



# A CROP FARM YEAR AT A GLANCE IN THE PRAIRIES



BRIDGE TO  
LAND WATER SKY

This factsheet outlines the seasonal cycle of prairie crop farms — operations focused on growing field crops such as cereals, oilseeds, pulses, and specialty crops. It does not describe ranching or livestock production. Instead, it highlights the fieldwork, planning, and crop-specific decisions that shape a grain and oilseed farm throughout the year.

## Saskatchewan Agriculture: Quick Facts

- Saskatchewan accounts for more than 40% of Canada's cultivated farmland. (Statistics Canada, 2022)
- Saskatchewan is the leading producer of pulse crops in Canada, including lentils and chickpeas. (Statistics Canada)
- Saskatchewan is recognized as one of the most productive farming regions in the world, responsible for about 20% of Canada's annual agri-food exports. (Canada Action summary of Saskatchewan agriculture)
- Saskatchewan agriculture contributes significantly to the provincial economy, with crop and animal production generating \$3.89 billion in GDP in 2021. (Job Bank sector profile)
- Saskatchewan's crop production reached a record 41.9 million metric tonnes in 2025, exceeding the five-year average by more than 24%. (SaskToday crop production report)

## Crop Farm Activities

**Winter**  
(November-March)

- Hauling grain to elevators or processors
- Reviewing soil test results for upcoming crop fertility plans
- Checking grain bins to ensure stored grain maintains quality
- Yard maintenance, including snow clearing for access to grain and fertilizer bins
- Equipment maintenance, repairs, and upgrades for spring fieldwork
- Seed quality testing (germination, vigour, disease) for farm-saved seed
- Planning crop rotations and field operations for the upcoming season

**Spring**  
(April-June)

- Taking delivery of seed, fertilizer, inoculants, and crop protection products
- Treating cereal and pulse seed
- Soil preparation and tillage (as needed for crop establishment)
- Seeding and planting field crops
- Applying fertilizers and early-season herbicides

## Key Considerations

- Assessing soil health and nutrient needs for next year's crops
- Reviewing seed test reports; sourcing new seed if needed
- Ordering canola and other crop varieties before they sell out
- Updating crop management plans and budgets
- Attending agronomy workshops, crop conferences, and trade shows
- Analyzing yield maps and field data from last year's crops
- Evaluating weed, disease, and insect pressures from the previous growing season
- Monitoring soil moisture and weather to determine ideal seeding windows
- Ensuring proper seed placement, depth, and packing for uniform emergence
- Managing early-season weeds and pests
- Calibrating equipment for accurate seed and fertilizer rates
- Finalizing crop plans, including variety selection and fertility strategies

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## Crop Farm Activities

## Key Considerations

 **Summer**  
(June-August)

- Crop growth and development
- Scouting for weeds, insects, and diseases
- Applying herbicides, fungicides, and insecticides as needed
- Managing nutrient levels and soil health
- Preparing combines, grain carts, and bins for harvest

- Tracking weather patterns and moisture stress
- Making timely fungicide or insecticide decisions based on crop staging
- Monitoring beneficial insects and pollinators
- Assessing crop maturity to plan harvest timing
- Ensuring adequate grain storage and drying capacity

 **Fall**  
(September-November)

- Harvesting crops using combines and grain carts
- Transporting grain for storage or sale
- Post-harvest fieldwork (tillage, residue management, soil amendments)
- Assessing crop yields and grain quality
- Cleaning and storing equipment for winter
- Soil sampling for next year's fertility planning

- Timing harvest to avoid weather damage and maintain grain quality
- Monitoring grain storage conditions to prevent spoilage
- Evaluating crop performance and variety suitability
- Implementing soil conservation practices (e.g., reduced tillage, cover crops)
- Reviewing crop marketing strategies heading into winter

## Resources to Support Crop Decisions

Producers and landowners use a variety of resources and guides to support decision-making throughout the crop year. Here are a few tools to help with planning, managing, and evaluating operations.

**Saskatchewan Crop Planning Guide** - Cost-of-production estimates, budgets, and planning tools.

**Saskatchewan Farm Machinery Custom Rate Guide** - Benchmarks for custom work and machinery cost comparisons.

**Saskatchewan Seed Guide** - Variety comparisons, seed suppliers, and agronomic notes.

**Guide to Crop Protection** - Herbicide, fungicide, and insecticide information (rates, staging, resistance).

**Varieties of Grain Crops Guide** - Official provincial variety performance and disease ratings

**Saskatchewan Crop Report** - Weekly updates on crop conditions, moisture, seeding, and harvest progress.

**Saskatchewan Agriculture Knowledge Centre (AKC) 1-866-457-2377** - Toll-free agronomy support line.

**Weather & Seasonal Tools** - Environment Canada forecasts, drought/moisture maps, and long-range outlooks.

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