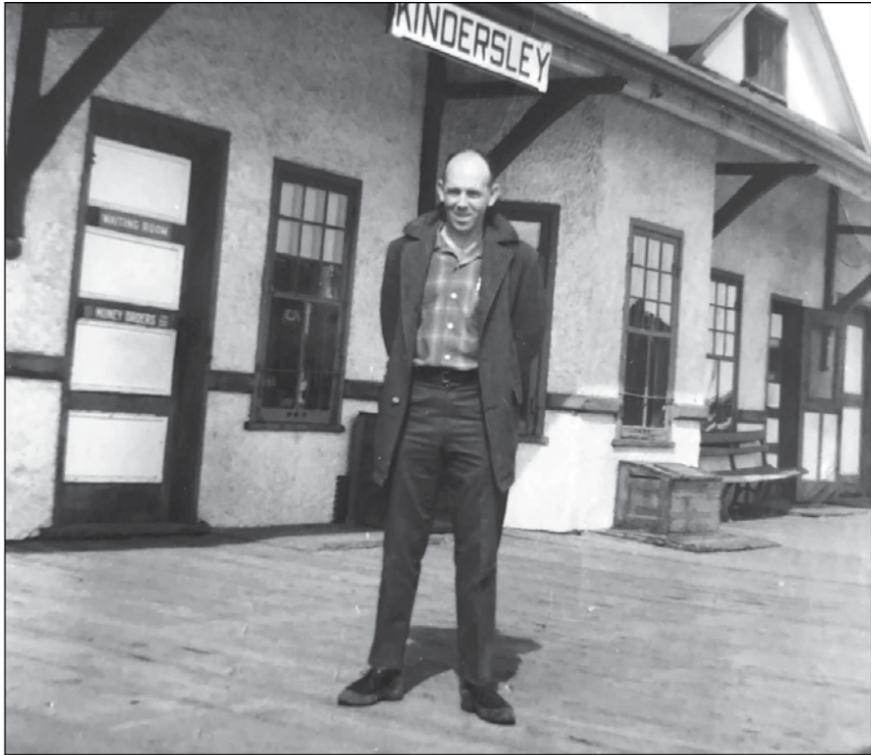
Wednesday: Eston AA Meeting
8 PM, St. Andrew's United Church, 1st St. W.

Friday: Kindersley AA Meeting
8:00 PM, Lutheran Church, 807 - 3rd Ave. W.

Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday: Kindersley NA Meeting
7:30 PM, 113 Main Street





KINDERSLEY'S RAILWAY PAST CAPTURED IN HISTORIC PHOTOS:
 Top: Ron Lamont shared this photo of himself standing on the platform at the Kindersley train station sometime in the 1950s.
 Bottom: Freight cars sit on the tracks in front of the Kindersley railway station in this historic photo shared by Ron Lamont. Lamont notes the boxcars do not yet carry the CNR lettering. The buildings in the background may help identify the decade the photo was taken.

Great Plains College to host annual safety training breakfast in Kindersley

Great Plains College will host its third annual Skills and Safety Customer Appreciation Breakfast on April 1 at the Kindersley Inn ballroom.

The free hot breakfast is open to current and prospective clients interested in learning more about the college's safety training opportunities.

"Safety is a priority in every workplace, and we are proud to support businesses, industries and individuals across the southwest with high-quality training options," Lana Rhodes, program co-ordinator for skills and safety training, said in a news release.

Rhodes said the event is intended to thank existing clients for their support, welcome new ones and highlight the college's safety training courses.

The come-and-go breakfast will run from 7 to 8:30 a.m. Organizers say guests are welcome to attend in jeans, suits, coveralls or work boots.

The event will include updates on courses, training opportunities and program developments for a range of industries. Attendees will also have a chance to win a \$500 gift card to a local business of their choice.

"We want to ensure our clients know about

all the options available to them, including customized and on-site training," Rhodes said. "This event also helps us learn how we can best support their training needs moving forward."

People planning to attend are asked to RSVP by March 25 through the college website or by calling 306-463-6431.

A full list of safety training options and the training calendar is available through Great Plains College. Customized training information is also available by contacting the college directly.



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Kerrobot 306-834-5657
 Kindersley.law@sasktel.net

Rural Municipality of Milton No. 292 TAX TITLE LAND FOR SALE BY TENDER

The Rural Municipality of Milton No. 292 offers for sale by tender the following properties:

Located in the Rural Municipality:
 Tender #1 Block A Plan 101667551

Located in the former Village of Alsask:
 Tender #2 Lot 12-13 Block 1 Plan G68
 Tender #3 Lot 14 & Lot 15 Block 3 Plan G68
 Tender #4 Lot 9 Block 1 Plan G68
 Tender #5 Lot 22 Block 4 Plan G68
 Tender #6 Lot 23 Block 4 Plan G68
 Tender #7 Lot 22-23 Block 1 Plan G68
 Tender #8 Lot 21 Block 1 Plan G68

Tenders must be received in the office by **4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 24th, 2026** and must follow all instructions detailed in the Instructions to Bidders package, to be accepted. Packages are available at the office or on the website at www.rmofmilton.ca.

Tenders to be opened during the regular meeting of council on Thursday March 26th, 2026 commencing at 9:00 a.m.

Please contact the municipal office at (306) 968-2922 with any questions.

LAND FOR SALE BY TENDER

R.M. of Deer Forks #232

NE 07-20-28-W3 Surface Parcels #146032556 & 146032578
 150 acres cultivated
LSD 11 & 12 08-20-28-W3 Surface Parcels #146032590 & 146032602
 80 acres cultivated
SW 16-19-29-W3 Surface Parcels #144574319 & 144590913
 145 acres cultivated
 Includes 2 gas wells - annual income \$3,554.00

- Highest tender or any tender not necessarily accepted.
- Property "as is".
- Offers must exclude GST or any other levies which may be payable by the purchaser.
- Purchasers must rely on their own research and inspection of the property.
- 5% of purchase price must accompany tender which will be returned if not accepted.
- Sale to close no later than April 10, 2026.

Closing date for Tenders is 4:00 pm March 31, 2026.

Forward Tender to: **Sheppard & Millar Law Office**
 113-1st Avenue East
 Box 1510
 Kindersley, SK S0L 1S0
 Attention: Monte Sheppard

Please refer to file 26-6387 when submitting tender.

LAND FOR SALE BY TENDER

R.M. of Antelope Park #322

NE 35-31-29-W3 Surface Parcel #117739693
 98 acres cultivated
SE 35-31-29-W3 Surface Parcel #117708352
 98 acres cultivated

Alberta Special Area 3

SE 36-31-01-W4
 158 acres cultivated

- Highest tender or any tender not necessarily accepted.
- Property "as is".
- Offers must exclude GST or any other levies which may be payable by the purchaser.
- Purchasers must rely on their own research and inspection of the property.
- 10% of purchase price must accompany tender which will be returned if not accepted.

Closing date for Tenders is 4:00 pm April 9, 2026.

Forward Tender to: **Sheppard & Millar Law Office**
 113-1st Avenue East
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 Kindersley, SK S0L 1S0
 Attention: Monte Sheppard

Please refer to file 26-6408 when submitting tender.



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RCMP teams seized 60 kilograms of meth in 2025

Saskatchewan RCMP's specialized enforcement teams seized 60 kilograms of methamphetamine, 14 kilograms of cocaine and more than 120 firearms across the province in 2025, according to a news release issued March 12.

The Saskatchewan Enforcement Response Teams, known as SERT, are a province-wide network of intelligence-led units that support front-line RCMP officers and target organized crime, drug trafficking and high-risk offenders. The program includes the Crime Reduction Teams, Human Trafficking and Counter Exploitation Unit, Offender Management Unit, Saskatchewan Trafficking Response Team and Warrant Enforcement Suppression Team.

RCMP said the units are supported by 106 officers and 27 public service and civilian employees based in 10 Saskatchewan communities, with members deploying across the province as needed.

Among the enforcement highlights in 2025, officers in May intercepted methamphetamine during a traffic stop that field-tested positive for fentanyl contamina-

tion. Two adults were arrested, and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Health issued a public drug alert warning residents of the increased risk in the area.

In October, SERT officers assisted Turtleford RCMP in a four-day apprehension operation that resulted in the arrest of 10 people wanted on outstanding warrants.

Later that month, SERT members in North Battleford were executing a search warrant at a residence when a firearm was pointed at an officer, RCMP said. Two men were arrested, five firearms and cocaine were seized, and 40 charges were laid.

In December, a joint investigation involving Saskatchewan RCMP's SERT and the Prince Albert Police Service Crime Reduction Team led to the seizure of 3.9 kilograms of cocaine, 4.8 kilograms of methamphetamine and six firearms from a residence and vehicle in central Saskatchewan.

RCMP said criminal networks often operate across detachment, jurisdictional and provincial boundaries, making cooperation with partner agencies a key part of efforts to reduce violent crime.

Rosetown RCMP investigate alleged sexual assault

ROSETOWN — RCMP in the Rosetown detachment area are investigating an alleged sexual assault reported March 6.

Police say the complaint was received at about 9:13 a.m. and the investigation remains ongoing.

Earlier that day, officers also received a report of erratic driving on Highway 4 near Rosetown at about 2:18 p.m. Patrols were conducted but the vehicle was not located. A similar complaint was received March 8 at about 10:07 a.m., with officers again unable to find the vehicle.

On March 5 at about 8:05 p.m., RCMP responded to a minor traffic collision in Rosetown. Both parties exchanged information and no further police action was required.

Later that evening at about 9:19 p.m., officers

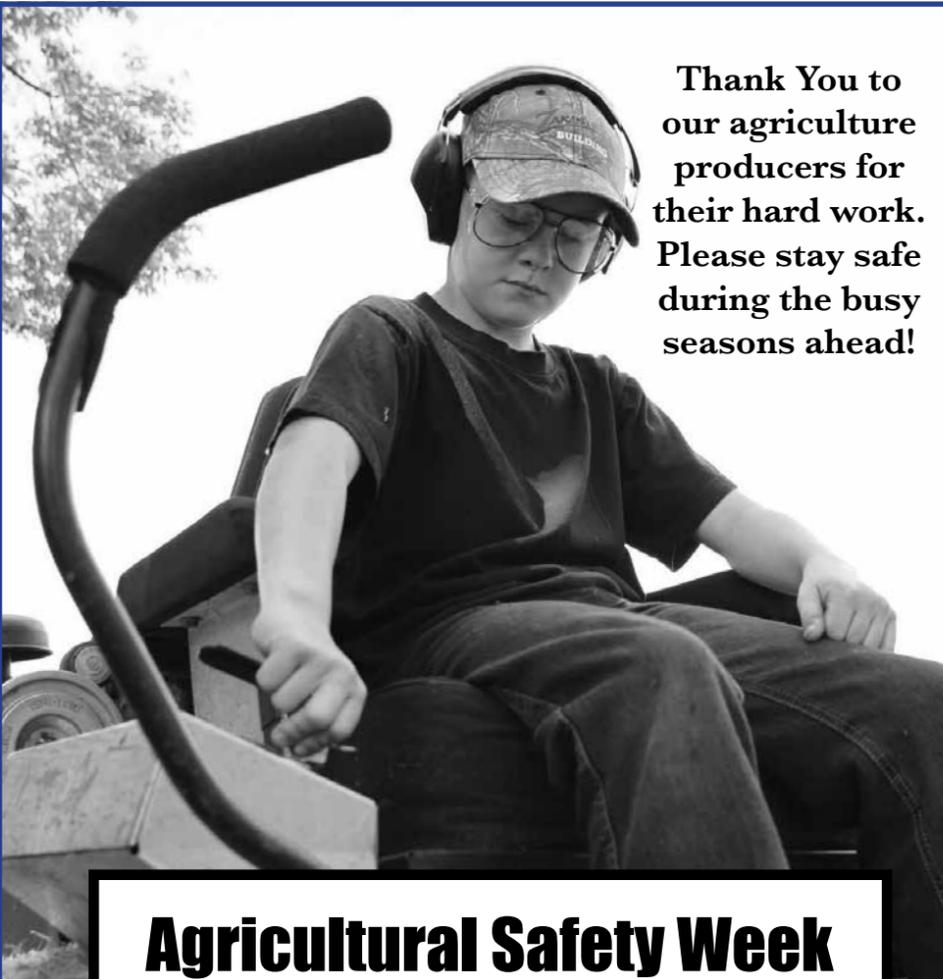
attended a complaint of mischief and disturbing the peace in Elrose. No further action was required.

Police were called to a report of an abandoned vehicle on Highway 7 near Zealandia on March 6 at about 7:13 p.m. Officers located the vehicle and determined it had mechanical issues. The vehicle was later removed from the roadway.

On March 8 at about 9:13 a.m., RCMP also responded to an animal-related call in Lucky Lake.

Police received a complaint of uttering threats in Lucky Lake on March 9 at about 7:40 p.m., but the matter was later deemed unfounded.

During the reporting period, RCMP issued 28 traffic-related charges. Officers also responded to one false alarm call and reported no 911 misdial calls.



Thank You to our agriculture producers for their hard work. Please stay safe during the busy seasons ahead!

Agricultural Safety Week
March 15th - 21st, 2026

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Speakers: Evangelist William Sprake

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AGRICULTURE SAFETY WEEK

Urging farms to make safety a daily priority

Canadian Agricultural Safety Week will run March 15 to 21, with organizers urging farmers, ranchers, workers and rural communities to make farm safety a year-round focus.

The annual campaign is led by the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association and is aimed at raising awareness about the risks in agriculture and the importance of prevention on farms and ranches across the country.

CASA said the week promotes the message that safety is directly tied to the success and long-term sustainability of farming operations.

According to Canadian Agricultural Injury Reporting data, 2,814 agriculture-related fatalities were recorded in Canada between 1990 and 2020.

Sandra Miller, CASA's executive director, said agriculture remains one of the most hazardous industries, but those dangers should not simply be accepted.

She said preventable risks must be addressed through practical safety measures and a stronger culture of prevention on farms.

Miller said every life lost in a farming accident is one too many and that Canadian Agricultural Safety Week is intended to help producers, families and workers make farms safer places to live, work and visit.

She said the campaign is also meant to reinforce that farm safety should not be limited to one week each year, but treated as an everyday responsibility.

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AG OPINION

On shooting messengers and wild pigs

BY
SHERI
MONK



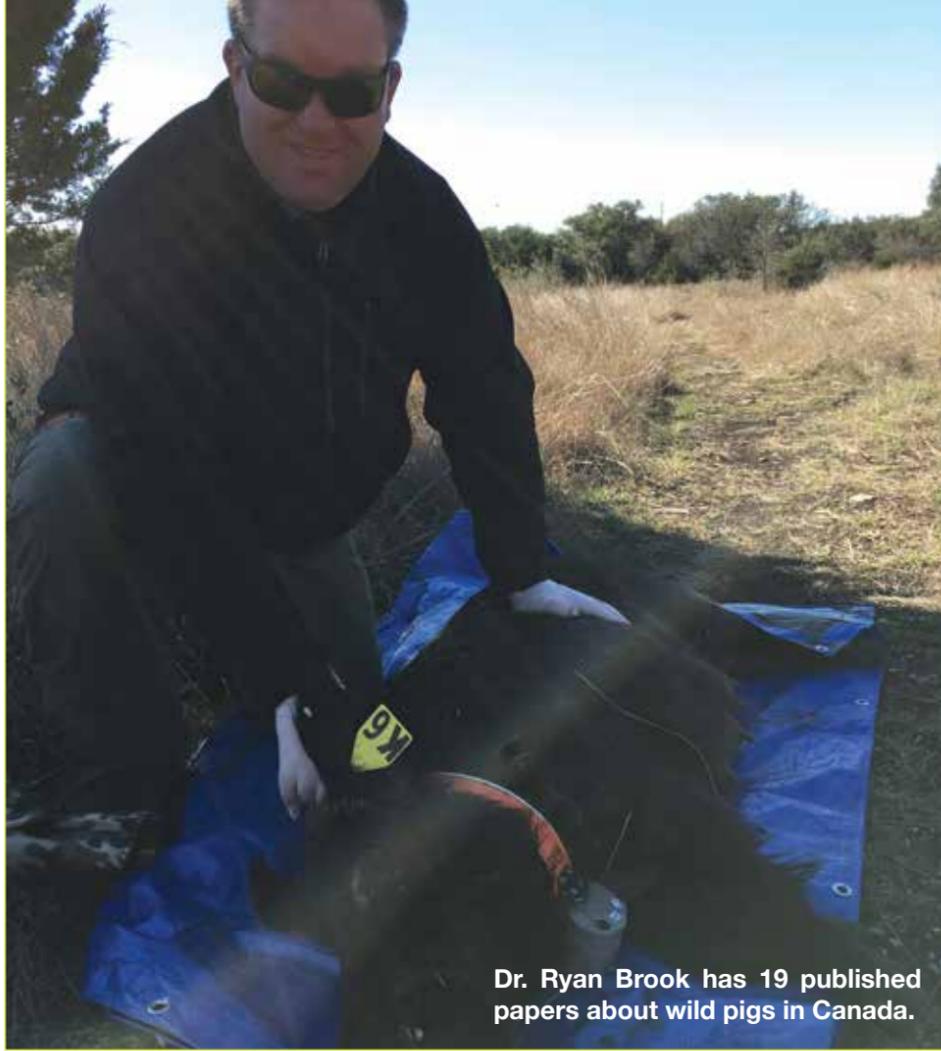
IT'S BEEN A YEAR since our last agricultural feature – and what a year it's been.

The cattle industry is on fire – in the good way this time. Unfortunately, so are many places in the world, including Ukraine and Iran. Last year at this time, Elon Musk appeared to be running the White House. Now, we never hear about him or his Cybertrucks. (I have yet to see a rural Cyber Truck being used for actual work, but I know they're out there.)

The war in Iran comes right before seeding, and this has made the price of fertilizer skyrocket, along with the price of diesel and crude. The Middle East is a major fertilizer and fertilizer feedstock supplier, accounting for 30 per cent of the world's exports. Some analysts are predicting lower yields, fewer acres planted and reduced global crop supply as a result of these pressures.

Of course, two years ago, market experts were predicting grain shortages because of the war in Ukraine and production actually went in the other direction. Agricultural economics seem to be a lot like the weather – hard to predict, fun to talk about, but reliably not what we need at the time we need it. (Unless you know a cow-calf producer, but many won't admit it anyway.)

I was travelling up north for work recently, and when I settled into my room I landed on CPAC, the channel that covers Parliament and all of the Senate committee meetings. It just happened that it was airing the Jan. 27 meeting of the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food. The topic was reference prices in the beef and pork supply chain. For a long time, price discovery has been a bone of contention within the Canadian industry, and over the past 20 years, I've seen more and more support for the discovery side – from all sectors.



Dr. Ryan Brook has 19 published papers about wild pigs in Canada.

Watching the committee meeting also made me realize something else – not all of the committee members know a whole lot about agriculture. Even though I only contribute annually now to agriculture journalism, I think about it all the time. And when it's time for this section every year, I fall back into it seamlessly. I miss it – especially the cattle and beef sectors. It makes me think there must be some way I can contribute, be it through board representation, junior journalist mentoring – something! Who knows, maybe Parliament isn't out of the question one day. Representation is important, and meaningful collaboration is more important than ever.

I was encouraged to find that specified risk material (SRM) removal is on its way out. A few years ago, I was commissioned to write a report about an arm of the cattle industry, and it became clear to me then that all players

in the supply chain were ready to see it go. And it made sense – we had just had our BSE risk changed to negligible. In the Canadian cattle industry, it is imperative that we are as competitive as possible with the U.S. given the constant north-south trade axis. However, it's even more critical to be keenly competitive when we are actually competing for export markets. The push to diversify has been shared so often for so long that I think many of us have stopped hearing it. Nonetheless, there is a concerted push now and the agricultural industry is wise to heed it – without sacrificing the crucial trade relationships we've always known.

The wild pig issue continues to haunt me when I am trying to fall asleep. We know our prairie song bird population is down by 60 per cent. Even the famously prolific western meadowlark numbers are down significantly. The

return of their song to the landscape every spring is synonymous with hope, growth and green grass. It's special. It is the anthem of the prairies – and it's becoming quieter each year.

Wild pigs are an ecological threat that could irremovably change the landscape forever. It's another pressure within one of the most endangered ecosystems on the planet. And no one in Saskatchewan seems to care about any impact other than crop damage. Perhaps this is because the Saskatchewan government continues to allow the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation to handle the file. Why the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment (under which wildlife, conservation and habitat responsibilities fall) wouldn't be involved is mind boggling. When reasonable detailed questions are posed and not answered, and when no one from the corporation will make themselves available, someone needs to call attention to those red flags.

When the Saskatchewan Party defeated the NDP to be elected in 2007, I spoke with Premier Brad Wall that very night. His government was responsive, flexible and approachable. It was open-minded, collaborative and it was exactly what the province needed after being saddled to a stiff and unaccountable NDP government for so long. I think it's time the Saskatchewan government recognizes and corrects course from becoming a stagnant government, and if those traits exist in their Crown corporation entities, they need to hire a housekeeper and clean that messy house.

Why Saskatchewan and Manitoba seem reluctant to use Dr. Ryan Brook's data, experience and expertise is baffling. He is widely respected by other wild pig researchers and by other governments, including those in the United States. Significant portions of his funding have in fact been provided by the United States Department of Agriculture because they recognize the threat of our pigs invading the border into their northern states – which are currently pig-free. I guess the phrase "don't shoot the messenger" originated for a reason. We would be well-advised to listen.

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Rising grocery prices spur interest in homegrown produce

Canadians are showing growing interest in raising their own fruit and vegetables as food prices climb, according to new data from HomeStars.com.

The company said 48 per cent of Canadian shoppers have considered growing their own produce because of higher grocery costs. Interest was strongest among people aged 18 to 34, with 54 per cent saying they had thought about growing fruit or vegetables at home.

HomeStars.com said the start of the growing season is the ideal time for people to begin planning gardens that could help trim food bills while providing fresher produce.

Colleen McGrory of HomeStars.com said growing food at home can be both practical and rewarding for people with even a small amount of outdoor space.

"If you have some outside space that gets direct sunlight, growing your own food to supplement the weekly grocery run can be quite feasible and rewarding," McGrory said. "Homegrown fruit and veggies will also be much fresher and likely more tasty than store bought."

She said gardeners should begin by identifying the sunniest area available, then researching the growing conditions and timelines for different crops.

While some fruits, such as strawberries, can produce in as little as six to 12 weeks, others, including raspberries, can take more than a year before bearing fruit. McGrory said regular pruning and fertilizing can help keep plants healthy and productive.

She also advised people hoping to save money to consider herbs and other produce that can be expensive or difficult to find in stores.

"If you're looking to save money, herbs are a great choice and many are easy to grow," she said. "Otherwise, choose products that are difficult to find or expensive to buy from supermarkets."

Among the best low-cost, high-yield options for beginners, HomeStars.com highlighted herbs such as rosemary, thyme, mint, chives, parsley and basil. The company said herbs require little space and are relatively easy to maintain, although coriander is better suited to indoor pots because it attracts slugs outdoors.

Raspberries were also listed as a good long-term option, though they require patience. HomeStars.com recommends planting them in mid-spring,



ADOBE STOCK IMAGE

pruning them right away, mulching heavily to suppress weeds and growing them along a fence for support.

Garlic was identified as another practical choice because it can be replanted each year. However, growers may have to wait up to 10 months before harvest. HomeStars.com recommends planting individual cloves upright in well-drained soil as early as weather permits.

For gardeners seeking quicker returns, tumbling tomatoes, zucchinis and potatoes were singled out as reliable producers.

Tumbling tomatoes can sprout from seed in as little as five days and begin producing fruit within a few months. They can also be grown in pots, making them suitable for balconies and other small spaces.

Zucchinis should be started indoors about three to four weeks before the last frost, usually in late April, then moved outside in early summer. HomeStars.com said zucchini plants can yield three or four vegetables a week at peak production if grown in a sunny, sheltered spot with regular watering and fertile soil.

Potatoes were described as another fast-growing crop, capable of developing in as little as 12 weeks. HomeStars.com recommends planting seed potatoes in trenches at least six inches deep and using plenty of compost-rich soil.

For those starting just a couple of months before summer, strawberries and rocket were also recommended.

Strawberries can be grown indoors or outdoors in pots, hanging baskets or garden beds, and may be ready in six to 12 weeks. Rocket, a hardy salad green, was noted for its fast growth and ability to thrive in both sun and partial shade. Because it is a cut-and-come-again crop, it can provide a steady supply over time.



ADOBE STOCK IMAGE

Farmers urged to focus on everyday safety during Canadian Agricultural Safety Week

From livestock handling and farm machinery to rail crossings and emergency planning, safety must remain a constant priority on Canadian farms.

Livestock play a central role on many farms, from beef and dairy operations to pig and sheep production. But their size and unpredictable behaviour mean producers must remain cautious during handling.

Reducing stress on animals can improve safety for both livestock and people. Farmers are encouraged to approach animals calmly, avoid sudden movements or loud noises, and stay aware of an animal's "flight zone," the personal space it maintains from potential threats. Entering that space abruptly can cause an animal to panic or react defensively.

Producers should also keep an escape route in mind when working with livestock, stay out of blind spots, avoid working alone and wear appropriate protective equipment.

Machinery remains another major source of farm injuries. Rollovers and runovers can happen in seconds and often lead to severe or fatal injuries.

Safety experts stress that many of these incidents are preventable by following basic precautions. Those include never allowing extra riders on

machinery, keeping children and bystanders at a safe distance, following manufacturer towing guidelines and using rollover protection structures and seatbelts.

Farm operators are also reminded to take care around railway crossings. Although farm equipment is large, it offers little protection against trains.

Rural crossings often lack lights, bells or gates, so operators should slow down, look both directions and listen for oncoming trains. Opening cab windows and turning off radios or fans can help detect approaching trains, while winter conditions can make crossings more dangerous by muffling sound and creating slippery surfaces.

Preparing for emergencies is another key part of farm safety. Severe weather, medical incidents and other unexpected events can occur at any time.

Producers are encouraged to develop emergency response plans that identify potential risks and outline steps for different scenarios. Training workers on safety procedures, evacuation routes and emergency roles can help ensure everyone knows how to respond if a crisis occurs.

Canadian Agricultural Safety Week runs March 15 to 21 and encourages farmers, farm families and agricultural workers to make safety a year-round priority.

More information is available at agsafetyweek.ca.



Doug Steele

Saskatchewan Party MLA for Cypress Hills

Spring's a busy time in our rural areas with seeding, calving and other agricultural work.

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Farmers have until March 31 to revise crop insurance contracts

BY IAN MACKAY

Farmers have until March 31 to apply, reinstate, cancel or revise their Saskatchewan crop insurance contracts for the 2026 growing season.

Unless producers request changes, their 2025 coverage will automatically continue this year, according to a late-February statement from the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation.

Producers are encouraged to select

coverage “that best supports” their operations, Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister David Marit said in the statement. The federal and provincial governments also confirmed they will continue sharing the cost of the program.

The only change to the program this year is the introduction of satellite forage insurance, previously announced as “a localized, responsive and accurate approach to managing forage risk,” the



corporation said.

“These programs continue to evolve to ensure coverage accurately reflects local conditions and give producers the tools they need to make ongoing business decisions,” federal Agriculture Minister Heath MacDonald said.

Marit said reliable coverage strengthens individual farm operations and contributes to the long-term growth of Saskatchewan’s agriculture sector.

Farmers purchased coverage on more than 85 per cent of seeded acres in 2025, the statement said.

Bill Prybylski, president of the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan, said the satellite forage program embraces technology that better captures real-world conditions and addresses accuracy concerns raised by livestock producers. He urged farmers to ensure their operations are protected against weather and market volatility.

Churchill shipping study expected to wrap up by end of March

BY IAN MACKAY

A study assessing the potential to increase shipments through Churchill is expected to conclude by the end of March.

The assessment is gathering industry input on the long-term growth potential of the Port of Churchill Plus project, according to a statement from Prairies Economic Development Canada, commonly known as PrairiesCan.

“Northern Manitoba plays a critical role in Canada’s Arctic trade future,” the statement said.

The study is intended to complement business development efforts by the Arctic Gateway Group, which owns the



Port of Churchill and the Hudson Bay Railway. Organization staff are working with western Canadian commodity producers and resource developers and consulting with international ports and potential customers worldwide.

The federal government is providing nearly \$250,000 for the assessment. It involves surveying senior executives in sectors including mining, energy, potash, grain and northern resupply to better understand how infrastructure investments could shape long-term planning.

The study will examine how extended or year-round shipping — supported by icebreaking capacity, a modernized

Class 1 railway, an all-season road connection and a potential energy corridor — could influence future import and export strategies, supply-chain decisions and private-sector investment.

Eleanor Olszewski, the federal minister responsible for PrairiesCan, said the assessment reflects Canada’s commitment to reconciliation and to strengthening its sovereign presence in northern and Arctic waters.

“This study is about unlocking the full potential of the Port of Churchill and the rail line that connects northern Manitoba to the world,” said Manitoba Premier Wab Kinew.

Chris Avery, chief executive officer of the Arctic Gateway Group, said the Port of Churchill Plus vision would strength-

en the North and could be transformative for shipping through Hudson Bay.

Churchill provides the shortest route from the Prairie provinces to European markets, the statement noted.

The Port of Churchill Plus project includes four components: upgrading the Hudson Bay Railway to Class 1 standards, dedicated marine icebreaking capacity to extend the shipping season, an all-weather road to Churchill and a new energy corridor.

The federal and Manitoba governments are also funding the Arctic Research Foundation to lead a feasibility study on deploying specialized icebreakers, ice tugs and research vessels to support year-round operations at Churchill.



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Prairie grower groups fund research projects targeting canola diseases

BY IAN MACKAY

Three projects intended to deal with the canola disease verticillium stripe stand out among 11 research programs that a prairie growers consortium is funding this year.

Leaders of the canola agronomic research program have chosen projects that they feel are “key to advancing canola productivity and mitigating production threats,” a statement said.

The organization includes SaskOilseeds and similar Manitoba and Alberta grower groups, which together are spending over \$2.4 million. Results Driven Agriculture Research in Alberta is supplying over \$1 million and the Western Grains Research Foundation will chip in \$495,000 to bring the total planned expenditure to over \$4 million.

“The genetic improvement and disease risks facing canola production need to be researched to find solutions,” said Laura Reiter of Radisson, who chairs the Western Grains Research Foundation.

“As capacity among public research institutions decreases, grower-led investment isn’t just an option anymore, it’s critical to the longevity of our industry,” said Cheryl Westman of Vermilion, who chairs Alberta Canola’s research program.

A University of Calgary scientist heads a project titled “Discovering the verticillium longisporum genetic determinants of virulence,” a University of Manitoba scientist aims to test “biocontrol-based strategies” to deal with verticillium stripe in canola and another researcher from that university will use “genetic and molecular approaches” to increase canola’s resistance to verticillium stripe.

Sean Prager, with the University of Saskatchewan, leads a project called “Integrated management of viral complexes and co-infection risks in canola.”

Other scientists aim to exploit certain canola genes to fight off clubroot and sclerotinia stem rot and develop a “gene drive system for the reproductive suppression of weeds.”

FCC campaign helps deliver 635 million meals to Canadians in need

People, companies and other organizations assembled 635 million meals for Canadians in need during Farm Credit Canada’s Drive Away Hunger campaign.

The donations can make the difference between going to bed hungry and having food on the table, while leaving money for other essentials such as rent, heat or a child’s winter coat, FCC president and chief executive officer Justine Hendricks said in a statement released in late February.

“The goal is to make sure food that would otherwise go to waste reaches family tables where it is needed,” Hendricks said.

Officials valued the meals provided at more than \$2.25 billion, equal to

about 63 meals per person in a year.

More than 10 million people, including nearly one in three children, live in households that do not always have enough food, the statement said. It added that food bank use rose by 5.2 per cent last year, with many users being working Canadians managing tight budgets.

Each year, farmers, processors, retailers and food companies voluntarily redirect surplus food to help families and reduce waste.

“By working together year after year, partners are delivering food to communities at a scale made possible through industry collaboration,” Hendricks said.

Women’s farm work often goes unseen

Women remain essential to the success of Canadian farms, but much of their contribution still goes unrecognized, according to material released for Canadian Agricultural Safety Week.

Women often take on what is described as “invisible work” on farms, balancing childcare, household management and family responsibilities along with farm duties and, in some cases, off-farm employment.

The release says that workload, combined with the specific pressures

faced by women in agriculture, can contribute to stress, burnout and depression.

It says healthier balance starts with clear routines, defined responsibilities and open communication among family members. Building support networks and connecting with others can also help reduce isolation and make challenges easier to manage.

The campaign says supporting women in agriculture is important to the future of farming and ranching in Canada.



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Canada's beef herd responding to expansion signals

Calves are auctioned at Medicine Hat Feeding Company on October 31, 2024.

BY SHERI MONK

THE NUMBERS ARE IN and it's official – Canada's beef herd is growing for the first time since 2018.

"The market has been extremely strong, and rightfully so. There's some profit potential behind those numbers, and you can't make cows without cows," said Canadian Cattle Association (CCA) chair Tyler Fulton.

According to Statistics Canada, the national beef herd is up 2.5 per cent to 11.14 million head of cattle. While that may not seem newsworthy on the surface, it's the first sign of growth in eight years – despite record prices across the industry. What makes it even more remarkable is the uncertainty the industry faced just one year ago. The United States president was threatening unprecedented tariffs and talking about the annexation of Canada. Global unease across every market dominated headlines and quarterly expectations.

"Nationally we're up 1.9 per cent on cows, up 4.8 per cent on heifers, but really it is the farthest west that is leading the way with British Columbia up four per cent, Alberta up 2.2 per cent, and Saskatchewan up 1.5 per cent," said Brenna Grant, executive director of Canfax.

Auction markets and processing

plants were already providing anecdotal evidence of retained heifers and cows, and the numbers support the suspicions.

"On the replacement heifer side, BC replacement heifers are up 5.8 per cent, Alberta is up 5.1 per cent, and Saskatchewan is up four per cent. And so we're definitely seeing some of those differences due to weather and grass availability as well as winter feed availability in terms of who is able to rebuild and restock," Grant said.

In 2018, the national herd contained 12.4 million head.

"And remember, this is drought-induced liquidation, so a lot of this for a lot of guys is restocking as is appropriate to their grass availability," said Grant.

WILL PRICES REMAIN HIGH?

For herd expansion to realize continued growth, the cow-calf sector will need to continue to see strong pricing.

"This is one question where we have to really think of these numbers in context. The beef cows were up just under 65,000 head. We imported 544,000 head in 2025 – we have a long ways to go on our rebuilding simply to fill domestic feedlot demand for feeder cattle that they are currently feeding and being supplied by the U.S.," Grant explained.

As long as the fall run keeps bringing

home the bacon, expansion should continue.

"We are still that highest price market in North America – that's why we're importing. So the price signal is there for these cow-calf producers to rebuild, and really the first thing that's going to happen is displacement of those imports," said Grant.

Another bullish market development indicative of expansion is that slaughter was down in 2025, representing the holdback of heifers and to a lesser extent, cows that may have been sent to town in other years.

"We have a very different outlook for 2026. In fact, the numbers are large enough that we have the potential of larger domestic production in 2026 versus 2025 as our herd is rebuilding. It's really just unique, this cattle cycle where this is happening," Grant said.

In 2002, the year before BSE crippled and forever changed the Canadian cattle industry, the herd was at 15.3 million head. Whether the industry rebuilds to pre-BSE numbers remains, but experts think it unlikely.

WHY DID IT TAKE SO LONG?

"You can't raise cows without pasture and feed. When you get several years of the last five where, you know, the weather conditions just simply have not been conducive to, like, supporting growth in the herd, you know, it's a major factor. It's probably the most important factor



that's kind of put a, you know, moderated any potential for growth. But you layer on that, the demographics of the industry, and, you know, the capital requirements, and the, you know, for new producers to enter the business, as well as the uncertainty, you know, that goes along with making those investments, it's, you know, it's a complex kind of system that, you know, that we have to, you know, that's going to feed into whether or not there's herd growth. And, you know, all of them have an influence.

"EVERYBODY TALKS ABOUT THE WEATHER, BUT NOBODY DOES ANYTHING ABOUT IT."

Mark Twain may have come up with that iconic quote in 1897, but not much has changed since he did – weather remains the wildest card in the cattle business.

"The moisture situation in some key spots such as southwestern Saskatchewan and southern Alberta were much improved in the fall. So maybe there's some subsoil moisture there this year

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

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A prairie rattlesnake in southeastern Alberta gratefully accepts a drink during dry conditions last year.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

that wasn't there in the past," Fulton said. "I'd say by and large, we're better off than we've been in recent years, but there are still some constraints. I think there's a lot of optimism there. But we also have to be mindful of, you know, of the broader macro weather patterns."

U.S. NUMBERS CONTINUE TO CONTRACT

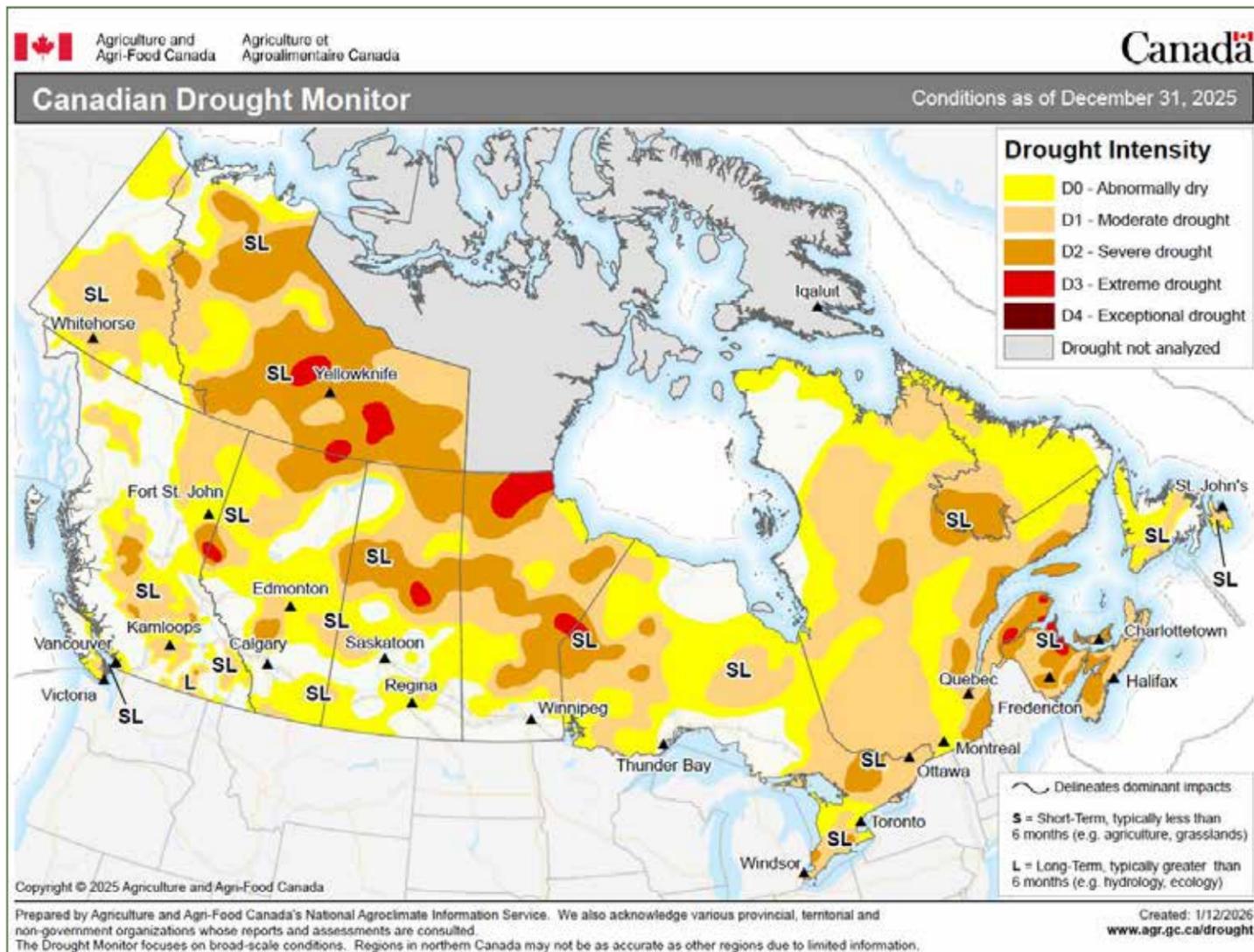
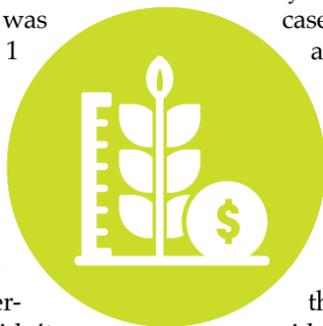
Gold may have been just out of reach in Olympic hockey this year, but Canada is currently at the top of the podium when it comes to industry growth.

"It's a little bit of a competition. They showed a slight further reduction and that, I think, surprised some analysts. They were anticipating a slight increase," Fulton said.

"The U.S. beef cow herd was down one per cent on Jan. 1 and their heifer numbers were up, but it was very modest. Beef replacement heifers were up .9 per cent," Grant said.

Weather and drought in some areas were contributing factors as many American producers simply didn't have enough confidence they'd have access to enough winter wheat pasture or forage supplies to keep their animals fed. But weather and feed weren't the only factors.

"When a lot of producers in the fall were making their replacement decisions in the U.S., there was so much going on



A national map of drought conditions reveals agriculture isn't out of the woods yet when it comes to moisture.

politically in terms of new announcements being made almost every week in October and November and that probably had an impact," Grant explained.

With increasing global instability, particularly in the Middle East, oil prices are increasing and in the past, the price-per-barrel used to have real implications for the beef business.

"We used to call ourselves a petro currency. When oil went up, the Canadian dollar went up, so they were very closely linked. That has not been the case in the last five years. We've actually seen our Canadian dollar move independently of petro prices," Grant said, attributing the change to inflation and other economic changes. "I think the real question – and it would actually be the banks that usually provide forecasts and comments on this – are we going to see the Canadian dollar get more heavily linked back to crude oil prices?"

A CRACK IN THE GREAT WALL

In 2021, the cattle industry suffered a difficult blow from the Chinese govern-

ment, which banned Canadian beef after an 8.5 year-old Albertan cow tested positive for atypical BSE. Atypical BSE occurs sporadically and isn't related to BSE spread through contaminated feed or other exposures. China has a history of making knee-jerk trade decisions in reaction to unrelated political differences. "Those cases are always going to be found when you have a robust surveillance system," said Fulton.

In January, Prime Minister Mark Carney and a high-profile entourage visited Beijing and it was announced shortly after that China would once again open its borders to Canadian beef.

"This is something that we're really, really happy to see," Fulton said, adding that the CCA and many other organizations were working hard over the previous five years to re-open trade. "I'm really optimistic about it making a big difference. Where we see the value is in some of those cuts that just aren't in demand in North America or Canada. There's potential for us to add value to the carcass on those cuts that without Chinese market access, we really couldn't realize."

China requires any imported beef to

be free of beta-agonists, which tend to residually accumulate in organ tissues, which are the cuts China tends to import.

Beta-agonists redirect nutrients in cattle toward muscle growth instead of fat deposition, increasing lean meat production and feed efficiency, and are used routinely in both American and Canadian feedlots.

Grant says that while it takes time for industry to complete the paperwork needed to be considered beta-agonist-free, the effect of resuming trade is already being felt.

"We have seen our five-weight steers and heifers pop here since the announcement. We are up. And part of that on the lightweights is it takes time for them to figure everything out in terms of logistics and sales and whatnot. But right now it looks like that is absolutely a positive for our industry that is being price supportive to the feeder market," she said.

TALKIN' TRACEABILITY BLUES

Soaring prices, tariff talk and rising imports weren't the only dramas taking place in the beef business this past year.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17



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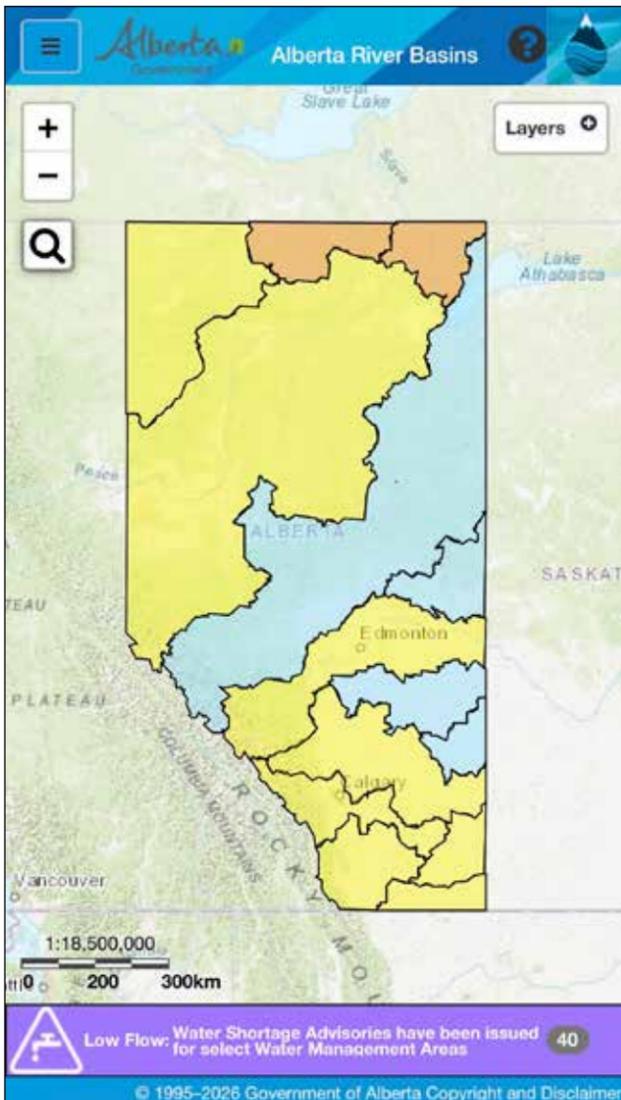
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A Government of Alberta map shows much of the province is still in drought. Blue represents stage one – abnormally dry conditions, yellow represents stage two – moderate drought and orange represents stage three – severe drought.

...Beef herd expansion

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) plan to publish additional traceability regulations caused a viral social media tidal wave of pushback among producers.

“When that became such a big issue among producers it became obvious that we had to request a pause from CFIA about any new regulations. Because quite simply, there was not a great understanding of the information and for that matter, clarity on what the rules were,” Fulton said, adding that it is important the industry has a tool to manage animal disease risk and to regain lost market access. “Consistently, what I’ve heard from across the country is a desire for an industry solution that is not burdensome, that is not onerous on producers, and actually materially delivers a tool to address those animal disease events that represent an existential risk to our industry.”

ENHANCED FEED BAN MAY BE ON THE WAY OUT

In the wake of the 2003 BSE crisis, the CFIA introduced the enhanced feed ban in 2007 to help reopen trade – which it certainly did. The new regulations required packing plants to remove and dispose of the skull, brain, trigeminal ganglia, eyes, tonsils and dorsal root ganglia in all cattle aged 30 months and older

(OTM). These tissues accumulate the densest BSE prion concentrations, but SRM removal is costly – and so is the disposal of those tissues.

“And that’s something we’ve lived with for a long time and the challenges it creates for small and medium and also even the larger plants. I think that if that is removed and we’re on an even footing with the U.S., that we could actually see greater revitalization in the small and medium plants,” Grant said.

The additional cost burden, felt first by packing plants, trickled down throughout the entire industry, but the mandate did achieve its goal. The World Organization for Animal Health responded by downgrading Canada’s BSE risk level to “controlled” and in 2021, Canada’s risk status was changed to “negligible” – the same status applied to the U.S. and EU.

Since that status change, there has been mounting pressure on the CFIA to rescind the enhanced feed ban, although the distal ileum would continue to be removed from all cattle, as it is in the U.S. and EU.

“Candidly, we’ve made slow progress, but progress nonetheless. And, in fact, I think we’re talking about addressing it in a timeline measured in months, not in years. So I am more optimistic about that file and addressing those challenges than I was even a year ago,” Fulton said, adding that CCA staff has worked hard to equip the CFIA with thorough risk analyses over the past couple of years. “It’s sometimes really difficult and time-consuming to get rid of regulations. But I’m hoping that this is an example of a real-life outcome of the government’s desire to do red tape removal.”

2026 IS GIVING OPTIMISM AND EXCITEMENT

In a post-Covid era when steep inflation became the norm, cattle feeders have experienced a small measure of relief amid very tight supply.

“We’ve seen feed grain down anywhere from 12 per cent to 18 per cent year-over-year depending on the feed type used,” Grant said.

Two years ago, while still in the early days of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, the world braced for grain shortages and production disruptions. Ukraine is home

to approximately 15 per cent of global corn exports and 15 to 20 per cent of global barley exports.

“But the reality is there was a huge increase in crop acres globally and then there were agreements made to actually continue to get grain out of Ukraine. And so, we had then this increase that’s happened globally in terms of production with the expectation that that grain wouldn’t be available – but it is available,” Grant said. “There are obviously price signals for adjustments to occur here in 2026. But in the meantime, it’s a lot of the livestock industry that is sourcing feed and the benefits from those lower prices.”

“It’s just so telling to me that we’re importing the highest number of U.S. feeder cattle that we ever have before – 2025 represented the largest year of net feeder imports that we’ve ever seen in Canada. And so to do that in the context of this environment shows how tight the supply is, but also how competitive our Canadian feeding sector is,” Fulton said.

Grant says we haven’t had a cattle cycle like this for about 30 years, relating current conditions to those in the mid-90s that led to record cattle numbers in Canada.

“In the 1990s, we had a weak dollar and strong cattle prices. We had just had a Canadian-U.S. free trade agreement signed in ‘89, then NAFTA in 1994. We actually saw the Canadian herd expand throughout the ‘90s. We were obviously a price taker with a stronger U.S. market that allowed us to really gain market share. And I would say we actually have an opportunity right now based on competitiveness of our producers – specifically our feedlots – to have that price signal that we currently have for the cow-calf (sector) in order to gain a greater market share of the North American cattle market.”

“I’m really excited and enthusiastic about that. But I want to relay the fact that we are very much singularly focused on, you know, on making sure that we maintain that tariff-free, reciprocal North American trade in beef and cattle,” Fulton said. “When we export close to half of what we produce in Canada, we can’t take our eye off the ball. That’s what we need to support and maintain in order to ensure profitability and health for the whole industry.”

Fire prevention on the farm

Farms contain many fire hazards; even one small spark can quickly lead to devastating losses. Use this 10-step checklist to help keep your farm fire-free.

- 1. CLEAR THE CLUTTER.** Remove brush, weeds, tall grass and debris from barns and yards. Keep flammable materials away from heat sources.
- 2. STORE MATERIALS PROPERLY.** Store hazardous products, such as herbicides, insecticides, fungicides and fertilizers, according to manufacturer recommendations.
- 3. IMPROVE AIRFLOW.** Ensure proper ventilation to prevent the buildup of chemical vapours and silo gases. Store hay only when fully dry. Monitor bale temperatures.
- 4. MAINTAIN ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT.** Protect exposed wiring with conduit and keep it away from animals and weather. Hire a licensed electrician to inspect farm buildings annually.
- 5. SERVICE MACHINERY REGULARLY.** Maintain and regularly clean engines, motors and equipment to re-



- duce the risk of malfunctions and overheating.
- 6. ENFORCE NO-SMOKING RULES.** Prohibit smoking in and around farm buildings and dispose of cigarettes properly.
- 7. REFUEL SAFELY.** Refuel equipment outdoors, away from buildings and open flames. Always shut equipment off and allow it to cool before refuelling.
- 8. INSTALL LIGHTNING PROTECTION.** Use approved lightning rods and grounding systems on metal structures. Inspect grounding cables regularly and repair damage promptly.
- 9. USE HEATERS MINDFULLY.** Operate space heaters only when someone is present. Keep them away from livestock, bedding and other combustibles.
- 10. INVEST IN FIRE EXTINGUISHERS.** Install extinguishers in all buildings and on machinery. Train everyone on how to use them and inspect them regularly.

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Looking forward to the promising future of China–Canada agricultural cooperation

BY MME. LIYING ZHAO,

Consul General of the
People's Republic of China in Calgary

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney, accompanied by Premier Scott Moe, paid a successful visit to China in January. During the visit, the two sides issued a joint statement, signed a series of important cooperation documents, and reached important consensus on advancing the China-Canada new strategic partnership. We outlined a roadmap for the next phase of economic and trade cooperation and made preliminary arrangements to address tariff issues of mutual concern, including those related to electric vehicles and agricultural products such as canola. In the agricultural sector, both sides emphasized the importance of strengthening cooperation in agriculture and food security and agreed to reactivate the China–Canada Joint Committee on Agriculture. With these positive developments, China–Canada agricultural cooperation is poised to enter a new stage of growth and opportunity.

I. China–Canada Agricultural Cooperation is time-honoured

Agricultural cooperation between China and Canada has deep roots. As early as the 1960s, China imported wheat and other grains from Canada thanks to the efforts of the leaders from both countries, including the then Prime Minister John Diefenbaker, a true son of Saskatchewan. These shipments helped ease food

shortages in China at the time and laid a solid foundation for the development of our bilateral relationship. After the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1970, our agricultural cooperation steadily expanded. The two countries set up dialogue and coordination mechanisms, including the China–Canada Joint Committee on Agriculture. Through these platforms, we have strengthened exchanges in agricultural science and technology, livestock production, inspection and quarantine, and food security. Since the beginning of the 21st century, our agricultural trade has grown rapidly. China has become Canada's second-largest trading partner in agricultural and food products, and the largest export market for Canadian canola. In 2024 alone, China imported 6.39 million tonnes of canola, 96% of which came from Canada. During the same period, China imported 2.75 million tonnes of canola meal, with 75% sourced from Canada. Unfortunately, the bilateral agricultural trade experienced a temporary decline in 2025 due to trade frictions. With the joint efforts to remove distractions, the China–Canada agricultural cooperation is showing clear signs of recovery and renewed momentum.

II. China-Canada Agricultural Cooperation is mutually beneficial

China and Canada enjoy enormous potential for cooperation in agriculture, which stems not only from our long history of trade, but also from the

strong complementarity between China's market demand and Canada's resource advantages. China is one of the world's largest markets for agricultural products and food, with a population of approximately 1.4 billion and a middle-income group exceeding 400 million. China's consumer demand is shifting from simply having enough to eat to seeking food of high quality. As a result, demand continues to grow for premium oilseeds, beef and lamb, pork, seafood, and reliable supplies of grain and feedstock. Meanwhile, Canada has a highly export-oriented agricultural sector, with significant international competitiveness in wheat, canola, pulses, beef, pork, etc. Its agricultural growth relies heavily on international markets. A market as large and dynamic as China's, with steadily expanding and evolving demand, carries long-term strategic significance for the sustainable development of Canada's agricultural industry.

III. China–Canada Agricultural Cooperation has broad prospects

Looking ahead, the prospects for China–Canada agricultural cooperation are promising. Our cooperation should be comprehensive and multi-level, going beyond trade in individual products to extend across the full agricultural value chain, from production and technology to standards, services, and downstream industries. At the trade level, both sides should continue to strengthen cooperation in key products such as canola,

wheat, beef, pork, and aquatic products, thereby reinforcing the solid foundation of our partnership. In the areas of technology and research, China and Canada can expand collaboration in post-secondary education, as the University of Saskatchewan is a recognized institution of agricultural excellence, as well as agricultural equipment, crop breeding, and smart agriculture, with the goal of improving productivity and product quality. With regard to standards and regulatory alignment, the two sides can make full use of the China–Canada Joint Committee on Agriculture to enhance communication and coordination in areas such as animal and plant quarantine and food safety supervision, reducing the risk of trade frictions. In addition, both countries can work together to promote value-added processing of agricultural products, develop cold-chain logistics and cross-border supply chains, and strengthen cooperation in sustainable and green agriculture, thereby advancing high-quality agricultural development.

Agricultural cooperation is not only an important component of the China-Canada new strategic partnership, but also a key pillar supporting its continued development. By strengthening collaboration in agriculture, we can further enhance mutual trust in economic and trade relations and lay a solid foundation for our new strategic partnership to move forward in a more pragmatic, sustainable, and high-quality direction.

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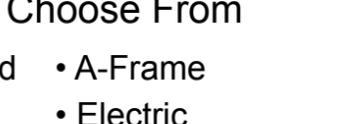
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Researcher warns prairie wild pig populations growing despite eradication claims

BY SHERI MONK

Canada's wild pig problem may be more difficult to eradicate than some organizations acknowledge.

Researchers studying the invasive species say populations continue to expand across the Prairies while control efforts remain fragmented and key data – including population estimates – remain unavailable.

The debate has intensified as organizations and provincial governments promote eradication strategies and national coordination plans – even as Canada's leading researcher on the topic questions whether current removal rates are sufficient to slow population growth.

Dr. Ryan Brook, an associate professor at the University of Saskatchewan, leads the country's only long-running research program on wild pigs. His team has spent more than a decade mapping the distribution of the animals across Canada using trail cameras, GPS collars, satellite tracking and public sightings. Brook has authored 19 published papers relating to wild pigs in Canada.

"We've published our research in peer-reviewed research journals. I think that has a lot of importance because that peer-review process helps ensure the work is credible and appropriately conducted," Brook said.

Wild pigs – also known as wild boar or feral swine – were introduced to Canada in the 1980s and '90s as part of a push to diversify agricultural production. When the market for wild boar meat collapsed, some animals escaped



The map released by Canada's Invasive Wild Pig Leadership Group shows in orange where wild pigs have been living for at least a year and are capable of reproducing.

farms and others were deliberately released.

Since then, the animals have adapted well to Canadian conditions and now occupy significant areas of Saskatchewan and Manitoba, with additional populations in Alberta, B.C. and Ontario.

PROVINCIAL ORGANIZATIONS WORKING ON THE WILD PIG PROBLEM

British Columbia – The B.C. Feral Pig Working Group is led by the Ministry of Land and Resource Stewardship, with the participation of the Invasive Species Council of B.C. and the B.C. Wildlife Federation. Additional members include First Nations representatives, regional stakeholders, landowners and contracted trappers.

Alberta – Control efforts are led by the Alberta Government through the Wild Boar Control Program, which is administered by the Inspection and Investigation Section of Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation under the Agricultural Pests Act.

Saskatchewan – The Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC), a Crown corporation, manages their wild pig program.

Manitoba – Manitoba Pork manages Squeal on Pigs Manitoba, which was established in 2022 and receives federal and provincial funding.

Ontario – The Ministry of Natural Resources manages wild pig control for the province.

Nationally, a collaborative organization called Canada's Invasive Wild Pig

Leadership Group released an eradication plan called Canada's Invasive Wild Pig Strategy 2022–2032. Its membership includes representatives from:

- Alberta Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation;
- Alberta Pork;
- Animal Health Canada;
- British Columbia Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship;
- Canadian Council on Invasive Species;
- Manitoba Pork, which operates the "Squeal on Pigs" program within the province;
- Métis National Council;
- Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters;
- Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources; and
- The Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture.

Brook said he was asked to review an early draft of the national strategy but believes his feedback was largely ignored.

"I wrote a page of commentary, but I don't think any of it was really addressed. The national strategy is very, very weak," Brook said. "If you actually search the entire document, you will not find the word science in it anywhere."

ALBERTA LEADING THE WEST

When wild pigs were initially discovered in Canada, each province took an "open season" approach, allowing the animals to be hunted. This method has been proven in other jurisdictions to create more spread and increased nocturnal behaviour. It also tends to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21

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Kindersley-Biggar Constituency

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

only remove either isolated solo males or individuals from larger sounders (groups) of wild pigs. It is well established that the only way to make a dent in wild pig populations is to employ techniques that capture entire sounders. Brook was publicly critical of bounties and the open season approach years ago, when the invasive problem was first identified.

Of all the provinces, Alberta is most closely following widely known best practices. As of December 1, 2025, significant changes were made to regulations that more closely follow known science.

- The hunting of wild pigs is no longer permitted except on privately owned land;
- All wild boar and their hybrids are now classified as a pest, not just when roaming free;
- No new wild boar farms are allowed and it is now illegal to keep, import, sell or transport live wild boar without a permit;
- Compensation of \$590 per boar for producers who wish to exit the industry, as well as available compensation for fencing that will no longer be needed;
- Existing farms must operate under strict conditions, including containment standards, mandatory escape reporting, and they must comply with annual site inspections.

Brook said Alberta has historically taken more proactive steps and been much more collaborative than its neighbour to the east.

"Alberta has consistently had the smaller distribution and clearly a lower number of pigs," he said. "They've been proactive in trying different things for a long time."

New boar farms for meat or for sport hunting are prohibited from operation in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario.

B.C. still has a handful of wild boar

meat farms in operation, but there are no existing hunt farms. Saskatchewan has grandfathered hunt and meat farms, and there is no compensation in place for industry exit, though existing operations are subject to tight controls. Manitoba allegedly no longer has any wild boar farms, but wild-cross boars are still being sold on Kijiji, according to an ad that was active on March 9 of this year. Ontario has effectively eliminated them through the use of compensation for industry exit programs.

Ontario banned wild pig hunting in 2022 for the same reasons Alberta did in 2025 – it scatters the animals, ultimately making them more difficult to manage. The wild pigs can also become increasingly nocturnal under human hunting pressure, which can also make management more challenging. B.C., Saskatchewan and Manitoba still allow wild pigs to be hunted.

All provinces have ways the public can report wild pig sightings, with potential follow-up, monitoring and trapping.

POPULATION ESTIMATES REMAIN UNCLEAR

Provincial wild pig control programs often cite the number of animals removed through trapping programs as evidence of progress. In 2024, 206 pigs were trapped in Manitoba through the Squeal on Pigs program, which is led by project coordinator Dr. Wayne Lees.

"That's a good thing," Brook said. "That's certainly a lot better than what it used to be."

But Brook says those numbers alone provide little insight without knowing the total population size.

"We know the numerator, but what's the denominator?" he said. "You have 200 per year removed. Well, out of how many? If it's 200 out of 205, then that's wonderful. But it's not 205. That number is much higher. It's certainly in the thousands."

Lees says estimating wild pig popu-



Domestic wild boar farms were established during the 1980s and 1990s and they were the original source of wild pigs in Canada from escapes and purposeful releases. Some farms still exist in B.C., Alberta and Saskatchewan – under much tighter regulation – and no new farms will be permitted across the Prairies and Ontario.

lations is difficult because the animals are unevenly distributed across the landscape. In email correspondence, Lees described Manitoba's population as being in the "low thousands," later clarifying that he meant closer to "one thousand-ish."

Even if populations were as low as 1,000 animals, removing around 200 per year would represent only a small portion of the population.

"Even 200 out of 1,000 is just 20 per cent," Brook said. "And 20 per cent is nowhere near anything close to reducing the population, much less eradicating it. I think there are two key questions – is eradication feasible and when/if eradication occurs, how do you prove it? I expect at bare minimum, you would need five years of intensive monitoring with no pigs detected at all before anyone could say eradication was successful."

DISAGREEMENT OVER REPRODUCTION AND WINTER SURVIVAL

Lees says winter mortality among piglets may play an important role in

limiting population growth but admits there is no data to support this theory. Wild boar are endemic to Eurasia and, in the northern regions, which are climatically similar to Canada, the young have a 50 per cent survival rate in average winters.

Brook says there is no evidence supporting that claim.

"There's no evidence that they do poorly overwintering in Canada," he said. "We have very clear trail camera photos of groups of pigs with females with multiple litters that are months apart. A single female with multiple litters — that's about as clear as you're going to get."

Brook's research team has published studies documenting reproductive rates.

"We published papers on reproductive rates and we know they have six young per litter," Brook said. "We see females with lots of young at heel in our trail camera photos."

Peer-reviewed research shows the same reproductive rates in Eurasian wild boar populations, with females

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

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... Wild pigs

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21

commonly producing litters of five to seven piglets, with survival rates high enough to support rapid population expansion.

"Anybody that's talking without data is just another person with an opinion," he said.

The Squeal on Pigs (Manitoba's) own home page, for which Lees is project coordinator, reads that "(wild pigs) reproduce alarmingly fast, with females giving birth to four to 12 piglets up to twice a year."

DATA GAPS AND MAPPING DIFFERENCES

When asked for details about wild pig management in Saskatchewan — including population estimates, mapping data and removal numbers for 2025 — Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC) declined to answer specific questions and would not consent to an interview.

Instead, the agency provided a general briefing note stating that more than 1,300 pigs have been removed from the province since 2017 — an average of 144 per year.

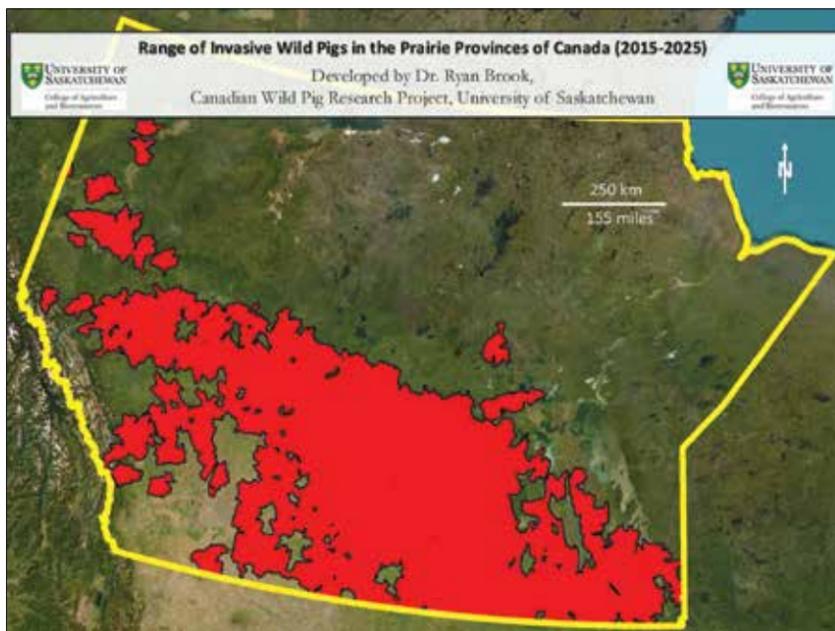
"Saskatchewan's feral wild boar population remains limited, with animals primarily concentrated in two small regions of the province," the briefing stated.

Brook maintains there are thousands of animals based on his research.

The SCIC document did not include population estimates or detailed mapping data, which was requested. Additionally, the corporation was asked how the wild pigs' effect on wildlife and habitat is being monitored and that question wasn't answered either.

Brook says the absence of transparent data makes it difficult to assess whether control programs are working.

As part of their 2023 report, Canada's Invasive Wild Pig Leadership Group released a map illustrating its take on boar sightings and activity. Each grid cell (square) on the map represents a 20-by-20 square kilometre area. It does not take into account Brook's data over the years. Brook's mapping utilizes cumula-



Dr. Ryan Brook's map of wild pig activity across the Canadian Prairies since he began studying them 16 years ago.

tive pig presence over time, including presence in watersheds. Using watersheds for mapping presence is common in wild pig research, but Lees says it's not practical, and they want to know where the pigs are now, not where they've been.

"I've seen some of his maps and what ends up happening is that he layers the different sightings across the province and he never takes anything off, so you keep adding more and more and more layers," said Lees. "What we wanted to do was look at the data to say, 'where are the pigs now?' not 'where were they 10 years ago?' And so this is the most up-to-date information that we have in terms of where the pigs are now and where they're concentrated."

Brook maintains if pigs were present in an area in the past, they are likely still present in that area currently.

HUNTING CONTROVERSY

Hunting wild pigs has gained popularity since the animals became invasive, and not every hunter wants to give the hunting opportunity up. However, wild pigs are known to cause extensive environmental harm and can be especially hard on waterfowl. Additionally, they displace wildlife and cause habitat degradation through rooting, wallowing and trampling behaviour. Sensitive grassland

species may be especially affected, particularly during nesting season. Ducks Unlimited was asked to offer their position on the issue and didn't return phone calls or emails.

While Alberta and Ontario have banned wild pig hunting, B.C., Saskatchewan and Manitoba have failed to do so thus far.

"We don't encourage it. It has not been banned, but one thing we find is it's not effective and it tends to displace pigs. If there is a group of pigs in one area and then hunters try to bait that area and hunt pigs, they can move them out into a new area," said Lees. "The other issue is that when wild pigs move into an area, things like turkeys and deer tend to move away. So it's a choice — what do you want to hunt?"

The Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation — largely funded by the hunting community through fundraising, membership, donations and through allocated funds from the Saskatchewan Fish and Wildlife Fund — doesn't currently have a position on pig hunting but said they are adding the issue to its next board meeting.

A GROWING RISK

Wild pigs present more than an ecological threat. The animals can carry diseases such as African swine fever, which has devastated pork industries in parts of Europe and Asia.

Brook says the presence of wild pigs could make controlling such a disease far more difficult if it ever reached Canada.

"These wild pigs are a threat with respect to African swine fever," he said.

Lees agrees. "If we were to get African swine fever in wild pigs, it would be very, very difficult to manage," he said.

African swine fever is incredibly contagious, almost always fatal to pigs, and would instantly devastate the Canadian pork industry due to lost export markets. If such an outbreak were to occur, industry would work with the Canadian Food

KEEP PLANTING SEEDS. YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT MAY TAKE ROOT
 {Ecclesiastes 11:6}

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ESTON SACRED HEART CHURCH



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

Inspection Agency (CFIA) to establish movement corridors, quarantines and mass euthanasia in affected areas. A wild pig population could act not only as a disease reservoir but could diminish confidence in export markets and pork industry investors.

A quick Internet search shows many outdoor domestic pigs for sale across the Prairies, including an ad out of Moosomin, Saskatchewan, for two pregnant wild boar sow mixes. Keeping captive pigs in outdoor spaces when wild pigs may be just on the other side of the fence is a health threat. While Saskatchewan hasn't made existing wild boar farms illegal, Manitoba has and despite that, there was an active Kijiji ad for wild boar as of March 9, 2026. Brook said this method of sales has been widely utilized for wild pig transactions and has published a paper on the issue.

The swine industry in Saskatchewan contributes \$558 million (one per cent) to the provincial GDP. In Manitoba, the industry is even larger, making up \$2.3 billion (3.5 per cent) of the province's GDP. In Alberta, the swine industry contributes \$1.6 billion to the provincial GDP, but this represents less than a half per cent of total GDP.

A NARROWING WINDOW

When asked about timelines for eradication, Lees said he has never attached a specific timeframe to the goal. However, in 2024 he was quoted in the Western Producer as saying, "It'll probably take most of a decade."

When asked by email whether he still believed that was achievable, Lees never answered.

Brook says Canada still has an opportunity to control wild pig populations before they reach the scale seen in the United States, where millions of animals now roam across large parts of the country. But that opportunity may be shrinking without substantive efforts, benchmarks and monitoring.

"Anyone talking about the eradication of wild pigs from the Canadian prairies in 2026 fundamentally misunderstands the scope and scale of the wild pig problem and is living in a fantasy world of their own creation," Brook said. "The fraction of pigs actually being removed is small – somewhere in the order of 10 per cent at best. There is a very large gap between 10 per cent and what we know is more than 70 per cent removal to see population reductions."

High insect pest pressure reported across Saskatchewan in 2025

BY IAN MACKAY

Workers found significant levels of grasshoppers in west-central Saskatchewan and strong populations of bertha armyworm moths and cabbage seedpod weevils in much of the province last year.

"High insect pest pressure" was among the challenges Saskatchewan farmers faced during the 2025 growing season, according to an article in Agriview, the quarterly online publication of the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture.

Department staff conducted several insect surveys in 2025, with populations varying significantly depending on the species surveyed. Results from some laboratory work had not yet been completed at the time of publication.

Large populations of bertha armyworm moths were reported in many parts of the province, including areas not affected in 2024 or previous years. Canola and mustard growers are advised to be particularly vigilant with scouting in 2026 in regions where high populations were observed.

Some locations in west-central Saskatchewan, including north-central Mountain View and the south-central Rural Municipality of Biggar, recorded more than 1,200 moths. The insects overwinter as pupae below the soil surface and emerge as moths in the spring.

"Emergence is highly dependent on temperature," the report said.

Grasshopper numbers declined significantly in 2025 compared to 2024 in most areas. However, surveys still showed high populations in west-central and south-central Saskatchewan.

Farmers are encouraged to monitor fields closely, as provincial maps may not reflect localized high populations.

"Many factors, including environmental conditions, will dictate grasshopper populations in 2026," the report said.

The Regina area and parts of southwestern Saskatchewan experienced significant crop cutting by the wheat stem sawfly. In its larval stage, the insect feeds on the pith of cereal crops, reducing yield and quality.

"Eventually, the larva will cut a groove completely around the inside of the stem which causes the stem to weaken and become susceptible to lodging," the report said.

Diamondback moth populations depend on winds carrying adults north from the United States. Pheromone traps began catching the insects early last May, with numbers increasing until late July at low to moderate levels.

The report noted that early arrival of adult moths can lead to more significant population buildup



during the growing season.

Cabbage seedpod weevil surveys are conducted when canola and brown and oriental mustard are flowering. Yellow mustard is resistant to the weevil.

The 2025 survey results indicated large populations in many parts of the province, including areas not affected in previous years. Growers in regions with high populations are advised to scout carefully in 2026.

During the winter months, staff analyze soil samples collected for the wheat midge survey to determine the presence and abundance of larval cocoons and levels of parasitism by the midge's natural enemy, *Macroglanes penetrans*. Totals of cocoons without parasites will be used to produce the 2025 wheat midge map, the report said.

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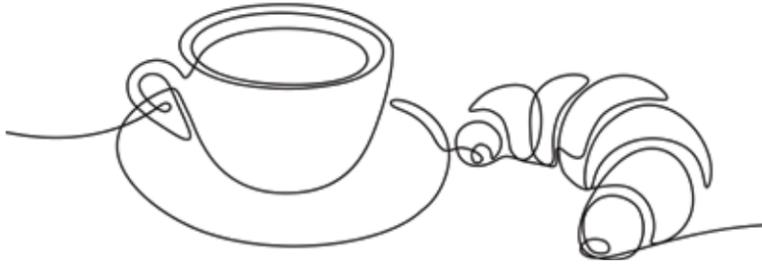
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coffee time

Amber Waves

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TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Weekly SUDOKU

	6	7	4		8		1	5
3	2	4			5			9
	5		6					4
7	9		8					2
		6			8			9
	8	3	9			1		
5		8		4	3			
	3	2	5					4
	7	9		1		5		

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Hat is larger. 2. Bottom of lamp is not showing. 3. Ear is different. 4. Book cover is different. 5. Glasses are missing. 6. Ribbon is moved.

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Makes a choice

5 Pear-shaped fruit

8 "The Black Prince" author Murdoch

12 High point

13 Hostel

14 Central point

15 "Citadel" actress Chopra

17 Only

18 Brooch

19 Rappers' improvisations

21 Signaled "Hi!"

24 — Bator

25 Battery fluid

26 Female royal

30 Roulette bet

31 Carried on, as war

32 Pickles on "Rugrats"

33 Inmate

35 Chorus syllables

36 "I dropped the fruitcake!"

37 How distant stars shine

38 Politico Nancy

41 Parcel of land

42 Latin 101 word

DOWN

1 Antonym (Abbr.)

2 Capita lead-in

3 — chi

4 Used a Zoom alternative

5 Twain hero

6 Squid squirt

7 More knotted, as a tree

8 Harmonious

9 Leeway

10 Between jobs

11 Beholds

16 Help

20 Royal flush, e.g.

21 Get bent out of shape

22 Computer brand

23 Caesar's "I saw"

24 Implores

26 Primitive flutes

27 Wax-coated cheese

28 Ledge

29 Do in

31 Courts

34 Mollify

35 Lengthy list

37 — Perignon

38 Leaf

39 Flightless birds

40 Endure

41 Easter bloom

44 Classic car

45 Dead heat

46 Sinusitis doc

47 Six, in Sicily

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Trivia Test Answers

1. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart; 2. Emily Brontë; 3. Badminton; 4. 13; 5. Oahu, Hawaii; 6. Tim Berners-Lee; 7. Biennials; 8. John Jackson Parr; 9. Virtual Private Network; 10. Ganymede of Jupiter

King Crossword

Solution time: 23 mins.

Answers

Across: 1. Choice, 5. Pear, 8. Tennyson, 12. Summit, 13. Inn, 14. Center, 15. Anjali, 17. Solely, 18. Brooch, 19. Rap, 21. Hi!, 24. Bator, 25. Acid, 26. Queen, 30. Roulette, 31. On, 32. Pickles, 33. Inmate, 35. Syllable, 36. Fruitcake, 37. Distant, 38. Politician, 41. Parcel, 42. Latin, Down: 1. Antonym, 2. Capita, 3. Chi, 4. Zoom, 5. Twain, 6. Squid, 7. Knot, 8. Harmonious, 9. Leeway, 10. Between, 11. Beholds, 16. Help, 20. Royal flush, 21. Bent, 22. Computer, 23. Caesar, 24. Implores, 26. Primitive, 27. Wax-coated, 28. Ledge, 29. Do in, 31. Courts, 34. Mollify, 35. Lengthy list, 37. Perignon, 38. Leaf, 39. Flightless, 40. Endure, 41. Easter bloom, 44. Classic car, 45. Dead heat, 46. Sinusitis doc, 47. Six, in Sicily

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

- MUSIC: Who composed the opera "The Magic Flute"?
- LITERATURE: Who wrote the novel "Wuthering Heights"?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which sport uses a shuttlecock?
- MATH: What is the next prime number after 11?
- GEOGRAPHY: Where is Pearl Harbor located?
- INVENTIONS: Who is credited with inventing the World Wide Web?
- SCIENCE: What is the name for plants that live for two years?
- MOVIES: What is Jack-Jack's real name in "The Incredibles"?
- ACRONYMS: What does VPN stand for?
- ASTRONOMY: Which moon is the largest in our solar system?

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- It puts you in a good mood. Smiling activates facial muscles that send signals to your brain's limbic system and reward centre. This response stimulates feelings of pleasure, joy and motivation.
- It reduces stress. Smiling triggers the release of feel-good hormones, such as endorphins and serotonin. These chemicals can lower your heart rate and blood pressure, helping reduce stress and promote a sense

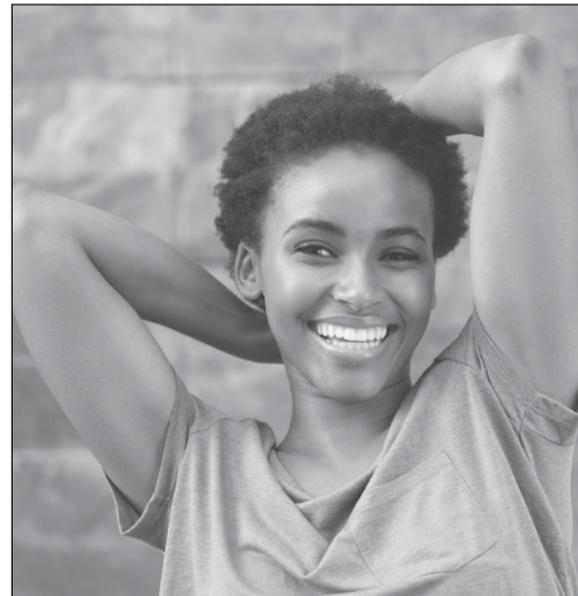
of overall well-being.

- It strengthens your social connections. Smiling increases your self-confidence, giving you the courage to engage with others and initiate positive interactions that help build meaningful relationships.

When a smile turns into laughter, the benefits multiply. For example, laughter has been shown to strengthen the immune system and increase pain tolerance.

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There are two main types of smiles. The genuine smile, known as the Duchenne smile, involves both the mouth and the eyes. The social smile uses only the muscles around the mouth. That said, research shows that even a simulated or "forced" smile can have positive benefits. Why hold back?



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the estate of Harry Thiessen, late of Kerrobert, in the Province of Saskatchewan, deceased.

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late of P.O. Box 732 Leader, Saskatchewan, deceased. All claims against the above Estate, duly verified by statutory declaration and with particulars and valuation of security held, if any, must be sent to the undersigned before April 3, 2026.

WENDY WEBB
Executor
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The Kamsack Times is hiring a Local Journalism Initiative (LJI) Reporter to produce original civic journalism for Kamsack; Cote, Keeseekoose and The Key First Nations; and surrounding towns. Job is a term position until March 31, 2027. Apply with cover letter and three writing samples to Devan Tasa at dtasa@tasamedia.ca.

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SEASONAL UTILITY WORKER RM OF PRAIRIEDALE NO. 321

The Rural Municipality of Prairiedale No. 321 is now accepting applications for **TWO (2) FULL-TIME SEASONAL UTILITY WORKERS.**
Work to commence on or around mid to late May 2026.

Preference will be given to applicants who are able to operate a tractor with mower, rock picker, mulcher, etc. A valid driver's license is required.

Duties to include but not limited to:

- Mowing ditches
- Culvert and sign installation and maintenance
- Equipment maintenance and repair
- Duties as directed by Council

The wage will commensurate with qualifications and experience as well as a benefits package.

Interested individuals should submit their resume including work experience, wage expectations, and three work related references and current Driver's Abstract by 4:00 pm, March 16, 2026 to:

RM of Prairiedale No. 321

PO Box 160
Major, SK S0L 2H0
Fax: 306-834-1202

Email: administrator@rmofprairiedale.ca

We thank all applicants for their interest, however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

FULL-TIME SEASONAL GRADER OPERATOR RM OF PRAIRIEDALE NO. 321

The Rural Municipality of Prairiedale No. 321 is seeking a full-time, seasonal Grader Operator.

The successful candidate will meet the following criteria:

- Have willingness and aptitude to operate grader as required for the job
- Have knowledge of servicing and maintaining heavy equipment
- Valid Driver's License
- Have a working knowledge of grading roads
- Must be capable of working with minimal to no immediate supervision
- Attention to detail, safety conscious, and ability to take direction from Supervisors

Duties may include but not limited to:

- Operating grader
- Experience operating other equipment is an asset
- Any other tasks assigned by the Supervisor with the direction of Council

Employment proposed start date is to be determined. The RM of Prairiedale offers a competitive wage and comprehensive benefits package including the Municipal Employees Pension Plan (MEPP).

The position will remain open until a suitable candidate is found. Applicants are invited to submit a resume to:

RM of Prairiedale No. 321

Box 160
Major, SK S0L 2H0
Fax: 306-834-1202

Email: administrator@rmofprairiedale.ca

Recruitment: how to sort through applications efficiently

Is your company currently recruiting? Are you responsible for sorting through resumes? These tips may help you choose the best candidates without burning out.

- Start by clearly defining your selection criteria, starting with the must-have qualifications like education, years of experience or a driver's licence. Then, identify nice-to-have qualities, such as bilingualism, availability or CPR training.
- Sort through the resumes as they come in so they don't pile up. Skim each document quickly but strategically. Look for important keywords, review the candidate's career timeline and assess their skills.
- Separate the applications you receive into three categories: highly relevant, interesting and not very relevant. You can rank them from

1 to 3 or from A to C. That said, be open to atypical profiles. A candidate who breaks the mould could add real value to your team.

Also, keep in mind that the format of the candidate's resume and cover letter matters. Depending on the position, a clean layout and proper spelling can be highly revealing criteria.

Once you complete your first round of sorting, you can move on to the exciting stage of job interviews. Good luck!

Artificial intelligence (AI)

You can use AI to help sort applications, but use it with caution. These new tools are far from infallible. You don't want to overlook that "rare gem." Make sure you understand how to use the tool and know how to correct any potential errors or biases.

Warehouse clerk: a high-demand job — even with robots!

When people think of jobs in the manufacturing and industrial sector, the idea of robots often comes to mind. Despite innovations in automation, many tasks still require human skill and judgment. This is particularly true of the warehouse clerk, a position that's in high demand. Take a look.

Key benefits

Whether it's a permanent position or a student job, the role of warehouse clerk offers several advantages. The position helps you build valuable skills and keep in shape while working in a fast-paced environment.

Duties and responsibilities

Warehouse clerks perform a variety of tasks and have a range of responsibilities, including:

- Receiving and inspecting delivered goods
- Organizing and storing products
- Preparing and shipping orders
- Maintaining inventory records
- Supervising other workers



- Keeping the warehouse clean and safe

Required skills

If you want to be a warehouse clerk, you must be organized, able to lift heavy loads and skilled with basic computer tools. In addition, you must have strong communication skills and a high school diploma or equivalency.

Robots won't replace warehouse clerks anytime soon. Many essential tasks still depend on human workers.

If you enjoy active, hands-on work, this stimulating job is an excellent option. It's up to you!

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Operator with duties to start May/June 2026.
Start date flexible.

The R.M. is looking for a student to work within the RM of Happyland No. 231 for the 2026 summer season. May include mowing, shop, equipment cleaning and general labour.

Key Duties and Responsibilities:

- Operate a tractor mower & general labour
- Manage all duties given by Foreman & Council, & log work on provided sheets daily
- Good interpersonal skills and ability to establish effective working relationships with council, staff, and rate payers
- Other duties as prescribed

The Successful Applicant Should Possess:

- Experience is an asset in maintenance and operation of a tractor but willing to train the right applicant
- Willingness to be supervised and take direction from Foreman
- Great communication and documentation skills

Your Resume Should Include:

- Work experience
- Education and skills
- Two references
- Expected wages

Please have resumes submitted by April 8, 2026 to:

Rural Municipality of Happyland No. 231
 P.O. Box 339
 Leader, Saskatchewan
 SON 1H0
 Email: rm231@sasktel.net



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Cordell Goheen at 124 Railway Ave in Eston, SK
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“Agriculture is the most healthful, most useful and most noble employment of man.”
George Washington

Intimate partner violence rising in Canada’s rural communities

BY ERIN KELLY

For the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association

Farm communities are often seen as idyllic places with sprawling fields, clean air, neighbours willing to lend a hand and a strong sense of security.

But beneath that image lies a darker reality. In many farming communities, some people live in fear of their partner’s actions and behaviour.

Lauren Van Ewyk, co-founder and CEO of the National Farmer Mental Health Alliance, says many of the traits that make rural communities appealing can also contribute to intimate partner violence.

Van Ewyk, a registered social worker and agricultural mental health advocate who raises sheep with her husband in southwestern Ontario, says the close-knit nature of rural life can mask abuse.

“Certainly, there are a number of situations that make us more prone to intimate partner violence. For instance, in our rural communities, how many of us lock our doors?” she says.

“You know, it’s possible to have what looks like a great farm life, but there’s a lot of movement that can go on apart from that farm life being seen.”

Intimate partner violence refers to abusive behaviour by a partner in a romantic relationship. According to national data, eight out of 10 victims are women and girls.

The issue is not limited to rural communities. The

World Health Organization has called intimate partner violence a major public health problem, and Statistics Canada reports incidents have been rising in recent years.

However, rural areas in Canada experience significantly higher rates than urban centres.

A 2022 report from the Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics found the rate of reported intimate partner violence against women was 461 per 100,000 people in urban areas. In rural communities, the rate was 985 per 100,000.

Those numbers are troubling on their own. Considering many incidents go unreported, the situation may be even more serious.

“I think part of it is because we have normalized it, in a sense,” Van Ewyk says.

“Part of it is based on our traditionalism in agriculture, which is to be celebrated. There is nothing wrong with some of our traditionalism. It’s part of who we are.

“But we have normalized some of the actions that go on. Farmers are typically more of peacemakers than we need to be when it comes to issues such as intimate partner violence.”

Van Ewyk says the same agricultural traditionalism can also contribute to women’s roles on farms being overlooked or undervalued.

According to the Canadian Census of Agriculture,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29

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- E ½ Section 14-34-23 W3rd (230 acres grass)
- SE 23-34-23 W3rd (80 acres)

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✉ cao@kerrobert.ca

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LAND FOR SALE BY TENDER RM of Chesterfield No. 261

Legal Land Description	Assessed Value	Taxable Assessment	Cultivated Acres	Total Acres
NE 02 24 27 W3	\$376,700	\$207,185	160	160
NW 02 24 27 W3	\$382,600	\$210,430	159	160
NE 05 24 27 W3	\$349,800	\$192,390	155	160
SE 09 24 27 W3	\$445,700	\$245,135	160	160
SW 09 24 27 W3	\$441,200	\$242,660	160	160
Totals:	\$1,996,000	\$1,097,800	794	Total Acres: 800

Conditions for Tender:

1. The highest or any tender may not necessarily be accepted as the owner reserves the right to reject any and all tenders. Deposits will be returned to the unsuccessful tenders.
2. Tenders must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "Land Tender" to the undersigned law firm on or before 12 o'clock noon, local time, March 20th, 2026.
3. Bids shall include a bank draft or certified cheque payable to Osman & Company Law Office for 5% of the tendered amount.
4. No tenders shall be accepted which are subject to financing or other conditions.
5. Bidders will not be called together following the submission of bids.
6. Persons submitting a tender must rely on their own research and inspection of the property to confirm condition, other particulars and acreage. The land is offered for sale "as is" and "where is," with no warranties or representations by the Vendors, expressed or implied.
7. The successful Tender shall be required, following closure of the tender process, to enter into a written agreement with the registered Owners for the purchase of the deeded land.
8. The Vendor will have until June 30th, 2026, to remove all grain currently stored on the NW 02 24 27 W3.
9. In the event the Purchaser fails to pay the balance of the purchase price on or before the 20th of April 2026 (the "Closing Date"), the deposit equivalent to five (5%) percent of the final tender, shall be forfeited absolutely to the registered owner as liquidated damages.
10. The closing date of the sale following receipt of bids shall be April 20th, 2026.

All Bids to be Forwarded to the following, either in person or via mail:
Osman & Company Law Office - Land Tender
Attn: Anli Roets
1103 Broadway Avenue
Drawer 280
Moosomin, SK S0G 3N0

Please contact Laurie Schimpf for the full tender document and tender purchase form.
Cell: 306-537-4380
Email: lschimpf@sasktel.net

...Intimate partner violence

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 28

women account for 30.4 per cent of farm operators in Canada. Despite that, their contributions are not always recognized, particularly when family farms face separation or divorce.

"Particularly when it comes to things like divorce or separation, we have situations where women's sweat labour on farms is not accounted for," she says.

"You almost have to have a forensic accountant go through to really appreciate how women have contributed to the success of farms."

Isolation can also increase vulnerability. Distance from services can make it difficult to seek help, while emotional isolation can be used as a form of control.

"The very fact that in some cases we have tremendously large farms, especially in our Prairie provinces, that physical isolation makes it harder to reach out for supports or to access services," Van Ewyk says.

"Emotional isolation is when women are cut off from friends and family.

"When we see evidence of narcissism on the farm, which is a form of control, we see that control exhibited over women where they don't have their own financial means or they have allowances."

Leaving an abusive relationship can be especially difficult in rural communities, she adds. Beyond isolation and limited services, many victims do not want to abandon the lifestyle they love.

"There's the isolation, the lack of privacy, there are legal issues, but by and large one of the biggest things that we're asking them to do is to give up the things they love in order to be safe," Van Ewyk says.

However, she says support services must understand agriculture and farm culture.

"This is one of the reasons we're so passionate about agriculture-informed therapy at the National Farmer Mental Health Alliance," she says.

"If a rural woman goes in for counselling or access services, unless you understand some of the culture



Lauren Van Ewyk is the co-founder and CEO of the National Farmer Mental Health Alliance. She says there are a number of factors that make farm women more prone to intimate partner violence.

PHOTO COURTESY OF LAUREN VAN EWYK

and warning signs, you will miss it."

She says rural communities also need to speak up when they suspect abuse.

"We need more guardians, more advocates, more people who are willing to say, 'Hey, I noticed this.' Most often people suspect it and they don't say anything until after the fact," she says.

Despite the challenges, Van Ewyk says the agricultural industry has become more willing to discuss difficult topics such as mental health, suicide and intimate partner violence.

That shift, she says, could help save lives.

"The reality is that we need to speak for women who can't speak for themselves."

More information about the National Farmer Mental Health Alliance is available at www.nfmha.ca. Support is available by calling 1-877-639-8828 or emailing info@nfmha.ca.

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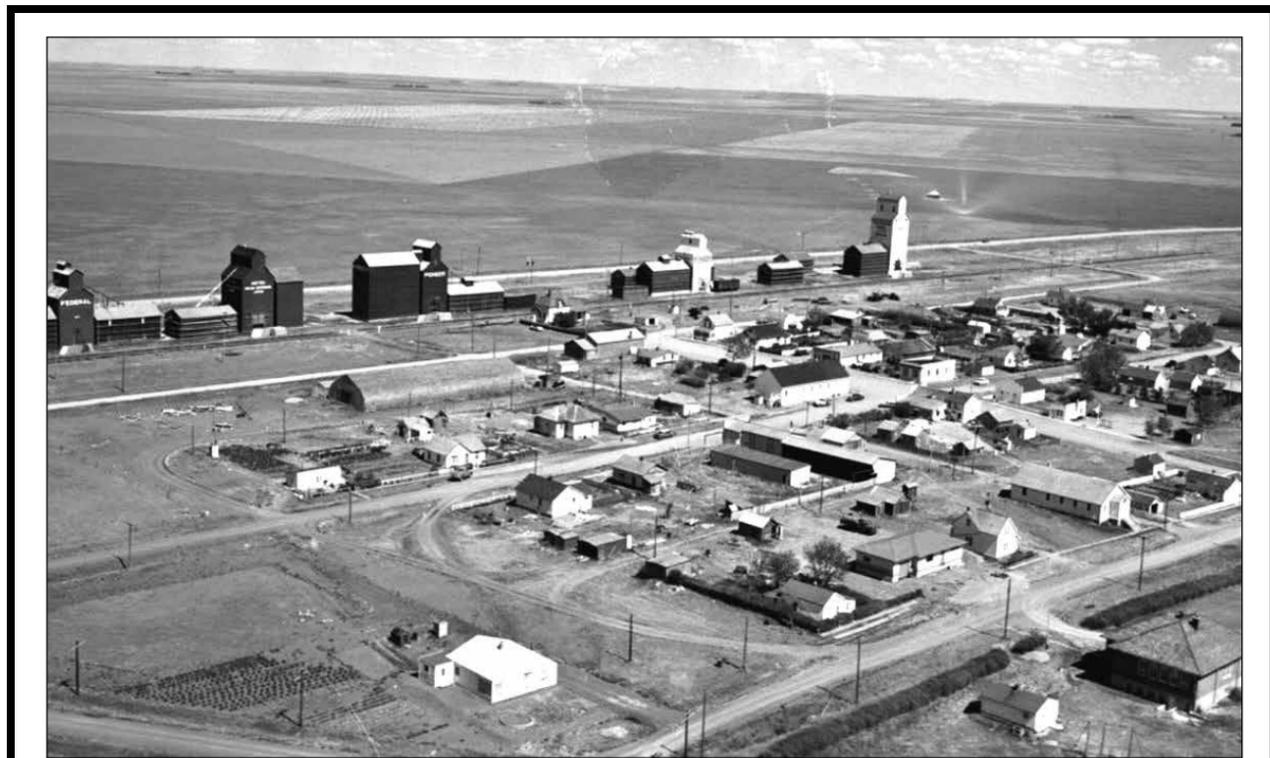
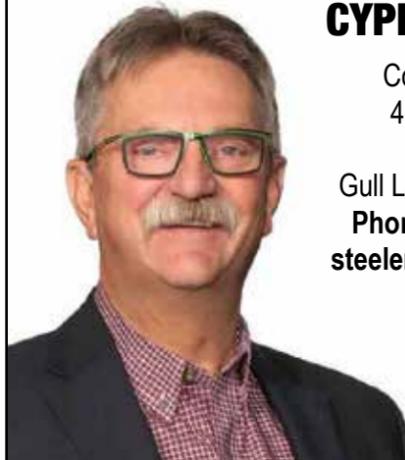
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An aerial view of the village of Madison in 1959 shows homes clustered along the Canadian National Railway line between Eston and Eaton in west-central Saskatchewan. The community developed after the railway arrived and the earlier Noremac post office, established in 1911, was moved to the new townsite and renamed Madison. The village was named after James Madison, the fourth president of the United States, reflecting the American roots of some early homesteaders. The Madison post office closed Sept. 30, 2000, and only a handful of residents remain today. HISTORICAL SASKATCHEWAN PHOTO

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Sanjel doing a cement job in southeast Saskatchewan in 2011. FILE PHOTO

Sanjel Energy and STEP complete transaction, creating one of Canada's largest oilfield services companies

BY BRIAN ZINCHUK

STEP Energy Services Ltd. and Sanjel Energy Services Inc. announced on March 9 the combination of their leading Canadian oilfield services companies, which will create one of the largest and most diversified oilfield services providers in Canada.

The transaction will also include Sanjel subsidiary Wayfinder Corp., a domestic proppant supplier that operates the Big Molly sand mine and transloading facilities in Alberta. The combined organization will benefit from a strong, vertically integrated service offering across well cementing, stimulation and completions, and proppant supply, enhancing its ability to deliver safe, reliable, and efficient solutions to clients across Western Canada, the press release said.

"This transaction will mark a huge milestone for STEP and for our combined organization," said Steve Glanville, Chief Executive Officer of STEP. "By bringing together highly complementary businesses, experienced teams, and a commitment to safety and operational excellence, we will strengthen our ability to serve clients while positioning the company for long-term growth."

The combined company will maintain the existing STEP, Sanjel and Wayfinder brands but will create a more diversified platform with expanded scale, operational flexibility, and technical capability, according to the release. It positions the company to support increasing activity across key resource plays, including the Montney and Duvernay, and to capitalize on continued momentum driven by LNG export development and broader production growth in Western Canada.

Murray Bickley, former Chief Executive Officer of Sanjel and now President of the combining organizations, said the focus remains firmly on people and clients. "This strategic combination is built on strong operational foundations and shared values. Our clients can expect the same high standards of safety, reliability, and service quality they have always received, now supported by a broader suite of integrated service lines."

Throughout the integration process, the company said it will prioritize continuity of service, safety performance, and operational execution. Clients will continue to work with familiar teams while benefiting from enhanced service offerings and efficiencies enabled by the combined organization.

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Water Security Agency forecasts mostly below-normal spring runoff in Saskatchewan

Most of Saskatchewan is expected to see near- to below-normal spring runoff this year, according to the Water Security Agency's 2026 runoff outlook released March 12.

The agency said runoff is expected to be well below normal from Kindersley to Assiniboia in the southwest, while conditions in eastern Saskatchewan near Yorkton are forecast to be above normal.

WSA said below-average precipitation in fall 2025 left much of the province dry at freeze-up. Snowfall this winter has been near normal across most of Saskatchewan, although the north and west-central regions received above-normal precipitation. Areas near the Manitoba border in southern Saskatchewan have seen less than normal winter precipitation.

The mountain snowpack in Alberta, which plays a major role in May and June flows in the Saskatchewan River Basin, is well above normal, the agency said. If that continues, snowmelt runoff into Lake Diefenbaker is expected to be above normal this year.

Most major water supply reservoirs in southern Saskatchewan, including Lake Diefenbaker and reservoirs in the Qu'Appelle River system, are currently at or above normal levels and are expected to remain near normal after spring runoff.

The exceptions are the McDougald and Harris reservoirs in the southwest, which are below normal. WSA said that if conditions do not improve, some reservoirs in the Bigstick Basin in the southwest, along with Reindeer Lake in the north, may remain lower than normal this year.

Drier conditions are also expected to result in lower flows and lake levels in the Churchill River Basin.

WSA said it will continue monitoring spring conditions, particularly southern Alberta's snowpack. As of late February, snowpack in the Alberta prairie portion of the basin ranged from below normal to near normal.

Kindersley council approves \$426K in payments

Kindersley town council approved more than \$426,000 in payments during its regular meeting March 9.

Council accepted accounts payable totalling \$426,595.42, along with payroll of \$87,368.55.

Council also approved the minutes of its Feb. 23 regular meeting and adopted the agenda as presented. No conflicts of interest were declared.

An RCMP report for February and minutes from the West Regional Landfill Inc. board meeting held

Dec. 10, 2025 were accepted and filed through the consent agenda.

Earlier in the meeting, council moved into a confidential in-camera session to discuss matters related to economic interests and advice from officials before reconvening later in the evening.

Mayor Ken Francis and councillors Rob Anderson, Randy Ervine, Shaun Henry and Kevin Martin were present, along with Deputy Mayor Warren Schafer.

Council adjourned the meeting at 7:16 p.m.



RCMP pull 47 drivers off northern Sask roads during traffic blitz

Saskatchewan RCMP Traffic Services removed 47 drivers from the road during a five-day traffic safety initiative in northern Saskatchewan, including 25 drivers who had drugs in their system.

The latest enforcement initiative took place from March 4 to 8 in the La Ronge detachment area.

Officers from Yorkton RCMP Combined Traffic Services Saskatchewan and Saskatoon RCMP CTSS gathered in La Ronge to target impaired driving and reinforce safe driving practices.

Police conducted patrols on March 4 and 8 while travelling to and from the area. On March 5, officers set up two check stops on Highway 102 south of Highway 915 and patrolled Stanley Mission. On March 6, they patrolled the new all-weather road between La

Ronge and Wollaston Lake, as well as the Wollaston Lake community. On March 7, they patrolled La Ronge and the communities between La Ronge and Stanley Mission.

Over the five days, officers checked 275 drivers for impairment.

As a result, police suspended three licences for alcohol consumption before driving, 25 for drug consumption before driving and 16 for driving without a valid licence.

Police also charged two drivers with operating a vehicle while impaired by alcohol and one driver with refusing to provide a breath sample.

Officers issued 204 warnings and 181 tickets. RCMP said about one-third of the tickets were for speeding.

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Upcoming EVENTS

EATONIA

- Every Thursday from 11:30 AM -1:30 PM come to the Eatonia Library for puzzles, visiting and grab your books for the week!
- The Lions Club meets on the last Tuesday of each month.
- The Rec Board meets the second Monday of each month 7:00 PM at the Town Office.
- Town Council meet the second Tuesday of each month 7:00 PM at the Town Office.

ESTON

SATURDAY, APRIL 11

- Eston 95 Lions present Vegas Vendetta - A Murder Mystery Dinner 5:30 PM Happy Hour. 6:30 PM Dinner and Entertainment. Call Shannon 306-962-7611 for tickets and more information.

APRIL 16-19

- Quilt Retreat at the Eston United Church. Call Bonnie 306-962-7440 or Kelly 306-481-6820 for more info.

- Wheatland Centre Potluck Supper fourth Friday of each month 6:00 PM. \$5.00. Bring your own utensils. Coffee & tea provided.
- Wheatland Centre Bingo - 1st & 3rd Thursday of the month 7:00 PM. Regular Bingo plus Bonanza, 50/50 Draw. Must be 14 years of age. Call 306-962-7117 (ask for Linda) for more info.
- Coffee Time "Grounds for Discussion" every Wednesday at the Library 2:00 - 3:00 PM.
- Every Monday - Adult Exercise Program 10:00-11:00 AM at the AGT Community Centre
- Drop in Bowling Sundays 1:00-4:00 PM. \$5 bowling. No need to book, just drop in.

FLAXCOMBE

SATURDAY, APRIL 18

- Flaxcombe's 1st Annual "Make It, Bake It, Grow It" Spring Market is looking for vendors. Please call Montenique at 403-916-5128 for info. Deadline is March 15.
- Pre/Post natal FUN exercises with mom and baby. Led by Stephanie Vandewiele. Call Montenique to register 403-916-5128.

HOOSIER

- Sunday Service Hoosier Community Church 10:30 am at the Community Hall. Contact Joel Hamm 306-460-7056.

KERROBERT

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18

- Pie Day at the Seniors Hall 2:00-3:00 PM. \$5/piece.

SATURDAY, MARCH 21

- Ducks Unlimited Annual Banquet & Fundraiser. \$50/person. Contact Jim 306-834-5156 or Richard 306-834-7676.

FRIDAY, APRIL 10

- Kinsmen Comedy Night Fundraiser. \$25/person. Doors open 7:00 PM. Contact Darin for more info. Proceeds will go towards a new playground for the poolside park.

- MS Support Group at Kerrobert Health Centre Meeting Room every 3rd Saturday 2:00-4:00 PM. Contact Gail Wiebe for more information 306-834-7068.
- Walk This Way Group Tuesdays & Thursdays 9:30-11:30 AM
- Walk This Way with Lao Thursdays at the PCC from 10:30 - 11:30 AM. Everyone is welcome and it's FREE.
- Shuffle Club Mondays at the PCC 1:30-3:00 PM

KINDERSLEY

THURSDAY, MARCH 19

- Great Plains College Open House 5:30-7:30 PM at 514 Main Street. Stop and learn about the programs and student life offered at the Kindersley Campus. To learn more about the event contact Mackenzie at 306-778-5480 or email: mackenziev@greatplainscollege.ca

SATURDAY, MARCH 28

- Kindersley Screen Arts presents "Hamnet" 4:00 PM at Sunset Theatre. \$10 cash at the door. Wine and beer available for purchase. Sponsored by Speedy Auto Glass.

SATURDAY, APRIL 25

- Kindersley Screen Arts presents "Song Sung Blue" 4:00 PM at Sunset Theatre. \$10 cash at the door. Wine and beer available for purchase. Sponsored by Speedy Auto Glass.

- Parkinson's Support Group Meetings are held the second Wednesday of the month 1:30 PM at 401 - 4th Ave West (New Life Church). Everyone welcome! For more info call Nancy at 306-463-4514.

- Monday Night Jam Sessions at the Norman Ritchie Community Centre. Doors open at 6:30 to set-up, then the fun begins at 7-11 PM. Call Keith 306-460-8633.

- Interested in a support group for weight management? TOPS meetings; every Monday at 6:00 PM in the Kindersley Senior Centre OR contact Jill at 306-463-4210.

- Pickleball meets Sunday & Wednesday evenings 7:00 PM at Elizabeth School for the indoor season. Cost is \$50 for the season or \$5 drop in. Our club is a part of Pathway To Wellness. More info call Teresa Knight 306-460-7304.

- Fit Fighter Group Class. Helping individuals with Parkinson Disease, Fibromyalgia, MS, Arthritis and mobility issues. Monday, Wednesday, Friday 1:00 PM at Anytime Fitness. Call Karen 463-3607 for more info.

- 365 Kindersley Air Cadets meet Thursday evenings at the Kindersley Museum. No charge to be a member, youth ages 12-18, must be a Canadian resident. Contact Ian Kehrer via text at 306-460-0057 or Sheila Kehrer via text 306-604-9044. Come Fly With Us!

- Every Tuesday: Community Badminton 6:30 - 9:00 PM at Westberry School. Everybody welcome.
- Junior Leader Club (ages 10-14 welcome) Two Saturdays each month from 7:00-9:00 PM at the KCF Church 800-12 Avenue East.

LEADER

- Community Walking Club Monday - Thursday 7:00-8:00 PM at Leader Composite School (Use student parking lot door). You must pre-register at the Town Office.
- Community Badminton SUNDAY evenings 6:00-8:00 PM. \$2/ Sunday at the LCS Gymnasium (use student parking lot door). Under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Racquets and shuttles available.

LUSELAND

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18

- Luseland & District Chamber of Commerce presents an on-line workshop: Hiring foreign workers in Saskatchewan. 1:00 PM. For more info or to register, email info@ldchamber.com.

- Luseland & District Chamber of Commerce regular meetings are held on the first Wednesday of every month 7:00 PM at the Luseland Credit Union Community Room, 701 Grand Avenue.
- The Luseland Homecoming Hall will be available for indoor walking on TUESDAY & THURSDAY mornings. Please pick up the key at the Town Office to unlock the door. Silver collection at the door.
- The Luseland Library Art Gallery has a new exhibit featuring the vibrant artwork of Bonnah Busch.

Recurring events at The Luseland Pioneers Club Members

- Monday-Saturday 8:30 AM - Noon, Coffee, Pool, Visiting, Cards
- Cards are played several days of the week
- Third Friday of the month Birthday Lunch at noon
- Exercises 9:00-9:30 Am Monday, Wednesday, Friday

HAVE AN EVENT?
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