

Agriview



Protect your
livestock with
Premises Identification

JANUARY 2019 | VOLUME 2 | ISSUE 1

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Richardson's ground
squirrels

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Ministry specialists are available to provide helpful extension and program-related information - look for us at Crop Production Show.

Welcome to the January Agriview.



Our province owes much to the agriculture industry, a major contributor to Saskatchewan's diverse economy and supplier of high quality food to people here at home and around the world.

Reflecting on 2018, I want to thank Saskatchewan's farm and ranch families for your hard work to support a sustainable, profitable sector. You keep rural Saskatchewan going strong and ensure our agriculture industry is a world leader.

Access to our export markets is key for Saskatchewan agriculture, and reliable rail service is vital to the equation. Our Government was pleased to see the federal Transportation Modernization Act, which is geared at improving efficiency and transparency of the grain transportation system, pass into law. We will continue to work with industry and the federal government to ensure our transportation system is capable of meeting the growing demands of our international clients.

The past year wasn't without its challenges on the trade front, including the unresolved issue of tariffs on Canadian pulse crop exports to India. We believe that Saskatchewan farmers can be important long-term contributors to food security in India and across the globe and we will continue to work through these market access obstacles to ensure our province retains unfettered access to priority export markets.

The year 2018 also included some big milestones. The announcement of the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA) is promising for Saskatchewan agriculture, with the United States our province's largest agriculture and agri-food product trading partner, and Mexico our fourth largest. These

relationships are vital to our industry. Another exciting development is the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership or CPTPP, which came into effect at the end of December. The biggest prospects in the near term will be in Japan with opportunities to increase Canadian beef exports by \$378 million and pork exports by \$639 million. The CPTPP eliminates tariffs into Japan for canola oil and canola meal exports worth up to \$780 million. The CPTPP will also provide access to growing markets such as Vietnam, as well as Singapore, a small but high-end, trend-setting market and gateway to the rest of Asia. The combination of the CPTPP and CUSMA positions Canada well for investment and economic growth.

Looking to the new year, the Government of Saskatchewan will continue to provide a suite of programs to support the success of farmers, ranchers and agri-businesses. For any questions about agricultural programming, please connect with the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377 or visit your local Ministry of Agriculture office.

Now is a busy time for planning and making business decisions that will set us up for success in 2019.

I encourage you to take in some of the industry events underway this month, such as Crop Production Show and CropSphere in Saskatoon and Saskatchewan Beef Industry Conference in Regina.

I wish you a safe, happy and productive 2019. ■

Sincerely,

David Marit
Minister of Agriculture

Cover: Premises Identification (PID) protects not only your herd, but the agriculture industry as well. For more information on the benefits of PID, turn to page 12.

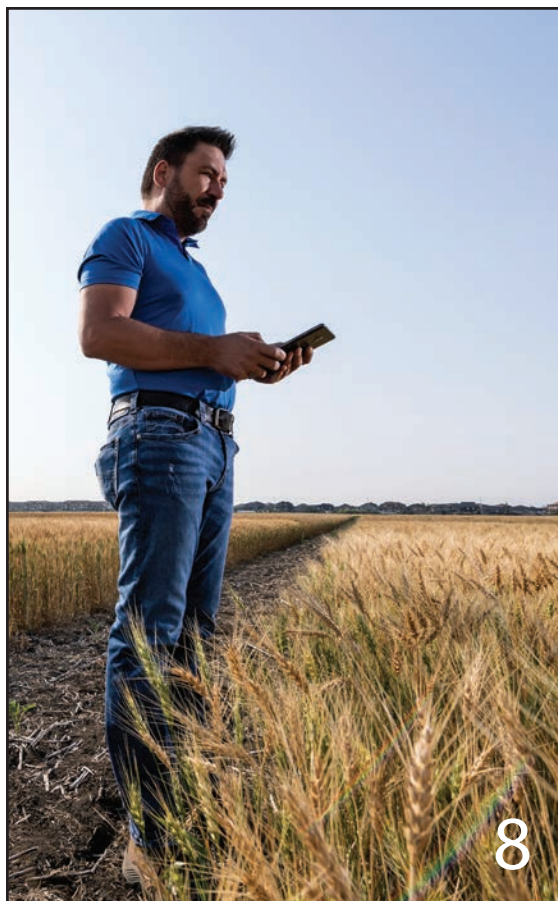


Photo credit: Liam Richards

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**IF YOU'RE EXPERIENCING ANY SYMPTOMS OF STRESS,
THE FARM STRESS LINE IS THERE FOR YOU 24/7 AT
1-800-667-4442.**

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James Tansey
Provincial Insect/Pest Management Specialist
Crops and Irrigation Branch

The constant fight against Richardson's ground squirrels

The Richardson's ground squirrel (RGS), commonly known as the gopher, is a perennial problem for producers.

If you experienced problems with these pesky little rodents last season, you will probably have an issue with them again this year. Now is the time to plan and implement control activities in advance of the upcoming growing season.

Annual control is necessary to prevent a build-up of the gopher population and to avoid the population explosion that can result when environmental conditions—such as successive dry years or mild winters or both—favour the pest.

Adult gophers can become active as early as late February, depending on the weather, and are definitely active by late March. Males come above ground first and are followed by the females a few weeks later. Producers should focus on control at this time. The best method of controlling the RGS population is to limit reproduction.

Rodenticides are the most effective method of control, but proper timing of bait placement is very important. Early spring is the best time for baiting, as the newly emerged gophers are searching for food. Research has shown that once the fields green up, the gophers tend to avoid the bait in favour of the lush, green vegetation.

There are a number of effective rodenticides available to producers, such as strychnine or Rozol. Strychnine can only be

purchased from the local municipal office. In order to purchase strychnine, a producer must complete a Purchase Agreement Form and a Product Evaluation Form, detailing where and when the product was applied.

Every pest control program should include Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies to achieve long-term management. In addition to pesticides, an IPM program includes

physical or mechanical measures (eg. trapping), cultural or historical control measures (eg. hunting) and biological control measures (eg. establishing and maintaining predator habitat and maintaining vegetation height of greater than 15 cm). Predators account for up to 30 per cent of IPM gopher control.

When using any pesticide, including rodenticides, always read and follow the product label, and take steps to prevent the accidental poisoning of non-target animals and the

secondary poisoning of predators.

For more information on Richardson's ground squirrels and Integrated Pest Management, contact the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377. ■





Carter Peru
Integrated Pest Management Agrologist
Crops and Irrigation Branch

What to expect for pests in 2019

Results from several insect pest surveys that took place during the 2018 growing season are now available. The information gained from the insect surveys is used for a variety of purposes, including the creation of forecast maps and in-season monitoring.

Pea Leaf Weevil Survey

The pea leaf weevil survey shows that weevil damage across the province this year was very low, with the exception of a couple areas in the southwestern corner of the province. The small amount of foliar notching damage observed this year could be due to harsh overwintering conditions and/or an increase in the use of seed treatments that control pea leaf weevils. For the survey, the foliage of pea plants is evaluated for the distinctive notching that is caused by the feeding of adult pea leaf weevils. Although the main damage of concern is caused by weevil larvae feeding on the nodules of plants, the above-ground notching provides a good indication of the pea leaf weevil population. Monitoring the adult pea leaf weevil population and distribution in the 2018 season provides an indication of population levels for the upcoming growing season.

Grasshopper Survey

The grasshopper density counts overall were light to very light. For this survey, adult grasshoppers are counted within a set distance to calculate the overall population density. The grasshopper survey results are used to generate a forecast map for the 2019 growing season. Grasshopper numbers were very

low overall; however, a few spots with moderate populations were detected in the southeastern part of the province as well as northwest of Swift Current.

Bertha Armyworm Survey

The bertha armyworm survey was completed in August. This is a pheromone-trap-based survey and relies on weekly counts from cooperators around the province. A total of 238 sites were monitored for bertha armyworms in 2018. The pheromone traps catch moths, the adult stage of the bertha armyworm. Although the adults are caught, it is the larval stage that causes crop damage and larva should be scouted for before making a decision to spray an insecticide. Bertha armyworm populations were higher in 2018 than they were in 2017. Large numbers of moths were caught in the Outlook and Watrous areas. Maps displaying the cumulative moth counts are released weekly from April until early August.



Grasshopper on canola leaf.

Diamondback Moth Survey

The diamondback moth survey is also a pheromone-trap-based survey that takes place from April until June. Diamondback moth counts were low throughout the province. The purpose of this survey is to monitor both the abundance and the arrival of diamondback moths from the United States. Like the bertha armyworm survey, the pheromone traps catch the adult moths, but it is the larval stage that causes crop damage, so it is very important to scout for larva before making a decision to spray an insecticide. Traps were set at approximately 40 sites throughout the province and monitored weekly from April until June. Trap catches are reported by region on Saskatchewan.ca roughly every week during the monitoring period. ■

**FOR
MORE
INFO**

Maps are at the end of this issue of *Agriview*.
All insect forecast maps can also be found on
saskatchewan.ca/agriculture.



David Goodwillie
Information Officer
Communications Branch

Crop Report is a team effort

A phone rings on a sunny morning in the call centre of the Moose Jaw Agriculture Knowledge Centre (AKC). It's Crop Report day and another crop reporter is calling in from anywhere across the province. A resource agent picks up the receiver and chats with the reporter about the day while entering the weekly survey data into the Crop Report database. In the background is the murmur of other conversations and the buzzing of the fax machine as it adds another survey report to the small stack in the hopper. A moment later, a computer dings to announce the arrival of a reporter's email.

From seeding to harvest, the AKC is bustling with activity every Tuesday and Wednesday as resource agents field calls, emails and faxes from the 211 crop reporters scattered across Saskatchewan. As the calls peter out, the team turns to manually entering reports. Shannon Friesen, the Crop Extension Specialist,



Shannon Friesen being interviewed at the Agriculture Knowledge Centre in Moose Jaw, SK.

is busy at her computer entering information and analysing the accumulating statistics.

Shortly before Wednesday noon, having coaxed the system to produce the reports, she sits down to write the first draft of Crop Report.

Meanwhile in Regina, the Ministry's Geomatics Services is quickly producing the maps that make Crop Report such a valuable resource. Temperature data are collected from Saskatchewan Environment, Environment Canada and Agriculture and Agri-food Canada. GIS software extracts data directly from the Crop Report database to produce the rainfall and soil moisture maps. Only the most reliable crop reporters—those with a 90-per-cent reporting rate or better—have their data included, and an algorithm fills in the gaps.

The maps and data are assembled into the Crop Report by the members of Communications Branch. A news release is approved, and work starts on the new web pages for saskatchewan.ca/agriculture.

Thursday morning, as the final touches are put on the webpages, Shannon Friesen assembles her notes for the media calls that start almost immediately after Crop Report is released at 10 o'clock. She fields around 10 media calls every Thursday, although the number will vary considerably depending on the time of year or the weather that week.

When the last media interview is over in the late afternoon, she takes a deep breath and starts preparing for next week. The crop reporting cycle runs from spring to fall, usually 25 to 30 weeks in total, but the team is not idle over the winter. Those months are spent planning for the next season, preparing the reporting material and enlisting new volunteer crop reporters.

Crop Report keeps the general public up to date on the achievements and challenges of farming, but it is also a valuable source of information for the financial and commodity markets which use the weekly reports to help set commodity prices. Users range from the Chicago Commodity Exchange to individual traders. The Crop Report receives around 80,000 web page visits per year—more than 15 per cent of all views on saskatchewan.ca/agriculture. Visitors come from almost every country in the world, but the majority are from Canada and the United States, while France, China, Italy, India, Japan, the United Kingdom, Australia and Germany complete the top 10.

Crop Report wouldn't exist were it not for the volunteer reporters.

Crop Reporters - by the numbers:

up to 20 years:
66 reporters

21-30 years:
61 reporters

31-40 years:
33 reporters

40+ years:
2 reporters

"Without these reporters, there is no Crop Report," states Shannon Friesen, "and Saskatchewan Agriculture is truly lucky to work with such dedicated and hard-working people."

Delwyn Jansen of Four20 Farm is one of those hard-working volunteers. He began recording the weather for Environment Canada in 1980, and when his rural municipality's first crop reporter retired in 1982, he took on the job. He is still using the original Environment Canada rain gauge from nearly 40 years ago.

When he began, Crop Report was done through the mail. In mid-March, a large parcel would arrive with question pads, postage-paid envelopes, information sheets and a desk sheet for recording precipitation. Eventually, reporters moved to a telephone-reporting system, and today, they can submit information online.

"Moving to the telephone system made the process somewhat easier as I could phone in on Sunday afternoons as time allowed, and I didn't have to mail in the questionnaires on Monday," says Delwyn. "The move to online reporting was also an improvement



Long-serving crop reporters honoured at the Legislature in 2018.

as you could answer the questionnaire as early as five in the morning or as late as midnight. The questions were the same, whichever system was used."

Crop Reporter Volunteers

Want to be a
volunteer? Call our
Agriculture Knowledge
Centre at 1-866-457-2377.

[saskatchewan.ca/
crop-report](http://saskatchewan.ca/crop-report)



Delwyn will receive his 35-year crop reporter certificate at a banquet in the Legislative Building in the spring—and already has the 20-, 25- and 30-year plaques—but he doesn't do the job for the accolades.

"I am a primary food producer, and weather affects every avenue of agriculture," he says. The work fits into his daily routine and is not overwhelming. In fact, it is sometimes beneficial, providing him with information he might not have otherwise.

"I found that there would be times when we had frost overnight, but the regular thermometer didn't show frost at bedtime or at rising. By the way, did you know we had frost every month of the year in 2000?"

Being a crop reporter may also be an asset when it comes to settling arguments on Coffee Row.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer crop reporter, contact the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377 or cropreport@gov.sk.ca. ■



Jamie Fischer
Communications Consultant
Communications Branch

Wheat genome project putting Saskatchewan

A research breakthrough mapping the wheat genome has put an international spotlight on agricultural research in Saskatchewan.

"It's the first blueprint of the wheat genome," said Curtis Pozniak, the Ministry of Agriculture Strategic Research Program Chair in durum and wheat breeding at the University of Saskatchewan (U of S).

This summer, Pozniak, along with Dr. Andrew Sharpe of the Global Institute for Food Security at the U of S, was part of a team that published the complete sequence of the wheat variety Chinese Spring in the journal, *Science*.

Pozniak and Sharpe were part of an international effort lead by the International Wheat Genome Sequencing Consortium (IWGSC). For the past 13 years, more than 200 IWGSC researchers from around the world have been working diligently to map the wheat genome, and the development that made it possible came from the U of S.

While the work has been ongoing for years, Pozniak said there was a breakthrough moment. Initially, efforts to map the genome were done by isolating and sequencing individual chromosomes, one at a time. "As you can imagine, this is a slow, technically demanding process," Pozniak said. Success came

after his team began working with NRGene, a genetics company based in Israel, that developed a new method of assembly for complex genomes, like those in wheat.

"That was the ah-ha moment," Pozniak said. From there, researchers were able to assemble all 21 wheat chromosomes at once, vastly speeding up the process of mapping the entire genome.

The breakthrough wouldn't have been possible without funding from the Agriculture Development Fund (ADF), a research funding program available through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a five-year \$388 million investment by federal and provincial governments.

Pozniak's team contributed to the IWGSC through the Canadian Triticum Applied Genomics (CTAG) project. The first phase of the project received \$1.5 million in ADF support in 2011, followed by another \$1 million in 2015 for phase two (CTAG2).

"The Ministry of Agriculture's funding was critical to supporting the work," Pozniak explained. "It was used as leverage funding from Genome Canada, a federal funding initiative. Resources from both, as well as other funding partners, were critical in generating the sequencing data."

an agriculture research on the map

The excitement of the breakthrough was also felt by those administering his ADF funding.

"We were thrilled," said Sushmita Nandy, Crops Research Specialist with the Ministry of Agriculture.

Nandy said the mapping of the wheat genome was the result of more than a decade of relentless work trying to solve an intricate puzzle.

"Through this cutting edge research we continue to put Saskatchewan on the global map," Nandy said.

And while the international attention is rewarding, it's the potential local impact of the wheat genome that has Pozniak and Nandy excited.

As a wheat breeder at the Crop Development Centre at the U of S, Pozniak's main focus is developing varieties of wheat for western Canadian producers.

"With the genome sequence, we are now focusing our attention to applying it to develop and apply new tools and strategies to improve breeding efficiency," he said.

For example, Pozniak is currently using the genome sequence to identify genes for disease and insect resistance, as well as the complex genetics of grain quality and yield protection.

"From a breeding point of view, we're quite excited about this new resource and we are already using it to develop tools that improve our ability to select for improved varieties," he said. In the future, producers could see new wheat varieties available that offer improved disease resistance and produce better yields.

Moving forward, Pozniak is working on mapping the genomes of multiple other wheat varieties from around the world.

"Only looking at a single variety like Chinese Spring doesn't give you the complete story," he said. "You have to look at many varieties to understand the differences and dynamics of the wheat genome."

The impacts of the project could extend beyond breeding advancements.

"One of the Ministry goals is to establish Saskatchewan as a global leader in biosciences," Nandy said.

The wheat genome breakthrough shows that Ministry funding supports groundbreaking research, Nandy explained, and research that garners international attention helps bring in leading researchers, creates jobs, and ultimately gives Saskatchewan producers improved varieties for production.

The CTAG2 project isn't the only genome mapping project being conducted with funding through ADF.

The Application of Genomics to Innovation in the Lentil Economy (AGILE) project is using the very latest in sequencing technologies to complete the first lentil genome sequence. It's received \$1.1 million in ADF funding.

"The project's goals for lentil are well aligned with the wheat project," Nandy said. By mapping the exact molecular markers on the lentil genome sequence, researchers can target them for breeding improvement, creating enhanced lentil varieties for producers.

With two genetic mapping projects ongoing in Saskatchewan, the province is putting itself in a position to lead DNA research into the future.

As for Pozniak, he's continuing to look ahead. "I'm from Saskatchewan. I've always recognized the importance of agriculture to our economy. I've always had an interest in plants, and wheat in particular because of its complexity," he said. "Now is the right time to apply these exciting technologies to improve our crops."

While he works on mapping additional varieties of wheat with his team, they're also looking forward to hosting the first International Wheat Congress, which will be held in Saskatoon, July 21-26, 2019. ■

Pictured: Curtis Pozniak (photo credit: Liam Richards)

Everyone has a role in animal welfare, including the Ministry of Agriculture. The Ministry is committed to protecting the health and welfare of Saskatchewan's animals. The Ministry produces and maintains provincial legislation to guide the care of animals and is also involved in other important animal welfare initiatives. The Ministry supports animal welfare through collaborative work with many organizations.



LeeAnn Forsythe
Disease Surveillance Veterinarian
Livestock Branch
and



Stephanie Smith
Animal Health Veterinary Intern
Livestock Branch

What's new in animal welfare in Saskatchewan

Legislation

The Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for administering *The Animal Protection Act* and for ensuring the Act and its regulations are up to date. This legislation provides for the adequate protection of animals and gives clear direction for animal protection enforcement in the province, including the appointment of animal protection officers (APOs). As part of this mandate, the Ministry of Agriculture has replaced *The Animal Protection Act, 1999* with *The Animal Protection Act, 2018*.

There are many sections of the old Act that have been changed.

- The term "animal protection agency" has been added to the new Act. This term encompasses organizations, including humane societies, designated as animal protection agencies that enforce the new Act and employ APOs. The Ministry approves animal protection agencies under *The Animal Protection Act, 2018*, replacing its responsibility to approve humane societies under *The Animal Protection Act, 1999*. The Animal Protection Agency of Saskatchewan, the Regina Humane Society and the Saskatoon and Prince Albert SPCAs will enforce the new Act.
- The term "abandoned animal" has been added to the definitions. This term does not include those animals that are running at large. The new Act allows APOs to take abandoned animals into custody and deliver them to an animal protection agency or caretaker.
- The new Act has a very detailed description of when animal cruelty may be occurring.
- Every person responsible for an animal has a duty to provide for its care. The new Act includes a section detailing what these duties involve, including provision of food, water, adequate veterinary care and appropriate shelter. This section also states that animals cared for in accordance with the appropriate standard, code of practice or guideline will be considered as being provided with adequate care.
- Powers of inspection are now broader, allowing APOs to inspect additional sites such as transport trailers, groomers, slaughter plants and boarding kennels.
- APOs can now order any corrective action needed to prevent or relieve distress of animals. This order specifies the timeframe in which these actions must take place and allows the APO to follow up and ensure that orders were followed.
- Veterinarians who have reasonable grounds to suspect animal cruelty shall report to an APO or agency. While veterinarians always had the ethical obligation to report such cases, there was no law requiring them to do so, until now. This does not mean, however, that veterinarians are prevented from working with their clients to resolve these cases prior to reporting.

- Provisions have been added to cover humane slaughter and euthanasia, and to prohibit the transport of unfit animals, along with an increase in fines for second offences.

While *The Animal Protection Act, 2018* provides a method of enforcement to relieve animals of distress, it also provides protection for those who care for animals appropriately. According to the Act, an animal is not considered to be in distress if it is handled in a manner consistent with a standard or code of conduct, criteria, practice or procedure that is prescribed as acceptable or in accordance with generally accepted practices of animal management. This is especially important for those who manage livestock, as many procedures are considered standard practice to those in the industry but may not be so clear to those outside of industry.

The changes to the Act are not intended to give APOs unlimited power in enforcement but rather to allow more proactive work in suspected cruelty cases. The majority of welfare investigations can be resolved through client education on the necessary care of their animals, but, when necessary, an APO can take action to relieve an animal in distress.

Interagency One Health Task Team

Many animal welfare cases involve not only distress in animals but also underlying human health conditions. These circumstances involve complex conditions where human mental or physical health directly affects outcomes for all species involved. Some examples include domestic squalor, hoarding, complications associated with aging, and domestic violence. When animal welfare agencies are called to respond, they often find individuals or families with complex needs who also need

the support of social services, policing, justice and/or health. Simply pressing charges under *The Animal Protection Act, 2018* could be detrimental as this does not deal with potential underlying issues that could be affecting the owner or producer. A collaborative interagency approach provides for human wellbeing along with the protection of animals, allowing successful resolution of these cases.

The Interagency One Health Task Team uses an interagency One Health framework to address these complex cases. They aim to improve the response in cases where both human and animal welfare are compromised. The Interagency One Health Task Team has been in development for several years, but the first meetings were held in May and November 2018.

Stakeholder engagement meeting October 30, 2018

The Ministry of Agriculture hosted two facilitated animal welfare engagement meetings in October 2015 and January 2017 to identify and clarify the roles of partners actively involved in animal welfare and to promote a collaborative approach. Key players, roles and possible actions were identified. These meetings involved stakeholders from many organizations, including academia, livestock associations, rescue groups, meat processors, kennels, enforcement agencies, humane societies, veterinarians and government. A third meeting was held in October 2018 and provided an opportunity for stakeholders to network, identify initiatives and develop next steps to improve the welfare of animals in Saskatchewan. ■



Do you know who to call for welfare concerns related to livestock?

Complaint	Contact
Suspected cruelty	Animal Protection Services of Saskatchewan (1-844-382-0002)
Roaming/stray	RM office/Livestock Services of Saskatchewan/RCMP
Threat to public safety	RCMP

saskatchewan.ca/livestock





Miranda Burski
Communications Consultant
Communications Branch

Protecting livestock and the agriculture industry with premises identification

Livestock producers work every day to ensure the health and welfare of their animals. But what happens when a province-wide emergency, such as a disease outbreak or natural disaster, occurs that is beyond the control of a single producer?

Jeff Clark, Director of PigTRACE Canada, stated this is where a national traceability system, including provincial premises identification (PID) databases, becomes crucial: "If there were to be a disease response, you could have a five-kilometre buffer zone ... we need to know all the livestock operations in that area, potentially quarantine them, do a stop-movement order. We don't want trucks and disease spreading around."

As one of the three pillars of traceability, PID is used to link livestock and poultry to geographic locations. In Saskatchewan, having a PID number is mandatory for livestock producers under the Premises Identification Regulations, 2016.

"PID is critical to support disease control activities and for managing animal health emergencies," said Melissa Hurst, the Ministry's Provincial Livestock Traceability Specialist. "Having a PID number for your operation allows for traceability information to be accessed quickly for the protection of animal health, public health and market access for your industry."

The market access issue can be particularly important during a disease outbreak.

"Whether it is Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea, African Swine Fever, Foot and Mouth Disease or some type of new bug, our only

hope of potentially containing and eradicating the issue and proving to the world that we are free of the disease lies in our traceability programs," said Mark Ferguson, Manager of Industry and Policy Analysis at the Saskatchewan Pork Development Board.

Despite these benefits, the uptake of PID across sectors and provinces has varied. Clark said that PigTRACE Canada, an industry-led traceability system that requires pork producers across Canada to be registered in their provincial PID systems, had a 75-per-cent compliance rate as of October 2018. Ferguson said he finds pork producers in Saskatchewan aren't hesitant to enrol, once aware of the system, while Hurst reported that, overall, livestock sectors in the province have an enrolment of 48 per cent.

Clark said that when he hears producers express their hesitancy to enrol, it's often due to privacy concerns. He combats this by explaining that any information provided during enrolment is only used in an emergency, to narrow down where a disease outbreak originated, for example. "Without traceability, everyone's blamed ... you could have your farm quarantined because of that, and suddenly you can't move animals."

Ferguson agreed: "PID is a quick and simple way to demonstrate a healthy herd status in the event that your premises is not involved or not within the affected radius of an animal health issue.

"This is a program that is for the collective good of all livestock sectors in the province, and it's something that is quick and easy to do," he added. "Why wouldn't you do it?"

More information can be found at saskatchewan.ca/premises-identification-program. ■

News Briefs

New antibiotic use in livestock regulations

Demonstrating good antimicrobial stewardship practices has always been a priority for producers and a key piece to maintaining public trust. All veterinary antibiotics are now being treated as prescription drugs, with the exception of ionophores such as Bovatec and Rumensin, and the livestock industry is in a better position to help avoid the further emergence and spread of antibiotic resistance.

With antibiotics no longer being an automatic solution, there are a few considerations for producers to keep in mind as they practice herd health management in this new environment. Veterinarians

may see an influx of new clients, so it is important to connect with your veterinary clinic to determine their hours of operation to acquire a prescription or a refill. It is also important that producers communicate regularly with their veterinarian to ensure herd health concerns are handled quickly and effectively.

Preventing infections goes a long way to reducing the need for antibiotics, and this applies to people and animals alike. Good hygiene, proper nutrition, reducing stress and keeping vaccinations up to date are excellent ways to help prevent infections and improve antimicrobial stewardship. ■

- Dr. Wendy Wilkins, Livestock Branch

Safe Food for Canadians Act and Regulations coming into force

On Jan. 15, 2019, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's (CFIA) Safe Food for Canadians Act and Regulations will come into force. Under this new legislation, products that are currently regulated, such as meat and dairy, will require licences immediately, while others, for example baked goods, will have some time to meet the requirements. Activity type and business size will also influence licencing requirements. Once fully implemented, a food business will require a licence if it is:

- Manufacturing, processing, treating, preserving, grading, packaging or labelling a food that will be exported or moved between provinces;
- Importing a food;
- Exporting a food that previously required an export certificate or permission;

- Slaughtering a food animal where meat will be exported or moved between provinces; and/or
- Storing and handling a meat product in its imported condition for inspection by CFIA.

If you have questions about the Safe Food for Canadians Act or Regulations, check out the CFIA's website at inspection.gc.ca or call 1-800-442-2342.

In Saskatchewan, there is funding available under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) to support food processors to enhance and maintain food safety by providing assessments, education/training and rebates to food processors. Information on this program can be found at saskatchewan.ca/cap. ■

- Kelly Bettschen, Livestock Branch

What is CUSMA?

On September 30, 2018, the United States, Canada and Mexico announced that an agreement was reached on a new trade partnership to replace the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). The Canada-United States-Mexico trade agreement (CUSMA) replaces the former trade agreement of nearly 25 years and is a result of over a year of negotiations between the three countries.

The U.S. is Saskatchewan's largest agriculture and agri-food market, while Mexico is Saskatchewan's fourth largest export market. This agreement is important and will help limit trade disruptions and strengthen our relationships with the U.S. and Mexico.

While the CUSMA builds on the previous trade agreement, there are substantial changes that will affect the agricultural sector in the new deal, most of which are specific to the Canadian dairy industry. As part of this agreement, Canada agreed to remove Class 7 for dairy ingredients, increase access for dairy products from the U.S., as well as limit and reduce exports of products such as skim milk powder. Without Class 7, innovation and strategic reforms in the dairy industry may be required in order to adapt to the new trade environment. The Government of Canada has announced the creation of new working groups to develop adaptation strategies for the dairy, poultry and egg sectors.

Risky Business: SCIC offers diverse business risk management programs for Saskatchewan producers

Every business decision a farmer makes has some element of risk. Weather conditions, market prices, wildlife damage, labour and equipment costs are unpredictable factors impacting farming operations. While Saskatchewan producers know the risks, it is also important to consider the programs available to help mitigate these risks.

Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC) has a diverse suite of business risk management programs to help producers protect their farming businesses.

Crop Insurance and AgriStability work together

SCIC encourages producers to consider participating in both Crop Insurance and AgriStability programs as part of a comprehensive risk management plan for their farming operations. With Crop Insurance, producers have coverage for their crops from the start of seeding season until harvest is complete. Through AgriStability, producers have coverage for other uncontrollable events throughout the year. When combined, Crop Insurance and AgriStability offer extensive protection against the bottom line for Saskatchewan's farms and ranches.

Since 1961, the Crop Insurance Program has been a staple for Saskatchewan producers. The average Crop Insurance coverage has increased over 250 per cent in the last 10 years and, in 2018, SCIC provided \$6.3 billion in insurance coverage. This increase correlates with SCIC's enhancements within the Crop Insurance Program each year. To meet the changing needs of modern farming, SCIC recently introduced more contract pricing options which caused an increase of nearly 500,000 insured acres. Additionally, the Corn Heat Unit Program was expanded

province-wide which resulted in a 150-per-cent increase in acres reported under this option. Crop Insurance coverage has also increased with advances in agricultural production as SCIC now uses yield trending to ensure coverage reflects actual production.

While the Crop Insurance Program has evolved, the fundamental risk protection is the same. The program covers loss in quality and quantity on insurable crops due to uncontrollable factors such as weather, insects and other non-management-related implications. To protect from additional risks, such as declining commodity prices or rising input costs, the AgriStability Program works to maintain the financial foundation of the farming operation.

SCIC has administered the AgriStability Program since the 2009 program year. In 2016, AgriStability benefits totalling over \$66.8 billion were paid to 1,441 Saskatchewan producers, averaging \$46,405 per participant.

Producers do not have to choose one program over another. Crop Insurance and AgriStability work together to protect from crop production losses and marginal declines in farming income. SCIC encourages producers to consider the benefits of both programs to maximize their coverage.

Price insurance for cattle and hogs

The Western Livestock Price Insurance Program (WLPIP) protects producers from unexpected price drops in the cattle or hog market. Producers can purchase price insurance year-round for their feeder cattle, finished cattle or hogs. Every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, producers can

choose from a range of coverage options. By selecting what works best for their individual operations, producers can lock-in market price protection to avoid unexpected declines.

Additionally, calf price insurance is available in the spring.

The 2017-18 production year saw the highest level of producer participation since WLPIP was introduced to Saskatchewan producers in April 2014. As of March 31, 2018, 2,959 producers were enrolled, representing 22 per cent of the province's calves, 2.5 per cent of feeder cattle and 4.5 per cent of fed cattle. With the implementation of Payment of Account in November 2018, SCIC expects WLPIP participation to grow.

Wildlife damage affects all producers

SCIC also provides coverage for wildlife damage. During the cold, snow-covered winter months, wildlife are searching for

in the field. Compensation is paid based on a reference to starting inventory, meaning damages occurring prior to the

initial inspection may not be paid. For this reason, it is important to contact SCIC at the first sight of wildlife damage.

If producers wait until late winter or spring to report damages, compensation may not be available since

there is no inventory reference or it may be too late to employ wildlife prevention measures. Please contact SCIC for more information or to file a wildlife claim.

Personalized insurance and quick action on claims

SCIC understands the risks of farming, but no one knows their own business better than the producer. That is why SCIC provides diverse business risk management programs with



"Crop Insurance covers your crops when they are in the field and then AgriStability, as a margin-based program, works together to cover your crops once harvested. They complement each other really well."

- Stewart, SCIC Customer

alternative food sources. Unfortunately, that alternative is likely stacked forage, and damage may increase with cold weather or heavy snow.

All Saskatchewan producers are eligible for coverage under the Wildlife Damage Compensation Program. It is important to report wildlife damage to SCIC as soon as it is detected. Claims for losses to stacked forage are handled differently from a claim

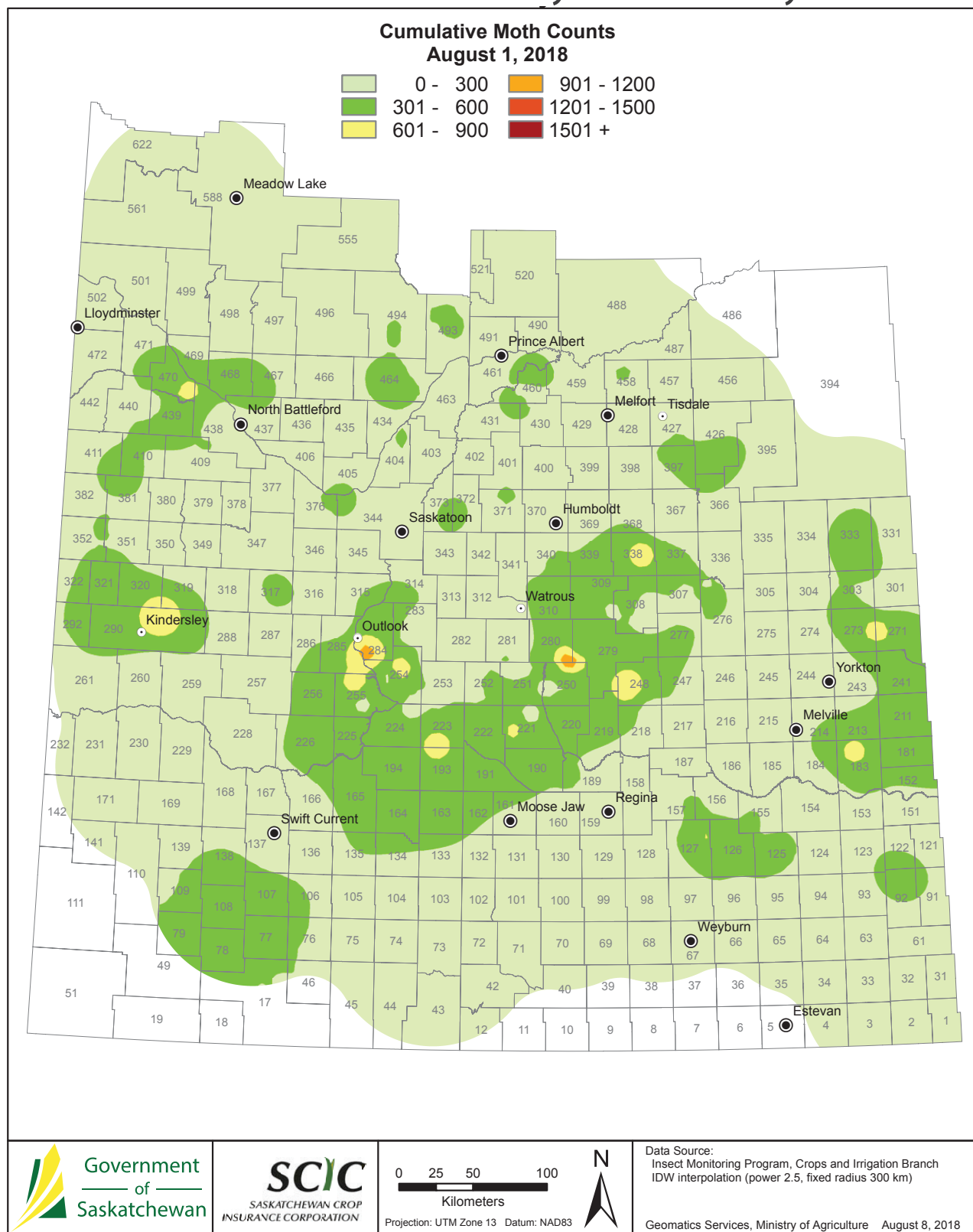
personalized, individual coverage that reflects each producer's operation.

Knowledgeable staff work with producers to ensure they are making informed decisions and have the support they need.

It is never too early to discuss program options. Visit saskcropinsurance.com or call 1-888-935-0000 (Crop Insurance) or 1-866-270-8450 (AgriStability) for more information. ■

Insect maps

Saskatchewan Bertha Armyworm Survey - 2018



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Grasshopper Forecast - 2019

based on adult grasshopper counts

Infestation

Risk - Cereals

>12 - 24 per m²

Severe

> 8 - 12 per m²

Moderate

> 4 - 8 per m²

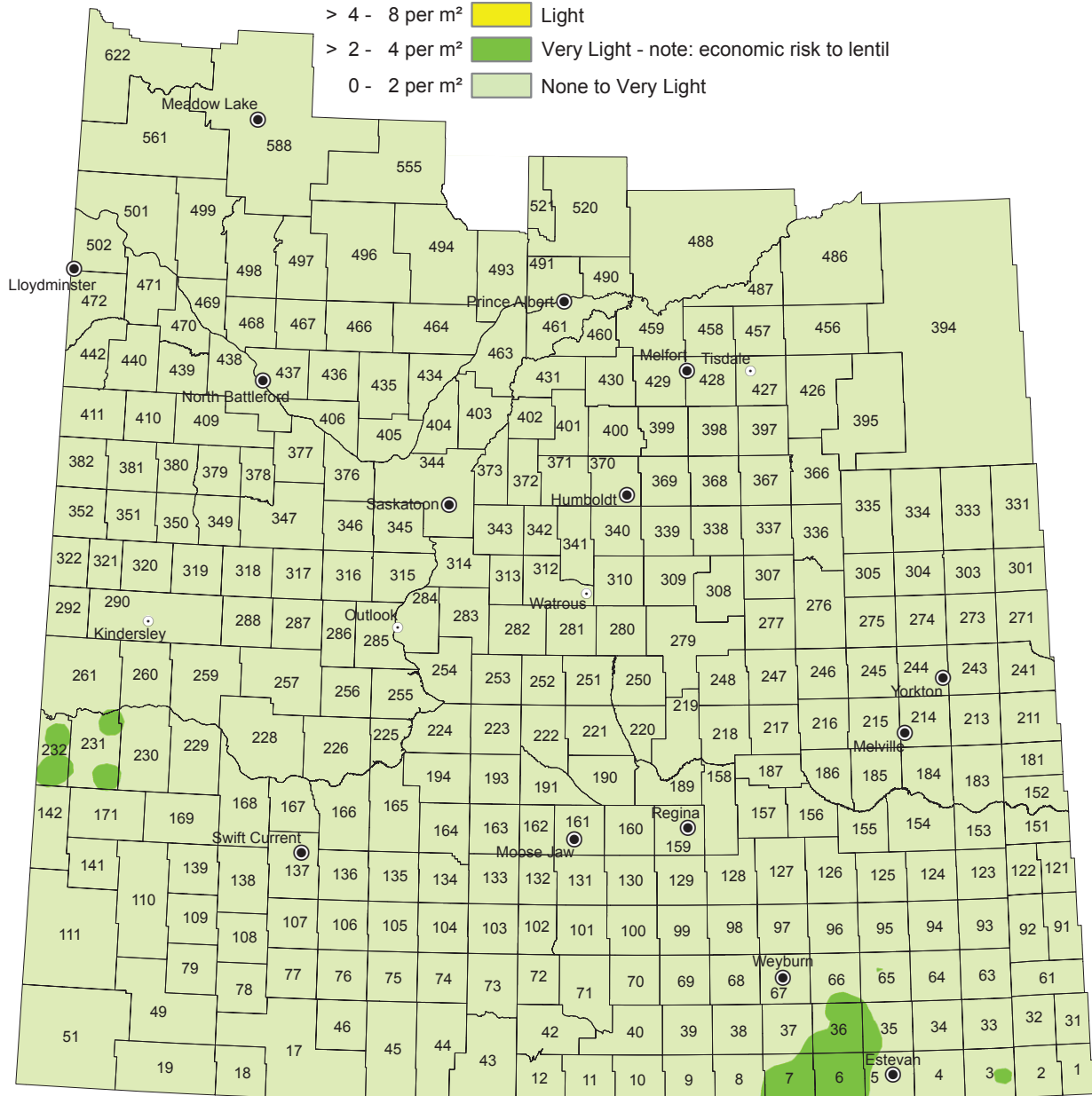
Light

> 2 - 4 per m²

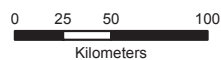
Very Light - note: economic risk to lentil

0 - 2 per m²

None to Very Light



NOTE: Since techniques used to smooth the transition between zones can affect the values in localized areas, this map should be used for regional analysis only.



Projection: UTM Zone 13 Datum: NAD83

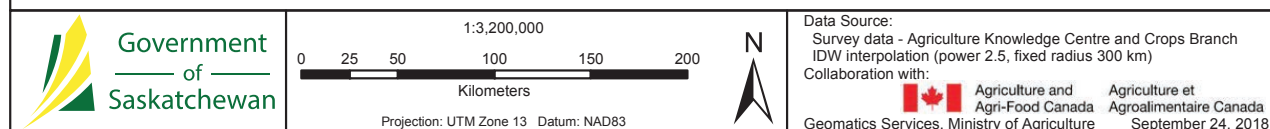
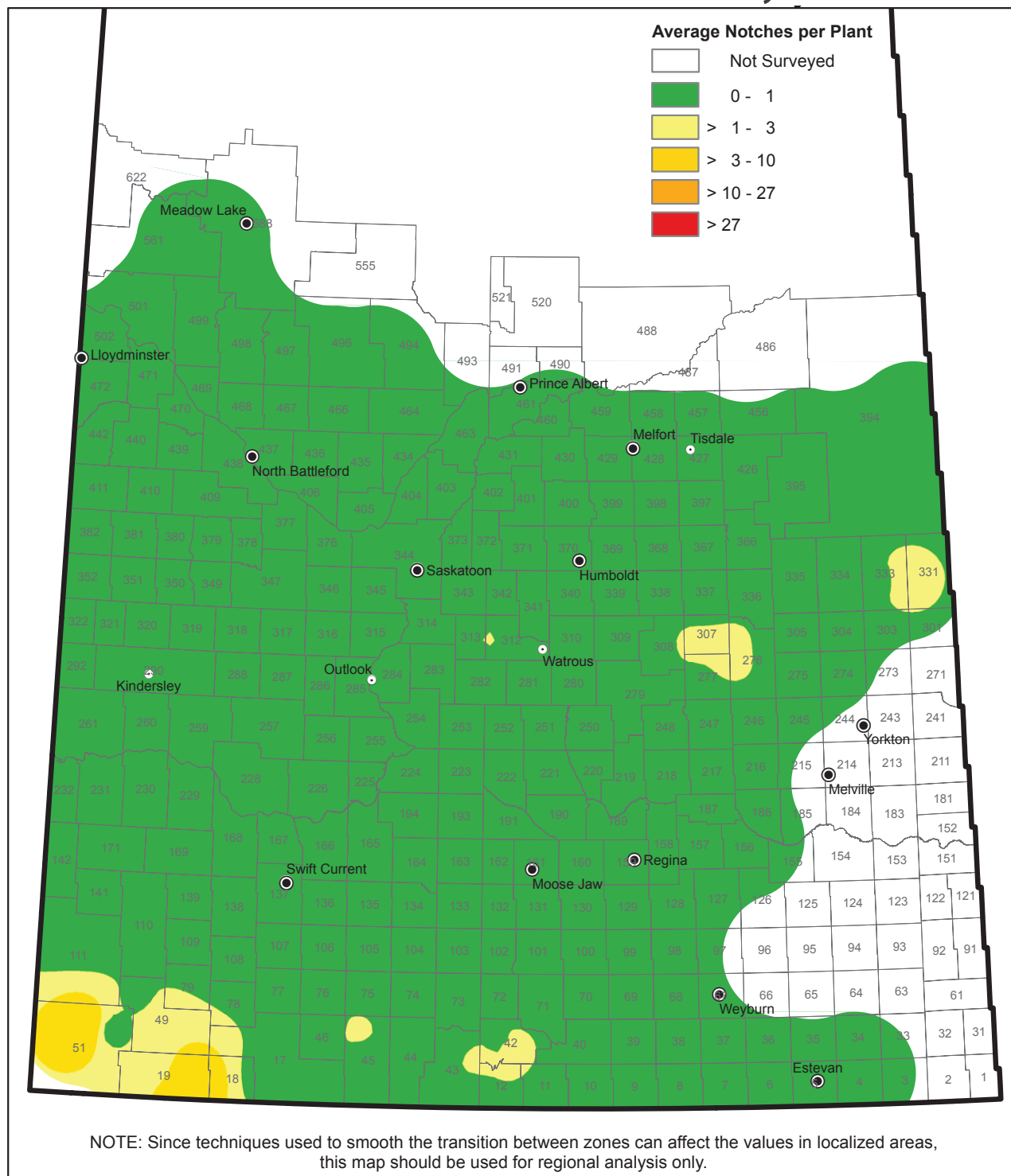
Data Source:
Grasshopper Count - Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation
Field Staff

Geomatic Services, Ministry of Agriculture October 31, 2018

© 2018 Government of Saskatchewan

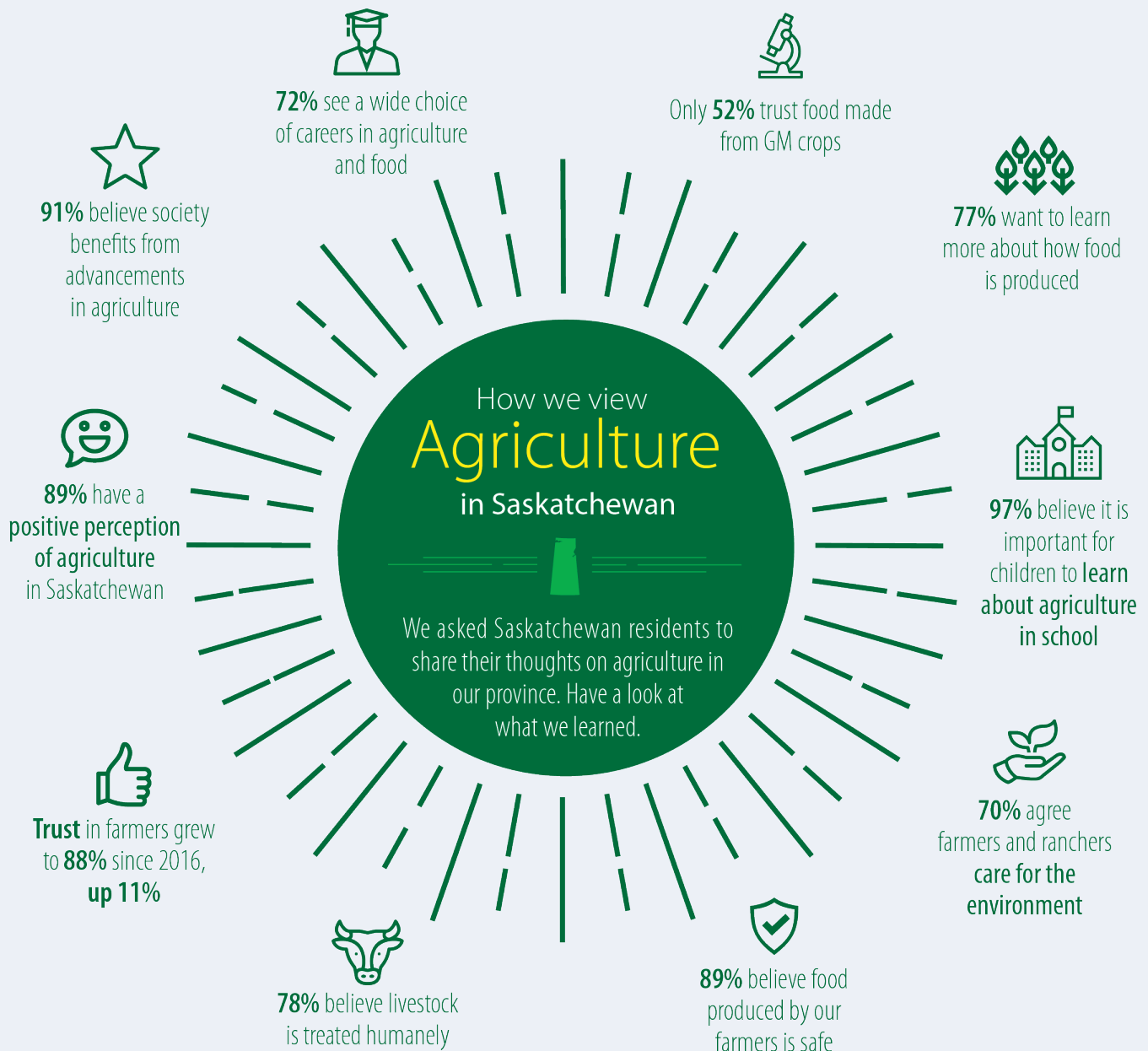
Insect maps

Saskatchewan Pea Leaf Weevil Survey - 2018



Public trust

Each year we participate in a survey to gain insight into public perceptions of the agriculture and agri-food industry, assess the impact of efforts to build trust, and to establish benchmarks for future initiatives.



Public Trust Programs

Funding is available through the following programs to build agricultural awareness and strengthen the industry through leadership development. Find more information on saskatchewan.ca/CAP.



Agriculture Awareness Initiative Program (AAIP)



Industry Organization Development Program (IODP)



Farm Safety Program



Next Gen Agriculture Mentorship Program

Events

DATE

Jan. 9-10, 2019	SYA Proudly Ag Conference and Annual General Meeting	LOCATION Saskatoon	PHONE 306-221-7950	WEB saskyoungag.ca
Jan. 11-12, 2019	Saskatchewan Sheep Development Board AGM and Symposium	LOCATION Saskatoon	PHONE 306-933-5200	WEB sksheep.com
Jan. 14-18, 2019	Crop Production Week	LOCATION Saskatchewan	PHONE 1-888-935-0000	WEB cropweek.com
Jan. 14-17, 2019	Western Canadian Crop Production Show	LOCATION Saskatoon	PHONE 1-306-931-7149	WEB cropproductiononline.com
Jan. 14-16, 2019	CropSphere	LOCATION Saskatoon	PHONE 306-220-1505	WEB cropsphere.com
Jan. 16-18, 2019	Saskatchewan Beef Industry Conference	LOCATION Regina	PHONE 306-731-7610	WEB saskbeefconference.com
Feb. (various dates)	Winter Regional Pulse Meetings	LOCATION Various locations	PHONE 1-866-457-2377	WEB saskatchewan.ca/agriculture
Feb. 28-Mar. 1, 2019	Celebrating Rural Ranching Women	LOCATION Maple Creek	PHONE 1-866-457-2377	WEB saskatchewan.ca/agriculture
Feb. 1-3, 2019	Saskatchewan Ranch Management Forum	LOCATION Prince Albert	PHONE 306-953-2363	WEB saskatchewan.ca/agriculture
March 2019	Canadian Agriculture Literacy Month	LOCATION Saskatchewan	PHONE 1-844-393-2345	WEB aitc.sk.ca

