

# Ministry of Agriculture



## Annual Report for 2013-14



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# Letters of Transmittal



June 23, 2014

Her Honour, the Honourable Vaughn Solomon Schofield,  
Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan

May it Please Your Honour:

The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to continuing the responsible growth of the province for the people of Saskatchewan, while observing the principles of accountability, transparency and responsible spending.

The 2013-14 Annual Report shows progress towards the commitments that relate to the Ministry as of March 31, 2014.

The initiatives and strategies pursued in 2013-14, and the results achieved, are communicated to the legislature and to the Saskatchewan people through this report. The results that have been achieved in the last fiscal year act as the basis for our initiatives in the next fiscal year and align with the Ministry's long-term strategic plan. Therefore, this report not only demonstrates our responsible spending, but also directs future resource allocation and planning.

As Minister of Agriculture, it is my pleasure to submit the Annual Report for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Stewart'. The signature is stylized and fluid, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Lyle Stewart  
Minister of Agriculture



June 23, 2014

The Honourable Lyle Stewart,  
Minister of Agriculture

Sir:

I have the honour of presenting to you the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture Annual Report for the 12 months ending March 31, 2014.

The Ministry's Annual Report was prepared under my direction in accordance with the Government's Accountability Framework and its system of planning, measuring and reporting. I am ultimately responsible for the financial administration and management control of the Ministry. All key actions, and associated economic or fiscal implications contained in this report are, to the best of my knowledge, accurate and reliable.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alanna Koch', with a stylized, cursive script.

Alanna Koch  
Deputy Minister of Agriculture

## Introduction

This annual report for the Ministry of Agriculture presents the Ministry's results on activities and outcomes for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2014. It reports to the public and elected officials on public commitments made and other key accomplishments of the Ministry.

A renewed vision in the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth – Vision 2020 and Beyond* was introduced in October 2012, and the 2013-14 Annual Report will be presented in relation to the vision and goals that guided the development of the 2013-14 Plan.

Results are provided on publicly committed strategies, actions and performance measures identified in the 2013-14 Plan.

The report also demonstrates progress made on Government commitments as stated in the Government Direction for 2013-14: Balanced Growth, throne speeches and other commitments and activities of the Ministry.

The annual report demonstrates the Ministry's commitment to effective public performance reporting, transparency and accountability to the public. The 2013 Speech from the Throne was delivered on Oct. 23, 2013, and can be found at [www.gov.sk.ca/executive-council/throne-speech](http://www.gov.sk.ca/executive-council/throne-speech).

The government-wide Budget Summary 2013-14: Balanced Growth is available at [www.finance.gov.sk.ca/budget2013-14](http://www.finance.gov.sk.ca/budget2013-14).

The Ministry Plan for 2013-14 is available at [www.finance.gov.sk.ca/PlanningAndReporting/reports](http://www.finance.gov.sk.ca/PlanningAndReporting/reports).

## Alignment with Government's Direction

The Ministry's activities in 2013-14 align with Government's vision and four goals:

### Our Government's Vision

A strong and growing Saskatchewan, the best place in Canada – to live, to work, to start a business, to get an education, to raise a family and to build a life.

### Government's Goals

- Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people.
- Improving our quality of life.
- Making life affordable.
- Delivering responsive and responsible government.

Together, all ministries and agencies support the achievement of Government's four goals and work towards a secure and prosperous Saskatchewan.

# Ministry Overview

The Ministry of Agriculture's mandate is to foster a commercially viable, self-sufficient and sustainable agriculture and food sector. The Ministry encourages farmers, ranchers and communities to develop higher value-added production and processing and promotes sustainable economic development in rural Saskatchewan through better risk management.

Key programs that the Ministry delivered in 2013-14 were:

- Extension services to producers via 10 Regional Offices, seven Satellite Offices and the Agriculture Knowledge Centre (forage, farm business management, livestock, crops, irrigation);
- Business risk management programs (Crop Insurance, AgriStability, AgriInvest);
- Strategic programming through Growing Forward 2 (e.g. Farm Business Development Initiative, Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program, Saskatchewan Agri-Value Initiative, Livestock Traceability Rebate, Market Development Program, Agriculture Awareness Initiative); and
- Research programming (Agriculture Development Fund, Agricultural Demonstration of Practices and Technologies, support for eight Agriculture-Applied Research Management sites in various parts of the province, Strategic Research Program at the University of Saskatchewan and the Western Beef Development Centre).

The Ministry serves the agriculture and value-added sectors of the economy, which includes approximately 33,100 farms and ranches, with sales of more than \$10,000, and generates more than \$12.1 billion in farm cash receipts in Saskatchewan (2013).

The Ministry partners with many organizations in the development and delivery of its programming, such as the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities, the Provincial Council of Agricultural Development and Diversification Boards, and various commodity, marketing and development commissions.

The Ministry budgeted 404.9 full-time equivalents (FTE) to deliver its programs and services, with actual utilization for 2013-14 coming in at 423.5. The overutilization was mainly a result of the delay in transferring livestock inspection services to an industry lead, not-for-profit organization, which was offset by FTE management across the Ministry.

# Progress in 2013 – 14

## Government Goal: Growth

### STRATEGY – ENHANCED LONG-TERM COMPETITIVENESS AND SUSTAINABILITY OF THE INDUSTRY

#### *Key Actions & Results*

Targeted investment in infrastructure, science and innovation.

#### *Develop and implement programs to support the goals of the federal-provincial Growing Forward 2 Policy Framework.*

- Growing Forward 2 (GF2) provides \$388 million over five years for strategic initiatives, \$25 million per year higher than the first Growing Forward Policy Framework. In 2013-14, Saskatchewan provided \$67.5 million of programming and investment to increase the competitiveness of the agriculture sector.
- Saskatchewan developed eight programming areas for GF2:
  - Agriculture Awareness Initiatives;
  - Agriculture Innovation, Research and Technology Transfer;
  - Environment;
  - Farm Business Management;
  - Food Safety, Plant and Animal Health;
  - Rural Water Infrastructure;
  - Trade and Market Development; and
  - Value-Added Business Development.
- These program areas were created in consultation with stakeholders. They are designed to position the agriculture sector to achieve its full potential and higher levels of productivity and profitability in the future.
- Some programs developed to support the goals of the federal-provincial GF2 policy framework include:
  - Agriculture Awareness Initiative: Assists industry in raising awareness of the important role agriculture plays in the economy and society.
  - Market Development Program: Helps organizations and businesses pursue new marketing and trade opportunities.
  - Agricultural Operator Program: Assists in training students to work on grain and livestock farms to help address labour issues.
  - Invasive Plant Management Program: Increases awareness of invasive plants in municipalities and assists in developing multi-jurisdiction management plans for these problem species.

- Youth Leadership and Mentorship Program: Provides funding to industry associations in Saskatchewan to co-ordinate and support mentorships between young producers and industry leaders.
- Invasive Plant Control Program: Assists producers, rural municipalities, First Nation bands and other stakeholders to control Prohibited Weeds listed in *The Weed Control Act* and specific noxious weeds identified as persistent and problematic invasive plants such as leafy spurge, yellow toadflax, Russian knapweed and common tansy.
- Provincial Rat Eradication Program: Promotes uniformity and consistency in rat control methods towards the eradication of rats in Saskatchewan. The Ministry provides funding for the program to the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) through the Agricultural Fieldworker Policy. SARM administers the program and disburses grants to rural municipalities for rat control activities. Total funding of the program is \$1 million per year. During 2013-14, 276 RMs participated in the program (93%). The average grant amount was \$3,300 per RM.
- The Industry Organization Development Fund: Helps Saskatchewan producer associations, commissions and boards address their need for technology transfer, communication and organizational development.

#### *Invest in wheat genomic research and the Global Institute for Food Security.*

- The Ministry continues to fund a number of very robust projects related to wheat genomics. Most recently, \$2.28 million in funding was committed to a project on "Filling Gaps in Wheat Cultivar Development with Translational Research." This project is being led by Dr. Richard Cuthbert at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's (AAFC) Semi-Arid Prairie Agriculture Research Centre in Swift Current and Dr. Curtis Pozniak from the Crop Development Centre (CDC) at the University of Saskatchewan. An equivalent amount of funding is being provided for this project by the industry.
- Along with the CDC, AAFC and National Research Council, the Ministry continues to be an active participant in establishing the strategic role and future direction of the Canadian Wheat Alliance partnership.

- In 2013-14, the Ministry contributed \$3 million towards operational costs at the Global Institute for Food Security (GIFS). In 2013-14, GIFS approved funding for three multi-disciplinary research projects that focused on adding value to crops and crop products that have producer, consumer and stakeholder benefits and contribute to nutrition security.

***Develop strategies to promote and facilitate innovation within the sector.***

- The Ministry continues to value the leadership and vision of the Agriculture Development Fund Advisory Committee as it seeks opportunities to achieve research outcomes and to support and promote innovation within the sector.
- As an example of the facilitation of innovation, under GF2, the Agriculture-Applied Research Management (Agri-ARM) sites now have funding available to them to invest in much-needed infrastructure that will allow the sites to operate even more effectively in the future. For instance, Western Applied Research Corporation is using this funding to purchase a small plot combine.
- The Ministry has continued to look for ways to collaborate more closely with our funding partners. In 2013-14, funding partners like Western Grains Research Foundation, Saskatchewan Pulse Growers and Saskatchewan Canola Development Commission contributed \$5.5 million to research projects under the Agriculture Development Fund (ADF).
- In 2013-14, the Ministry developed an online research application tool that will simplify the application process for research proposals through the ADF. This online tool allows researchers to spend more time in their labs and on the fields and less time completing administrative tasks.

***Develop a new five-year research plan for Strategic Research Program Chairs at the University of Saskatchewan and the Western Beef Development Centre.***

- In 2013-14, the Ministry worked with its Strategic Research Program (SRP) Chairs at the University of Saskatchewan to complete new five-year research plans. These plans are forward-looking and provide direction which will help assure that research conducted continues to be relevant to the needs and opportunities of the Saskatchewan agriculture industry. Furthermore, in response to needs identified by industry, a new Chair in Forage Crops Breeding has recently been created and filled.
- The Ministry will continue to work to develop new research plans with SRP Chairs at the Western Beef Development Centre (WBDC).

***Invest in irrigation and rural water infrastructure.***

- The 2013 Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program (FRWIP) was created under GF2. The program helps farmers, ranchers, First Nation bands, rural municipalities and irrigation districts develop long-term, reliable sources of water and the related infrastructure necessary to support their agricultural businesses.

Enhancements to the program include:

- An agricultural business development component for intensive livestock and horticultural facilities;
- Adding value-added businesses and non-district irrigators as eligible applicants to the program;
- Well decommissioning;
- Well head protection;
- Relocation of livestock watering facilities; and
- Non-district irrigation development.

The 2013 program included four components:

1. On-Farm;
2. Community Wells;
3. Agricultural Business Development; and
4. Irrigation District infill.

In 2013-14 there were 752 applications for project investments totalling \$44.1 million, with program payments and commitments totalling \$24.4 million.

- Under FRWIP, 7,750 acres of infill capacity has been constructed in irrigation districts around Lake Diefenbaker since 2011. This brings infill capacity to 12,750 acres. Producers have added a total of approximately 7,000 acres of on-farm irrigation systems in these districts since 2009.

***Build and implement sector strategies in the crops, livestock and value-added areas that increase revenues and exports for Saskatchewan, and contribute to the benefits of growing demand for food, feed, fuel and fibre.***

- The **Value-Added Strategy** seeks to capture economic value beyond primary production through value-added processing and innovation. The focus of the value-added strategy is adding value to Saskatchewan crops, livestock and by-products. The intent is to attract investment, develop new infrastructure and increase agriculture's contribution to the provincial GDP. The implementation of the strategy aims to increase value-added revenue by approximately 40 per cent to \$6 billion in 2020.

Areas of Focus:

- Trade and Market Development;
- Investment Attraction;
- Competitiveness; and
- Research and Commercialization.

- The **Crop Strategy** is built on the existing strengths and advantages of the sector, with its goal to create a vibrant and prosperous Saskatchewan crops sector that contributes to and benefits from the growing local and global demand for food, feed, fuel and fibre.

The Crop Strategy will:

- Build on successes;
- Position Saskatchewan on the cutting edge of agriculture technology;
- Increase the influence of Saskatchewan’s research community;
- Increase the influence of Saskatchewan in developing policy and programming at the national level; and
- Result in increased investment attraction to Saskatchewan.

The Crop Strategy is built on three pillars:

1. Innovation and Science;
2. Leadership and Investment; and
3. Building on Strengths – Moving Crops to the Next level.

- One of the major additions to the strategy has been the introduction of the technology transfer campaign titled “Cropping for Success”. It will emphasize the importance of adopting the best crop management, production and protection practices in all field and horticultural crops in Saskatchewan that will result in increased and profitable crop production.
- The **Livestock Strategy** guides policies, programs and services to support growth in Saskatchewan’s livestock sector. Livestock production helps to diversify the agriculture economy and is an important market for forage and feed grains produced in the province. A target of increasing livestock farm cash receipts by 25 per cent, to exceed \$2 billion by 2020, has been set to meet the goal established in the Plan for Growth.

Areas of Focus:

- Competitiveness;
- Safeguards; and
- Market Expansion.

- The **Irrigation Strategy** was initiated by the Ministry in 2013-14. Saskatchewan’s Irrigation Strategy is an action item under the Saskatchewan Water Security Agency’s 25 Year Saskatchewan Water Security Plan with the Ministry of Agriculture designated as the lead agency.

The strategy is being built around four main themes:

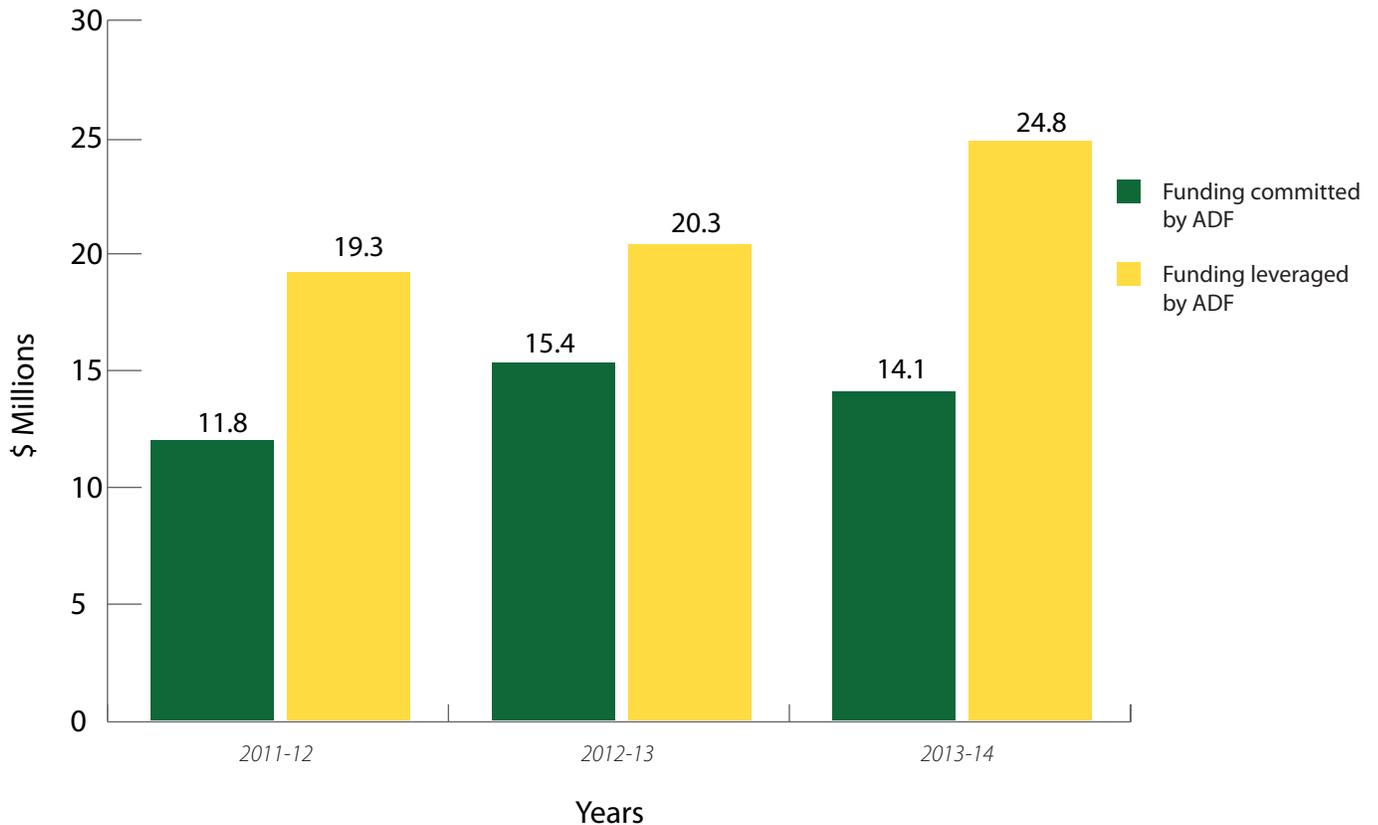
1. Enhanced returns from existing irrigation;
2. Irrigation expansion (infill and non-district irrigation);
3. Infrastructure sustainability; and
4. Long-term growth.

The Ministry’s strategies will contribute to the Saskatchewan Plan for Growth 2020 targets of:

- Increasing crop production by 10 million tonnes;
- Increasing exports of agriculture and food products from \$10 billion to \$15 billion;
- Increasing value-added production; and
- Establishing Saskatchewan as an international leader in biosciences.

## Performance Measure & Results

Amount of industry investment leveraged (cash and in-kind) by Ministry research and development funding.



Source: Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture

The agriculture sector continues to receive significant benefits from the Government's commitment to invest in research infrastructure, intellectual capacity and research projects. Ministry-supported research activities since 1971 have led to the development of more than 400 new crop varieties for Saskatchewan producers.

The Ministry's ADF is focused on supporting the industry's research priorities to ensure Saskatchewan producers have access to new and innovative knowledge and technologies.

The Ministry has established this measure to monitor its progress in supporting the research priorities of the agricultural industry. This measure also demonstrates the

collaboration and coordination of research activities across various funding organizations present in the Province.

There is no minimum or maximum leverage for an individual project. For some there may be zero leverage due to the nature of the research and the ability of the industry to support the research. Conversely, for other multi-partnered projects there may be multi-fold leverage which, due to the nature of the research, could vary from one year to another. The Ministry is optimistic that over the next four years, on average, ADF investment (research projects) will be able to leverage 75 per cent funding (cash and in-kind) from other sources.

## STRATEGY – ENHANCED TRADE ADVOCACY

### Key Actions & Results

Support industry to enhance trade in priority markets.

#### *Implement strategies and policies in international market development and investment attraction.*

- In 2013-14, the Ministry of Agriculture developed two overarching strategies on trade for meeting the province's Growth Plan target of \$15 billion in agriculture exports by 2020. The first strategic direction is titled "Increasing Industry Capacity and Addressing Long Term Constraints". The second is titled "Strategically Focused Off-Shore Market Development" and is focused on increasing engagement in key off-shore markets. It should be noted the United States is still a priority market, but it is recognized that new incremental market development activities should be focused off-shore, as industry is already familiar with marketing in the U.S. and has close contacts.

#### *Pursue Saskatchewan's trade policy objectives through international and internal dispute settlement proceedings and day-to-day trade policy advocacy.*

- In 2013-14, the Ministry undertook U.S. Country of Origin Labelling (COOL) trade advocacy efforts in Colorado, North Dakota and Minneapolis and participated in advocacy visits to Chicago and North Carolina.
- The Ministry also organized and participated in trade advocacy efforts at the Pacific North West Economic Region (PNWER) Agriculture Working Group meeting in Anchorage, Alaska and two State and Agriculture Rural Leaders (SARL) Legislative Agriculture Chair (LAC) Summits in Vancouver and Oklahoma City.
- The Ministry hosted the Tri-National Agriculture Accord.
- In coordination with Intergovernmental Affairs (IA), the Ministry held industry consultations on the Canada-Europe Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CETA) and supported IA's Agreement on Internal Trade challenge of Quebec regulations restricting sales of imitation dairy products.

### *Build industry's capacity to promote Saskatchewan agricultural exports in key markets.*

- In 2013-14, the Ministry launched the GF2 Market Development Program to support the development of new domestic and international agricultural markets.
- The Ministry also hosted a Trade Summit to build industry capacity and facilitate connections with Canadian trade commissioners stationed in key markets.
- There were two Minister-led trade missions that included industry participation in 2013-14. The first mission was to the U.S., and included market development/investment promotion meetings in Colorado and Minnesota. The second included market development and investment promotion activities in India, Dubai and Morocco.

### Performance Measure & Results

Percentage of Government trade missions that promote agriculture in Saskatchewan.

In 2013-14, 50 per cent of Government trade missions promoted agriculture, including the Premier's trade mission to Asia; the Minister's missions to Asia/North Africa (India, Dubai and Morocco) and the United States. Fifty per cent of the 2012-13 Government trade missions promoted agriculture.

*Source: Government of Saskatchewan*

Saskatchewan's agriculture industry is highly dependent on export markets. In 2013, Saskatchewan agricultural exports totalled a record \$11.7 billion, including exports of more than \$100 million to 18 different countries.

Competition for critical and developing international markets is intense. Government trade missions, including missions focused on market development, market access and trade policy, or a combination of all three, are important for maintaining and building on the province's exports.

Trade missions incorporating market development activities support industry by promoting Saskatchewan agriculture's strengths, in addition to building and strengthening the industry's reputation for consistent, high-quality, safe products. Trade missions incorporating market access and trade policy activities help to maintain and secure better market access. Trade missions also further Saskatchewan's agriculture interests on regulatory matters and influence the trade policy of the federal government and key trade partners.

The Ministry of Agriculture supports trade missions through the development of professional, high-quality promotional material and collaborative work with other ministries, industry, provinces and the federal government in advance of, as part of, and in follow-up to trade missions. Other support activities include providing trade statistics, background information, technical support and collaborating on messaging.

The percentage of government trade missions that incorporate agriculture provides a proxy measure of the Ministry's market development, market access and trade policy activities. Ministry officials will engage with other ministries to ensure government trade missions include a focus on agriculture.

## STRATEGY – ENHANCED CLIENT SERVICE

### *Key Actions & Results*

Efficiently develop and deliver effective programs and services.

*Ensure farmers, ranchers and industry have access to research, production and business information, risk management tools and Ministry services.*

### **Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation**

- The Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC) continues to work with producers to deliver effective business risk management programs, including AgriStability, Crop Insurance and the Wildlife Damage Compensation Program. The newest program available to producers through SCIC is the Western Livestock Price Insurance Program. It is a unique partnership between the western provinces and the federal government, providing producers with the opportunity to purchase market price protection on cattle and hogs.

### **Regional Services**

- The Regional Services Branch delivers extension services to farmers, ranchers and industry through 10 Regional Offices, seven Satellite Offices and the Agriculture Knowledge Center. Specialist resources are available in the areas of crops, forage, livestock and farm business management and an emphasis is placed on providing quality information and service and working closely with industry partners and the rest of the Ministry.

- Services and information were provided to more than 23,300 clients during 2013-14, by telephone, email, office visits and farm/business visits.
- Specialists organized or partnered in organizing 153 extension events attended by approximately 8,200 producers and industry representatives. The Crop Diagnostic Schools, attended by more than 300 industry representatives and producers in four separate schools, was one of many very successful initiatives.
- Regional and provincial specialists also provided more than 350 presentations and worked on 83 demonstrations and applied research projects.
- Regional Offices also provide information to farmers and ranchers through weekly newspaper columns, radio and television, and the Stay Connected regional electronic newsletters, with approximately 5,175 subscribers.
- The Ministry provided weekly crop reports during the growing season to keep the agriculture industry updated on crop progress and issues. The success of this service relies on a network of approximately 230 volunteer crop reporters from throughout the province.

### **Farm and Value-Added Business Development Programming**

- The Farm Business Development Initiative (FBDI), which was introduced under Growing Forward, is continuing with some modifications under GF2.
- In 2013-14, 757 applicants were approved for funding totaling \$2,804,929.
- FBDI provides funding for training or consulting in eight management areas so that farmers and ranchers may strategically enhance their farm business management skills.

### **Value-Added Services**

- The Value Added Unit, which includes three Provincial Agribusiness Specialists, was created June 1, 2013, to develop and implement activities that will expand the value-added agriculture sector in the province.
- The unit developed the Agriculture Value-Added Strategy, which outlines activities to achieve growing the total revenue of the value-added sector to \$6 billion by 2020. The strategy identifies opportunities, barriers to growth and what is needed to create a competitive environment that will attract investment.
- The unit provided support to agribusiness clients through expeditor (path-finding) services, providing tours for delegations and profiling businesses.

## Environmental Farm Planning

- Under GF2, a new, more streamlined Agri-Environmental Group Plans (AEGP) program was launched by aligning it with the Watershed Associations, groups which were already operating in Saskatchewan. This change resulted in decreased AEGPs in the province, 13 compared to the previous 27, while at the same time increasing the agricultural regions of the province served by the program, 90 per cent compared to the previous 78 per cent.

## Other Environmental Programming

- In 2013, the Ministry entered into a contract with the Provincial Council of Agriculture, Development and Diversification Boards (PCAB) to continue the delivery of the Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) Program for the year. Since the start of the EFP program in 2005, more than 12,000 EFPs have been developed in Saskatchewan.

## Crops and Irrigation

- Provincial specialists and irrigation agrologists made several presentations to growers during Crops Week and CropSphere in January, in addition to numerous presentations at Ministry and industry grower/agronomy meetings and field days throughout the year, around the province.
- The Crops and Irrigation Branch completed several pest surveys during the 2013 crop season. These included: Bertha Armyworm; Diamondback moth; Pea leaf weevil; Grasshopper; Wheat midge; Cabbage seedpod weevil; Pea disease; Canola disease; Canola clubroot; Fusarium Head; Cereal leaf spot; and Lentil disease.
- During 2013-14, the Crop Protection Lab processed 371 disease, 15 insect ID, 28 weed ID, 206 Fusarium Head Blight, 290 Herbicide resistance, 338 Dutch Elm Disease and 122 Canola Clubroot samples.
- The Bee Lab processed 333 bee samples for tracheal mite, 279 for Varroa mites and 279 for Nosema disease.
- The Crops and Irrigation Branch also administers the pesticide licensing responsibilities under the Pest Control Products Regulations. The program issued 1,837 pesticide applicator licenses, 422 pesticide service licenses and 392 pesticide vendor licenses.
- The Irrigation Development Unit investigated 4,563 hectares of lands to assess the potential for irrigation development and issued 45 Irrigation Certificates.

## Financial Programs

- The Ministry began delivering the Farm Stewardship Program (FSP) to producers as of April 1, 2013. This program provides funding to producers to adopt beneficial management practices (BMPs) on their farming operation to help to maintain or improve the quality of soil, water, air or biodiversity resources. The program received 128 applications and paid out \$225,122.
- A new program, Saskatchewan Lean Improvements in Manufacturing (SLIM), was developed to assist agribusinesses involved in value-added processing of agricultural products to adopt best practices, new technologies and state-of-the-art processes that stimulate improvements in productivity and efficiency. The program received 15 infrastructure applications and paid out \$786,666.
- The Food Safety Systems Program (FSSP), a new program in 2013-14, assists Saskatchewan non-federally registered meat slaughter and meat processing facilities in maintaining and enhancing food safety. The program received 12 facility modification applications and paid out \$303,194.
- The On-Farm Food Safety Implementation Program (OFFS) is for provincial commodity groups, or their designates, to apply for funding to assist them in provincial level implementation efforts of their nationally recognized OFFS systems. This includes delivery of training and promotional activities, as well as delivery of funding for producer level implementation. The program funded seven commodity organizations and paid out \$374,500.
- The ongoing Livestock Traceability Rebate Program covers up to 70 per cent of eligible costs for the purchase and/or lease of traceability technologies. The program approved 52 applications and paid out \$168,468.

### *Develop and implement innovative ways of offering branch and Ministry services.*

- The Ministry continued to expand the use of webinars to provide farmers and ranchers with agricultural information in the most convenient way possible. There were 24 webinars offered in 2013-14, on topics such as cattle marketing strategies, soybeans, economics of crop rotations, forage weed control, communication and farm stress, non-bloating legumes and agricultural programs. Uptake was strong with attendance exceeding 100 participants in some webinars.
- Provincial specialists developed videos on Bertha army worm scouting, pruning greenhouse tomatoes and cucumbers and pruning fruit trees, which are available on the Ministry website.

- An online crop reporting option was introduced for the Ministry's Crop Report in 2013, allowing reporters to submit their reports by either computer or smart phone. Seventy-six crop reporters signed up for the online option, including just about all the new crop reporters for 2013. Feedback from crop reporters was very favourable, both from the perspective of convenience and ease-of-use.
- The Crops and Irrigation Branch collaborated with Industry in making 'Driftwatch' available for Saskatchewan producers. This software program assists in identifying drift sensitive agricultural areas such as beehives, orchards and organic farms.
- Financial Programs Branch operated a toll-free enquiry line that received 2,887 calls during 2013-14, which provided information about various Ministry programs.
- Livestock inspection services were transferred to Livestock Services of Saskatchewan Inc. (LSS), a newly formed not-for-profit company. LSS was formed by the industry groups that utilize livestock inspection services to prove ownership in livestock transactions. The transfer was effective Jan. 1, 2014. In order to achieve a seamless and successful transition, the government of Saskatchewan will provide financial support to LSS for the next three to five years.
- Irrigation operation and maintenance responsibilities, were transferred to the Luck Lake and Riverhurst Irrigation Districts. The Ministry will continue to provide engineering technical support to the irrigation districts.

#### ***Review and reform legislation, regulation, policy and services.***

- In 2013-14, the Ministry enhanced regulatory transparency and accountability with the continued use of a five-year regulatory review framework. The framework, which annually identifies regulations requiring review, affirms the Ministry's commitment to ensuring that regulations are current, responsive to the needs of industry and deliver effective programs, while at the same time not placing an unreasonable regulatory burden on stakeholders. The Ministry reviewed 45 sets of regulations this year as part of the five-year review cycle.
- The timely review of regulations allows the Ministry to identify regulations that are no longer relevant or required for operational purposes. To that end, in 2013-14, the Ministry repealed nine sets of regulations which were identified as redundant. The Ministry also increased the use of automatic expiry dates for regulations where programs have specific end dates. This reduces the need for the formal repeal process, saving time and reducing redundancy. The Ministry had four sets of regulations that auto expired in 2013-14.
- Four sets of regulatory amendments in 2013-14 allowed for enhancements to the Livestock Loan Guarantee Program. Amendments to the Cattle Feeder Association Loan Guarantee Regulations, Cattle Breeder Association Loan Guarantee Regulations, Bison Feeder Association Loan Guarantee Regulations and Bison Breeder Association Loan Guarantee Regulations, allowed for an increase in loan limits, and also provide for the interprovincial movement of cattle enrolled under the feeder and breeder options. This ensured that the program was competitive and responsive to producers' needs.

#### **Performance Measure & Results**

Percentage of clients satisfied with programs and services.

2012 Client Services Survey: A total of 1,002 surveys were completed. According to the survey, 66 per cent of producers surveyed were satisfied with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture.

2008 Client Services Survey: A total of 753 producers were surveyed in March 2008. According to the survey, 39 per cent of producers who have accessed Saskatchewan Agriculture programs and services answered either satisfied or completely satisfied to the following question:

How would you rate your overall satisfaction with Saskatchewan Agriculture service delivery, using a five point scale where one means not satisfied at all and five means completely satisfied?

The next client satisfaction survey is planned for 2015.

*Source: Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture*

This measure is intended to assess the percentage of clients satisfied with the programs and services delivered by the Ministry.

The Ministry offers many programs and services designed to assist farmers and ranchers, including a wide variety of publications (both print and electronic), customer service telephone lines, specialist services and program development.

Technological advancements in areas such as social media, mobile phones, tablets and online transacting are happening at a rapid pace. As technology changes, the Ministry must update its service and information delivery systems to ensure clients' needs are being met, and programs and services are supportive of their overall agricultural operations.

A formal survey of client experiences with Ministry programs and services took place in 2012. The survey provides a performance indicator that will help Ministry officials gauge customer service and satisfaction, and will provide a benchmark for future years. The Ministry engaged a professional research firm in order to ensure accurate and reliable data was obtained.

## **Survey objectives**

The objectives of the client services survey were to provide information to the Ministry in order to:

- ⇒ Understand which programs and services are being utilized by the farming community, and then determine if these services are meeting client needs;
- ⇒ Understand how technologically advanced farm households are in Saskatchewan and understand which methods of communication they prefer;
- ⇒ Gain insight concerning producers' overall opinion of the Ministry service delivery and then evaluate current Ministry performance with information from the 2008 survey;
- ⇒ Provide information that will help the Ministry and the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation make decisions to achieve the goal of enhanced client service and experience; and
- ⇒ Gain information concerning recent changes in farming practices as a result of funding or information received from the Ministry.

# Government Goal: Improving our quality of life

## STRATEGY – IMPROVED PUBLIC PERCEPTION OF AGRICULTURE

### *Key Actions & Results*

Partner to promote the benefits of agriculture.

*Implement a comprehensive strategy to enhance the awareness of agriculture as a solution provider, environmental stewards of land and livestock, producer of safe and healthy food, economic engine and foundation for future opportunity.*

- In September 2013, the Ministry held a follow-up to its Agriculture Awareness Summit where stakeholders provided feedback on and support for the Ministry's draft agriculture awareness strategy.

The strategy focuses on four main pillars:

- Industry organization and engagement;
- Youth and education;
- Enterprise efforts to promote agriculture in Saskatchewan; and
- Advancing agriculture awareness nationally.
- Under GF2, the Ministry developed and delivered the Agriculture Awareness Initiative Program in support of Saskatchewan-based agriculture and education, stakeholders' communications, training and resource development activities. To date, almost \$200,000 in funding has been approved to: research/develop/deliver educational resources and experiences; create and enhance agricultural exhibits and interpretive centers; and develop and deliver professional development and training opportunities.

*Partner with stakeholders to provide enhanced education programming and training.*

- In partnership with Lakeland College and Parkland Regional College, the Ministry facilitated the development of the Seeding pilot module of the Agricultural Operators Program, a hands-on, skills-training program for people with little or no agricultural experience. The pilot was delivered by Parkland Regional College and additional modules will be developed and delivered in 2014-15.

- The Ministry hosted two stakeholder briefings with the Ministry of Education to provide information on the new high school science curriculum and to identify opportunities to create aligned agricultural teaching and learning resources.
- The Ministry partnered with industry stakeholders to host a pizza farm project in Yorkton. The objective was to teach children that the ingredients to make a pizza include crops and livestock. School children participated in the seeding and harvesting of plots of plants used in a pizza.
- The Ministry continues to work with the Ministry of Education to promote and administer the Green Certificate Program, an apprenticeship-style, on farm-skills training program available for high school credit.

*Identify and promote opportunities for youth in agriculture.*

- The Ministry published ThinkAG, an opportunity catalogue profiling the education and career paths of six young people working in the province's agriculture sector. The catalogue, which also provided salary information, was mailed to all Saskatchewan high schools as part of youth themed Agriculture Month, in October 2013.
- Under GF2, the Ministry developed and delivered the Youth Leadership and Mentorship program in support of producer organizations' efforts to build leadership capacity in the sector.
- The Ministry continues to work with the Saskatchewan 4-H Council through its financial contribution of \$300,000, almost \$100,000 of in-kind support and membership on its board of directors, to provide leadership opportunities to Saskatchewan youth.
- The Ministry's Youth Advisory Committee met four times in 2013-14 to provide valuable recommendations regarding Ministry programming.

### **Performance Measure & Results**

*Public understanding of agriculture as measured by the percentage of Saskatchewan residents with a positive perception of agriculture.*

In both 2013 and 2014, the Ministry conducted Agriculture Awareness Polls where 801 Saskatchewan respondents, representative of the province by gender, age and region, completed 10 questions on their perception of agriculture, through omnibus polling.

In the 2013 poll, 89 per cent and in the 2014 poll, 87 per cent of Saskatchewan people agree or strongly agree with the following statement: I have a positive perception of Saskatchewan agriculture.

*Source: Insightrix Research Inc.*

This measure is intended to assess the percentage of Saskatchewan residents who have a positive perception of agriculture.

Agriculture has, and will continue to play, a critical role in Saskatchewan's growth and identity. Agriculture is a progressive, modern and market-driven industry, yet the public does not fully appreciate the economic, environmental and social benefits it provides.

The average citizen is removed from direct food production. Often, it is sensational media stories that influence the public's opinion of the agriculture industry and our food supply. As a result, the public is liable to be exposed to information that may be erroneous, inaccurate, fabricated or biased.

The Ministry of Agriculture is working to provide the public with information about the importance, relevance and sustainability of the province's agricultural industry in order to improve the public understanding of agriculture related issues. Efforts directed at youth are intended to provide education on the science of agriculture as well as the multitude of diverse career opportunities the sector offers.

The 2013 poll established a very high baseline of Saskatchewan people's perception of agriculture. The 2014 poll indicated an increase in the public's perception of agriculture's role in the economy and the importance of teaching agriculture in schools. All other responses were down slightly, demonstrating the importance of ongoing education about the economic, environmental and social contributions of the agriculture sector, as well as the variety of career options available to the province's youth.

Another poll of Saskatchewan residents' perceptions about agriculture will take place in 2015. This annual poll continues to provide the Ministry with an updated understanding of the public's perceptions of agriculture and helps guide the next steps required in its agricultural awareness strategy. The Ministry will engage a professional research firm in order to ensure accurate and reliable data is obtained.

# Financial Overview

## Expenses:

During 2013-14, the Ministry of Agriculture incurred expenses of \$391.4 million, which is \$15.5 million under the original expense budget of \$406.9 million. Reductions in expenditures consisted of a \$12.1 million reduction in Growing Forward 2 expenses; \$8.2 million in operational savings realized across the Ministry; and \$1.3 million for reduced Industry Assistance Grant spending.

Offsetting these expenditure reductions were an additional \$4.5 million to fund programs under Business Risk Management: primarily Crop Insurance Premiums and AgriInvest partially offset by AgriStability, \$1 million in Research and Technology spending and \$0.6 million to fund the final Livestock Services Revolving Fund accumulated deficit and Livestock Services Saskatchewan subsidy.

The revised budget includes supplementary estimates of \$31 million for AgriStability to offset the funds frozen from a late adjustment in 2012-13.

The following table provides a summary of expenses::

	<b>Original Budget</b> (\$000's)	<b>Revised Budget</b> (\$000's)	<b>Actual</b> (\$000's)
Personal Services	26,173	26,173	23,975
Supplier and Other Payments	20,034	20,034	16,443
Transfers to Individuals	270,905	301,905	258,477
Transfers for Public Services	87,642	87,642	90,151
Amortization Expense	2,106	2,106	2,317
<b>Total</b>	<b>406,860</b>	<b>437,860</b>	<b>391,363</b>

## Revenue:

In 2013-14, the Ministry collected \$137.9 million in revenue; up \$5.6 million from the Budget Estimate of \$132.3 million. The increased revenue is primarily attributed to a \$10 million unbudgeted dividend from the Agricultural Credit Corporation of Saskatchewan, \$6.4 million in additional land sales, an unbudgeted \$1.4 million repayment under the SaskBio program and a \$1 million increase in the return of surplus funds from the Pastures Revolving Fund. There was also a \$1.5 million refund of prior year payables primarily the result of an over accrual of crop insurance premiums at March 31, 2013.

Offsetting these increased revenues is a reduction in federal funding under Growing Forward 2 of \$9.1 million, decreased agricultural lease revenue of \$5.4 million due to increased land sales and fewer agricultural leases, a \$0.2 million decrease in licenses and permits as well as a \$0.1 million reduction in irrigation services.

## Full Time Equivalents (FTEs):

The Ministry budgeted 392.4 FTEs to deliver its programs and services, with actual utilization for 2013-14 coming in at 423.5. The overutilization was mainly the result of a delay in transferring the brand inspection services to industry partially offset by FTE management across the Ministry.

# 2013-14 Financial Schedules

	(in thousands of dollars)				Notes
	2012-13 Actuals	2013-14 Estimates	2013-14 Actuals	Variance over (under)	
<b>Revenue</b>					
Land Revenue:					
Crown Land Sales	\$ 28,094	\$ 19,680	\$ 26,114	\$ 6,434	1
Rent and Penalty on Land Leases	\$ 27,547	\$ 35,813	\$ 30,376	\$ (5,437)	2
Land Licenses and Permits	\$ 372	\$ 450	\$ 510	\$ 60	3
Interest	\$ 42	\$ 30	\$ 45	\$ 15	
Receipts from Federal Government	\$ 58,598	\$ 71,920	\$ 62,810	\$ (9,110)	4
Privileges, Licenses and Permits	\$ 214	\$ 354	\$ 185	\$ (169)	5
Sales, Services and Service Fees	\$ 1,016	\$ 1,480	\$ 1,368	\$ (112)	6
Interest Revenue	\$ 535	\$ 450	\$ 468	\$ 18	
Other Revenue	\$ 46,539	\$ 2,065	\$ 14,525	\$ 12,460	7
Refund of Previous Year Expenditures	\$ 2,142	\$ 85	\$ 1,553	\$ 1,468	8
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 165,099</b>	<b>\$ 132,327</b>	<b>\$ 137,954</b>	<b>\$ 5,627</b>	
<b>Expenditure</b>					
<b>Central Management and Services</b>	\$ 10,151	\$ 10,813	\$ 9,998	\$ (815)	1
<b>Industry Assistance</b>	\$ 5,156	\$ 7,171	\$ 5,874	\$ (1,297)	2
<b>Land Management</b>					
Land Management Services	\$ 3,302	\$ 6,165	\$ 4,246	\$ (1,919)	3
Land Revenue Bad Debt Allowances	\$ 3	\$ 500	\$ 341	\$ (159)	4
Crown Land Sale Incentive Program	\$ 2,493	\$ 1,680	\$ 1,880	\$ 200	5
Subtotal	\$ 5,798	\$ 8,345	\$ 6,467	\$ (1,878)	
<b>Policy and Planning</b>	\$ 3,472	\$ 3,607	\$ 2,953	\$ (654)	6
<b>Research and Technology</b>					
Project Coordination	\$ 914	\$ 928	\$ 1,003	\$ 75	7
Research Programming	\$ 19,133	\$ 26,776	\$ 27,645	\$ 869	8
Subtotal	\$ 20,047	\$ 27,704	\$ 28,648	\$ 944	

# 2013-14 Financial Schedules

	(in thousands of dollars)				Notes
	2012-13 Actuals	2013-14 Estimates	2013-14 Actuals	Variance over (under)	
<b>Regional Services</b>					
Regional Services	\$ 43,663	\$ 40,116	\$ 29,371	\$ (10,745)	9
<b>Financial Programs</b>					
Financial Programs Management	\$ 7,050	\$ 26,478	\$ 19,547	\$ (6,931)	10
<b>Business Risk Management</b>					
Crop Insurance Program Delivery	\$ 29,510	\$ 29,785	\$ 32,635	\$ 2,850	11
Crop Insurance Premiums	\$ 152,790	\$ 168,550	\$ 171,398	\$ 2,848	12
AgriStability Program Delivery	\$ 20,505	\$ 23,085	\$ 23,085	–	
AgriStability	\$ 145,040	\$ 28,700	\$ 22,095	\$ (6,605)	13
AgriInvest	\$ 58,561	32,400	\$ 37,779	\$ 5,379	14
AgriRecovery	\$ 277	–	–	–	
Subtotal	\$ 406,683	\$ 282,520	\$ 286,992	\$ 4,472	
<b>Budget Appropriation</b>	\$ 502,020	\$ 406,754	\$ 389,850	\$ (16,904)	
<b>Supplementary Estimates/Special Warrants</b>	–	–	–	–	15
<b>Statutory Adjustment</b>	–	–	–	–	
<b>Total Revised Appropriation</b>	\$ 502,020	\$ 406,754	\$ 389,850	\$ (16,904)	
<b>Capital Asset Acquisitions</b>	\$ (181)	\$ (2,000)	\$ (841)	\$ 1,159	16
<b>Amortization of Capital Assets</b>	\$ 2,166	\$ 2,106	\$ 2,317	\$ 211	17
<b>Other</b>	\$ 60	–	\$ 37	\$ 37	
<b>Total Revised Estimates and Expenses</b>	\$ 504,065	\$ 406,860	\$ 391,363	\$ (15,497)	
<b>FTE Staff Complement</b> (FTE-Full Time Equivalent)	440.1	392.4	423.5	31.1	1

# Financial Schedules – Notes

Explanations of variances which exceed \$50,000 between Estimates and Actuals.

## Revenue

1. Increased average sales prices as well as increased sales of land with book value.
2. Decrease in agricultural leases due to flooding and more lessees purchasing land under the Agricultural Crown Land Sale Program rather than leasing.
3. Increases in the sale of land with resource considerations.
4. Decreased revenue from the federal government for non-BRM programs under Growing Forward 2.
5. Decreased revenue from the Water Pumping Program.
6. Lower than expected revenue from irrigation districts.
7. Dividend from the Agricultural Credit Corporation of Saskatchewan and increased revenue from the reimbursement of petroleum and gas revenue from the Pastures Revolving Fund.
8. Reduction in the previous year liability for Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Program premiums.

## Expenditure

1. FTE management, and savings in accommodations and other operating expenses.
2. Decreased funding under the Agriculture Awareness Initiative Program, Industry Organization Development Fund and invasive plants programs due to the timing of program rollout in the first year of Growing Forward 2.
3. Decreased system development costs and decreased salary costs and other operating expenses related to the transition of the federal pasture program.
4. Decreased bad debt allowance.
5. Higher than expected total land sales under the Agricultural Crown Land Sale Program resulted in higher than expected cost of incentives for the program.
6. Staff transfers to other branches, FTE management and other operating expenses.
7. Higher than expected salaries due to the reclassification of positions.
8. Increased funding due to timing of research grants.
9. Decreased funding in the first year of Growing Forward 2, FTE management and operational savings. 2012-13 Actuals column includes \$8,050 previously reported under Irrigation and Water Infrastructure to reflect the current year's presentation.
10. Decreased funding in the first year of Growing Forward 2, FTE management and savings in contractual services.
11. Increased crop insurance program delivery due to pension settlement and livestock price insurance development.
12. Increased crop insurance premiums due to increased seeded acres and enhanced irrigation top up.
13. Decreased provincial contributions required to fully fund the AgriStability 2013 program year and costs from the original federal government's forecast partially offset by an increase in AgriStability 2012 program year costs.
14. Based on the federal government's forecast, higher contributions were required to fully fund the AgriInvest 2013 program year.
15. The Ministry received Supplementary Estimates in 2013-14 only to restore appropriations frozen due to the over-expenditure in the AgriStability program in 2012-13.
16. Capital expenditures for system development, operating equipment, vehicles and leasehold improvements.
17. Amortization slightly higher than budgeted due to acquisitions of tangible capital assets from the federal pasture program.

## FTE Staff Complement

1. Delay in the transfer of livestock inspection services to industry partially offset by FTE management, including the Workforce Adjustment Strategy. Ministry of Agriculture's 2012-13 FTE budget is 392.4, which is net of a (12.5) FTE reduction assigned in-year from the 2013-14 unallocated balance. The variance to budget number of 31.1 compares 2013-14 actual FTEs to the 2013-14 final FTE budget.

## For More Information

For more information on Ministry of Agriculture programs and services:

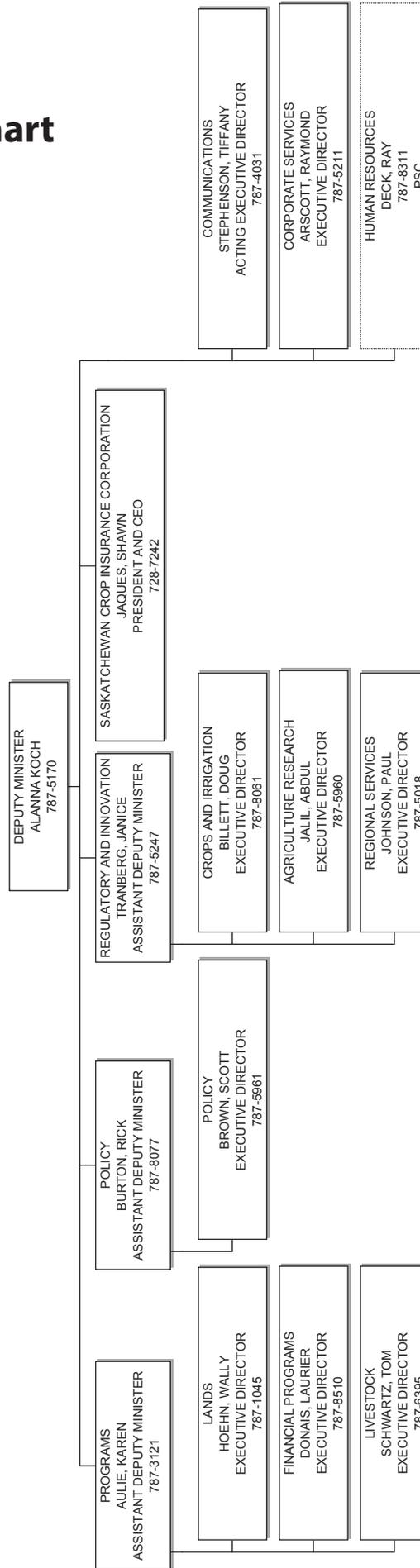
Contact the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377 or by email at [aginfo@gov.sk.ca](mailto:aginfo@gov.sk.ca); or

Visit the Ministry's website at [www.saskatchewan.ca/agriculture](http://www.saskatchewan.ca/agriculture).

# Appendices

## Appendix A: Ministry Organizational Chart

### MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE 2013 - 2014



March 31, 2014  
404.9 FTE

## Appendix B: Loans And Guaranteed debt

### Livestock Loan Guarantee (LLG) Program

The LLG Program facilitates growth of Saskatchewan's livestock industry by providing producer associations access to credit at favourable interest rates and with limited collateral requirements for purchase of cattle, sheep or bison. The program may also be used as a management tool to generate cash flow through retained ownership options. The LLG Program supports increased livestock production by providing guarantees to lenders who make loans to production associations and individual feedlot operators.

During 2013-14, budgeted and actual guarantees under this program were:

Breeder Associations (In thousands of dollars)	Budget	Actual	Variance Over (Under)
Beginning Balance	\$13,000	\$9,990	
Additions	\$1,000		
Reductions		\$(1)	
Ending Balance	\$14,000	\$9,989	\$(4,011)

#### Explanation of Variance:

Program participation is lower as a result of market uncertainty, producers exiting the livestock industry and additional options for financing.

Feeder Associations (In thousands of dollars)	Budget	Actual	Variance Over (Under)
Beginning Balance	\$10,000	\$7,608	
Additions			
Reductions		\$(2,421)	
Ending Balance	\$10,000	\$5,187	\$(4,813)

#### Explanation of Variance:

Program participation is lower as a result of market uncertainty, producers exiting the livestock industry and additional options for financing.

Individual Cattle Feeder Loan Guarantees (In thousands of dollars)	Budget	Actual	Variance Over (Under)
Beginning Balance	\$1,000	\$126	
Additions			
Reductions		\$(126)	
Ending Balance	\$1,000	Nil	\$(1,000)

#### Explanation of Variance:

There is no program participation so the program has been terminated.

Feedlot Construction Loan Guarantees (In thousands of dollars)	Budget	Actual	Variance Over (Under)
Beginning Balance	\$3,000	\$1,014	
Additions			
Reductions	\$(1,000)	\$(75)	
Ending Balance	\$2,000	\$939	\$(1,061)

**Explanation of Variance:**

Due to poor margins no new feedlot construction has taken place.

## Short Term Hog Loan Program(s)

The Short Term Hog Loan Program(s) supported increased livestock production by providing loans to producers. The initial Short-Term Hog Loan Program (STHLP) that was announced in December 1998, assisted hog producers in offsetting operating losses due to a severe reduction in hog prices at that time. A second hog loan program was announced in November 2002 in response to the high feed prices and depressed market prices that hog producers were experiencing. A third hog loan program was announced in December 2007, again in response to the high feed prices and depressed market prices.

During 2013-14, budgeted and actual loans under this program were:

2008 STHLP outstanding loans (In thousands of dollars)	Budget	Actual	Variance Over (Under)
Beginning Balance	\$1,010	\$1,120	
Additions			
Reductions	\$(508)	\$(680)	
Ending Balance	\$502	\$440	\$(62)

**Explanation of Variance:**

Loan Payments.

## **Appendix C: Legislation Administered by the Ministry**

*The Agricultural Credit Corporation of Saskatchewan Act*

*The Agricultural Equipment Dealerships Act*

*The Agricultural Implements Act*

*The Agricultural Leaseholds Act*

*The Agricultural Operations Act*

*The Agricultural Safety Net Act*

*The Agri-Food Act, 2004*

*The Agrologists Act, 1994*

*The Animal Identification Act*

*The Animal Products Act*

*The Animal Protection Act, 1999*

*The Apiaries Act, 2005*

*The Crop Payments Act*

*The Department of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Revitalization Act*

*The Diseases of Animals Act*

*The Expropriation (Rehabilitation Projects) Act*

*The Family Farm Credit Act*

*The Farm Financial Stability Act*

*The Farmers' Counselling and Assistance Act*

*The Farming Communities Land Act*

*The Grain Charges Limitation Act*

*The Horned Cattle Purchases Act*

*The Irrigation Act, 1996*

*The Land Bank Repeal and Temporary Provisions Act*

*The Leafcutting Beekeepers Registration Act*

*The Line Fence Act*

*The Pastures Act*

*The Pest Control Act*

*The Pest Control Products (Saskatchewan) Act*

*The Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute Act, 1999*

*The Provincial Lands Act \**

*The Sale or Lease of Certain Lands Act \**

*The Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation Act*

*The Saskatchewan 4-H Foundation Act*

*The Saskatchewan Farm Security Act*

*The Stray Animals Act*

*The Veterinarians Act, 1987*

*The Veterinary Services Act*

*The Weed Control Act*

*\*Joint responsibility*

# **Appendix D: Special Purpose Funds and Agencies with Legislative responsibilities to Saskatchewan Agriculture**

## **Special Purpose Funds Year End**

Horned Cattle Fund

Individual Cattle Feeder Loan Guarantee Provincial Assurance Fund

Livestock Services Revolving Fund

Pastures Revolving Fund

## **Agencies**

Agricultural Credit Corporation of Saskatchewan

Agricultural Implements Board

Agri-Food Council

Crop Reinsurance Fund of Saskatchewan

Irrigation Crop Diversification Corporation

Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute

Saskatchewan Agricultural Stabilization Fund

Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation

## **Agencies under the Agri-Food Council**

Canaryseed Development Commission of Saskatchewan

Chicken Farmers of Saskatchewan

Saskatchewan Alfalfa Seed Producers Development Commission

Saskatchewan Barley Development Commission

Saskatchewan Beekeepers Development Commission

Saskatchewan Broiler Hatching Egg Producers' Marketing Board

Saskatchewan Canola Development Commission

Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association

Saskatchewan Egg Producers

Saskatchewan Flax Development Commission

Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission

Saskatchewan Milk Marketing Board

Saskatchewan Mustard Development Commission

Saskatchewan Oat Development Commission

Saskatchewan Pulse Crop Development Board

Saskatchewan Sheep Development Board

Saskatchewan Turkey Producers' Marketing Board

Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission

Saskatchewan Winter Cereals Development Commission

Sask Pork

## Appendix E: Third Party Funding

(\$000's)

<b>Industry Assistance Grants</b>	
<b>Budgeted Industry Assistance Grants</b>	<b>3,418</b>
Prairie Diagnostic Services Inc.	2,385
Saskatchewan 4-H Council Inc.	300
Agriculture in the Classroom	150
Canadian Centre for Health and Safety in Agriculture	100
Budgeted grants \$50,000 and under	483
<b>Miscellaneous Industry Assistance Grants</b>	<b>311</b>
Miscellaneous grants \$50,000 and under	
<b>Comprehensive Pest Control Program</b>	
<b>Gopher Control Rebate Program</b> – provides producers, rural municipalities and First Nations bands with 50 per cent reimbursement for eligible gopher control products.	22
<b>Fieldworker Program</b> – support for the control of pests and diseases such as rats, perennial weeds, Hantavirus and Dutch Elm Disease.	1,000
<b>Invasive Plant Management Program</b> – funding to increase awareness of invasive plants in rural municipalities and to assist in developing multi-jurisdictional management plan for problem species.	490
<b>Black Fly Control Program</b> – funding to purchase and apply chemicals to control the problems caused by black flies and the harm invoked on livestock in northern Saskatchewan.	138
<b>Beaver Control Program</b> – funding to support the removal of problem beavers in the province.	458
<b>Feral Wild Boar Control Program</b> – funding to support the removal of problem feral wild boars in the province.	25
<b>Total Industry Assistance</b>	<b>5,862</b>
<b>Research and Technology Grants</b>	
<b>Research and Development Grants</b>	<b>20,122</b>
Funding provided through a number of mechanisms, including the Agriculture Development Fund, to support research and development. Areas of focus include, but are not limited to: improved food quality and safety, decreased agricultural production risk, increased livestock competitiveness and the development of proprietary technology and know-how in novel applications.	
<b>Strategic Research Programs</b>	<b>3,878</b>
Provides funding to cover the salaries of 15 Research Scientist/Technician teams at the University of Saskatchewan and the Western Beef Development Centre. The program covers four broad research themes including crop genetic improvement, foods and bio-product development, soils/environment and livestock research.	

<b>Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute</b>	<b>995</b>
Core funding is provided to the Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute (PAMI) which contributes to their mandate of assisting the agriculture industry through applied research, development and testing. PAMI focuses on farm equipment design, bio-energy and processing as well as livestock production and economics through their relationship with the Western Beef Development Centre.	
<b>Ag-West Bio Inc.</b>	<b>2,650</b>
Agriculture contributes to Ag-West Bio Inc. to function as a catalyst for Saskatchewan's bioeconomy, helping to move research to market. Entrepreneurs commercializing their innovations come to Ag-West Bio for pathfinding and help creating a sound business plan.	
<b>Business Risk Management</b>	<b>82,959</b>
Provides the provincial contributions to the AgriStability and AgriInvest Programs.	
<b>Crop Insurance</b>	<b>204,034</b>
Provides funding for the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC) to administer insurance programs which protect grain and livestock producers from production failures due to natural hazards. SCIC also delivers programs which compensate producers for crop damage caused by big game and migratory waterfowl.	
<b>Growing Forward 2</b>	<b>25,020</b>
Provides funding for the federal contributions for non-BRM programs under the Growing Forward 2 Framework Agreement with the federal government.	
<b>Agricultural Crown Land Sale Program</b>	<b>1,880</b>
Cost of providing incentives to purchasers of leased Crown land including a two per cent incentive from the sale price and favourable financing terms.	
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	
Crops and Irrigation Branch – provides funding to the Irrigation Crop Diversification Corporation for non-district irrigation members.	<b>35</b>
Crops and Irrigation Branch – funding to rural municipalities for the rehabilitation of irrigation bridges.	<b>250</b>
Lands Branch – provides compensation to rural municipalities and Conservation and Development Authorities for tax levies on vacant patented Crown land and for arrears owed on behalf of former Crown land lessees.	<b>38</b>
Livestock Branch – grant to the Saskatchewan Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in support of investigation of welfare complaints involving livestock.	<b>530</b>
Livestock Branch – grant to Livestock Services Saskatchewan in support of the transition of livestock inspection services to industry.	<b>375</b>
<b>Total Third Party Funding</b>	<b>348,628</b>

# Appendix F: 2013-14 New and Amended Regulations

## Amended Regulations:

- **The 2013 Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program Regulations** – The amended regulations provide assistance to producers, rural municipalities, irrigation districts and First Nation bands by providing funds to offset the cost of developing secure water supplies. The amendments increased the amount of funding available to irrigation districts and will allow districts to increase their infill acres.
- **The Gopher Control Rebate Amendment Regulations, 2013** – The amended regulations assist producers and First Nation bands by providing them with a 50 per cent rebate for money spent on eligible gopher control products. The program also provides assistance to rural municipalities who purchased gopher control products and resold the products at a subsidized cost to producers.
- **The Bison Breeder Associations Loan Guarantee Amendment Regulations, 2013** – The amended regulations increased the member loan limits and changed the weaning and tagging requirement for bison calves in the Breeder Program. The amendments were required to keep the program competitive, address producers' needs and are more compatible with current bison production processes.
- **The Agri-Food Amendment Regulations, 2013** – The amended regulations repealed sections of the old regulations dealing with market limits, thereby updating the regulations and making them more relevant and effective to producers.
- **The Bison Feeder Associations Loan Guarantee Amendment Regulations, 2013** – The regulations will increase the maximum loan limits for eligible producers who are joining a feeder association, for those who have been a member for a number of years and for corporations belonging to a feeder co-op.
- **The Cattle Breeder Associations Loan Guarantee Amendment Regulations, 2013** – The regulations increase member loan limits and allow for interprovincial movement of cattle. The amendments will keep the program competitive and are compatible with current cattle production practices.
- **The Cattle Feeder Associations Loan Guarantee Amendment Regulations, 2013** – The regulations will increase the member loan limits and also allow the interprovincial movement of cattle.
- **The Control of Animal Disease Amendment Regulations, 2013** – The amendment regulations allow the province to assume responsibility for enforcement of disease control measures for previously federally named diseases including rabies, anthrax and bovine anaplasmosis.
- **The Diseases of Domestic Game Farm Animals Amendment Regulations, 2013** – The amendment regulations allow the province to enforce disease control measures for previously federally named diseases including rabies, anthrax and bovine anaplasmosis. The regulations also ensure that these diseases are reported directly to the province, and the province has the authority to monitor and respond to reported cases appropriately and in a timely manner.
- **The Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation Regulations** – The regulations were updated to reflect changes to the new *Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Act*. The regulations also reference a number of program enhancements for 2014-15.
- **The Pulse Crop Development Plan Regulations** – The regulations were amended to ensure that they are relevant and effective and bring them in line with other regulations under *The Agri-Food Act, 2004*.

## New Regulations:

- **The Barley Development Regulations** – The regulations establish the Saskatchewan Barley Development Commission. The Commission will ensure producers have leadership and representation provincially, nationally and globally, will strengthen Saskatchewan's position in barley production and ensure provincial interests are protected.
- **The Wheat Development Plan Regulations** – The regulations establish the Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission. The Commission will ensure producers have leadership and representation provincially, nationally and globally, will strengthen Saskatchewan's position in wheat production and ensure provincial interests are protected.
- **The Pork Industry Development Plan Regulations, 2013** – The regulations replace the previous regulations and were updated to ensure that they are relevant and effective for Saskatchewan's Pork Development Board.
- **The Sheep Development Plan Regulations, 2013** – The regulations replace previous regulations and are updated to ensure that they remain relevant and effective for Saskatchewan's sheep industry, and to make them more consistent with other regulations under *The Agri-Food Act, 2004*.
- **The Turkey Marketing Plan Regulations** – The regulations replace previous regulations passed in 1975. They modernized the board election and governance process and were updated to reflect current industry practices.
- **The Meat Inspection (Saskatchewan) Regulations** – The regulations were required for the delivery of the Saskatchewan Domestic Meat Inspection Program, a new inspection model delivered by the province.

