

Ministry of Agriculture Update

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saskatchewan.ca

Saskatchewan! 

2026-31 Strategic Plan

Relevant, Resilient, Responsive

Policy

Amy Standish

Regulation

Brady Pollock

**Sector
Growth**

Penny McCall

**Operational
Excellence**

Organizational Changes

Production and Development Branch (previously Crops and Irrigation Branch)

Led by Faye Dokken

Crop Health Unit

Surveillance, diagnostics, soil fertility, weed, disease and pest management.

Livestock Unit

Productivity, resilience and competitiveness of the livestock sector.

Crops Unit

Productivity, resilience and competitiveness of the crop sector.

Irrigation Unit

Irrigation development, productivity and resilience.

Regulatory and Compliance Branch (previously Livestock Branch)

Led by Venkata Vakulabharanam

Livestock Operations Unit

Intensive livestock operations that allows for sector growth and protects human health and the environment.

Licensing and Inspection Unit

Licensing, inspection and compliance, including game farm inspection and pesticide licensing.

Regulatory and Emergency Planning Unit

Regulation and emergency planning.

Animal Health and Welfare Unit

Animal health risks and animal welfare.

Branch Name Changes

Regional Services

→ **Extension Services**

Agriculture Research

→ **Science and Innovation**

Lands

→ **Crown Land Management**

The Saskatchewan Farm Security Act

- Review of the Act recently announced
- Last amended in 2015
- Consultation planning underway



Current Farm Land Ownership Criteria

Eligible to Own Land:

- Canadian Citizens
- Permanent Residents
- 100 per cent Canadian Owned Entities (Corporations)
- Family Owned Trusts of less than 10 related members

Ineligible to Own Land:

- Non- Resident Persons
- Publicly traded companies
- Pension Plans
- Trusts and family trusts larger than ten members
- Any corporation with one shareholder who does not meet the eligibility criteria

Recent Regulatory Amendments

- Canada Pension Plan Investment Board Exemption removed
- Scenarios where the Board can apply administrative penalties were clarified
- Conservation group exemptions extended to May 2028
- Other administrative to streamline processes

Farm Land Ownership Advisory Committee Feedback

Ownership
verification before
transfer

Strengthen
penalties and
enforcement tools

Modernize the
legislation

Stakeholder Engagement

- Public consultation for everyone to provide feedback
- Anticipating an online tool to provide feedback available on saskatchewan.ca/farmland
- Broad consultation will occur with all industry groups later this summer/fall

Things to think about:

- Who should be allowed to own land?
- How should we monitor or enforce this?
- What type of protections should be in place for those that do own land?
 - i.e. foreclosure/home quarter protection
- What has changed since the legislation was first implemented that needs to be amended to meet current and future farming practices?

Richardson's Ground Squirrels and Strychnine Emergency Use Registration



Richardson Ground Squirrels (RGS): The Problem

- Large populations causing significant crop and pasture loss
- Burrowing leads to:
 - Soil disturbance and erosion
 - Damage to equipment and infrastructure
 - Safety risks for livestock



Strychnine Emergency Use Registration

- The Emergency Use Registration enables use of strychnine in 208 rural municipalities for the control of RGS until November 2027.
- The eligible use area was identified based on:
 - SCIC claims data
 - Consideration of species at risk presence
 - Results of the ministry's RGS survey

Strychnine Use: Five Key Steps



Complete
online training



Submit required
forms



Purchase through
your RM



Apply during
recommended windows



Complete Product
Evaluation Form

Use is **restricted and controlled**, with:

Training requirements

Monitoring and carcass collection

Measures to protect other species

Best Management Approach = Integrated Approach

Reduces reliance on any single method

- **Non-chemical control**
 - Hunting and trapping
 - Encouraging predators such as hawks, owls and coyotes
- **Habitat management**
 - Reduce ideal conditions (for example, overgrazed pasture or field edges) where RGS thrive
- **Chemical control (when needed)**
 - Registered rodenticides and baits
 - Emergency use of strychnine in targeted areas

Livestock Traceability



Federal Traceability Regulations

Proposed amendments paused
as of January 10, 2026, by the CFIA

On March 30, 2026, the Canadian Cattle Association
announced that they
and provincial member organizations
will convene a Task Force

June 2, news movement reporting for cattle won't move
forward at this time

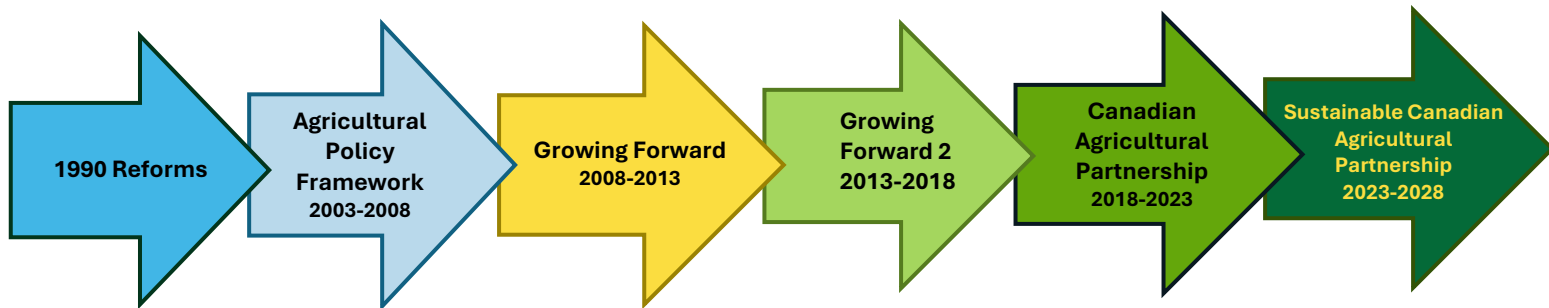
Province will continue to advocate
for Saskatchewan

Next Policy Framework



History of Agriculture Policy Frameworks

Agricultural policy frameworks have evolved to meet changing circumstances



Sustainable CAP Priorities and Strategic Initiatives

Programs Available to Farmers and Ranchers	Research Programs	Programs Available to Agri-Businesses or Industry Organizations
Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program (FRWIP)	Ag Demonstration of Practices and Technologies (ADOPT)	Saskatchewan Lean Improvements in Manufacturing Program (SLIM)
Resilient Agricultural Landscapes Program (RALP)	Agriculture-Applied Research Management (Agri-ARM)	Product Development Program
Animal Health and Biosecurity Program	Agriculture Development Fund (ADF)	Agriculture Awareness Initiative Program (AAIP)
Pest Biosecurity Program	Strategic Field Program	Pest Biosecurity Program
Farm Safety Initiatives	Strategic Research Initiative	
Next Gen Agriculture Mentorship	Strategic Research Program	
Agriculture Student Scholarship		

For full details on these programs and more, visit saskatchewan.ca/S-CAP.

Sustainable CAP Business Risk Management (BRM) Suite

Cost-Shared Suite

AgriInsurance

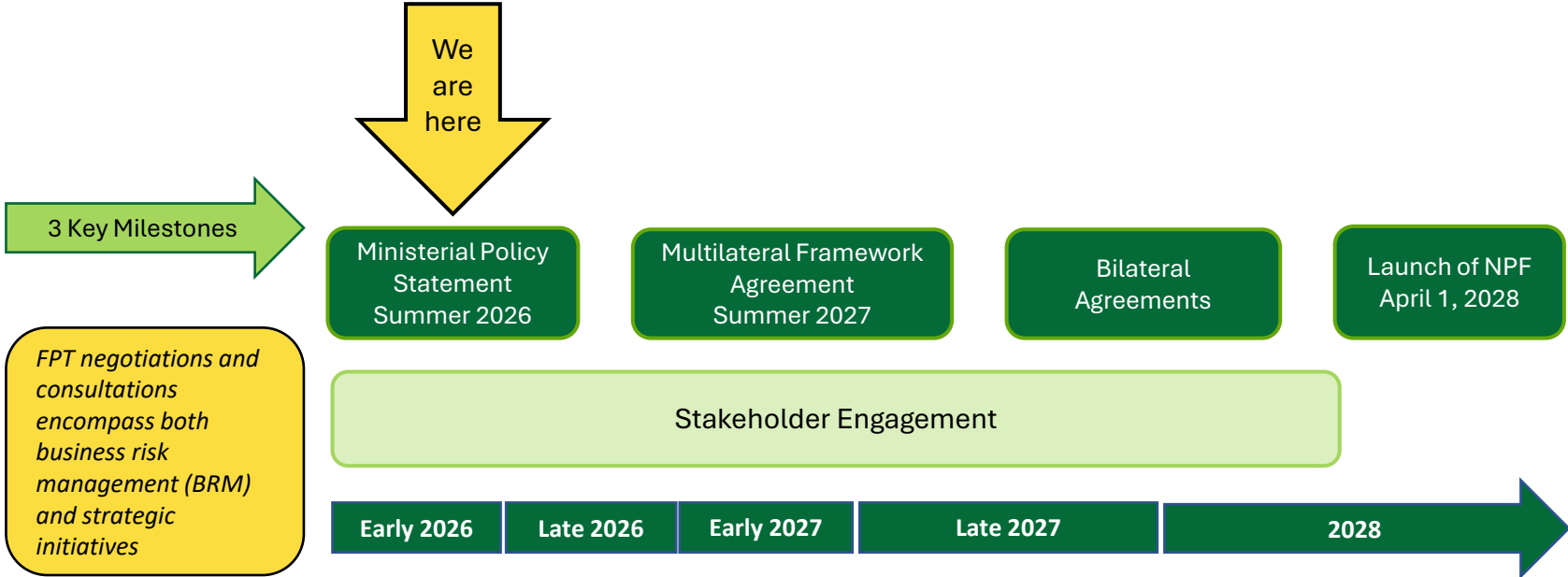
AgriInvest

AgriStability

AgriRecovery

Proposed Next Policy Framework Timelines

- Developing the NPF consists of three phases – the Policy Statement, Multilateral Framework Agreement and bilateral agreements– with the following key milestones:



Next Policy Framework- Proposed Draft Priorities



Economic Growth and Competitiveness



Markets and Trade



Science, Research and Innovation



Sector Resilience

Next Policy Framework- Next Steps

NPF Policy
Statement Released

Stakeholder
Engagements

Ongoing FPT
Negotiations

Questions?

saskatchewan.ca