



Creating opportunities in South-Central Alberta



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Featured

2019 was a difficult year — but also one of great progress

By Glenn Cheater | Alberta Farmer Express | Jan 6, 2020



If PED hadn't arrived. If the weather had been a bit more co-operative.

But the past year was also a reminder that efforts to make things better do pay off.

Look no further than grain transportation — an issue that has bedevilled Prairie farmers for decades. But this year, that picture changed dramatically.

Canada exported a record 44.6 million tonnes of grain in the 2018-19 crop year, with CP and CN Rail moving even more — a record 54.3 million tonnes.

It was a performance that even one of the biggest critics of the railways had to acknowledge as pretty impressive.

"It shows we've come a long way as a supply chain," said Wade Sobkowich, executive director of the Western Grain Elevator Association. "This is something the industry has accomplished that it has never accomplished before in spite of some of the difficulties that are chronic and still exist."

And that record is likely to be repeatedly broken as a wave of new high-throughput elevators coupled with a massive investment in high-capacity hopper cars come online. (This summer, Paterson Grain set a provincial record when it loaded 14,821 tonnes at its new Bowden terminal into a 1.6-mile-long train made up of the bigger hopper cars.)

The arrival of the porcine epidemic diarrhea virus (PEDv) in the province also illustrated that we have capabilities that other countries can only dream of.

The province's financially stressed pork sector could scarcely have afforded a major disease outbreak when the first case of PEDv in Alberta was confirmed on Jan. 7. Although officials never discovered how the virus arrived at four operations in rapid succession at the start of the year (or why there were no more), Alberta's biosecurity effort was extensive and impressive. For example, between Jan. 7 and May 9,

provincial officials collected 11,881 samples (all negative) at 10 high-traffic pig sites (three abattoirs, three assembly yards, and four truck washes).

“It’s a bit like being a police investigator — looking at all the different possibilities this virus could have taken advantage of when it moved,” said Dr. Julia Keenlside, provincial veterinary epidemiologist.

An iconic Alberta scene of cattle grazing (in Willow Valley in late October). Not many livestock or grain producers will say 2019 was a great year, but it wasn’t without its share of highlights. *photo: Michael Moskaluk, Special to Alberta Farmer*

The scarier threat is from African swine fever, which swept through China this year and resulted in the culling of upwards of half of its breeding sows (which means the country will be importing a lot more pork, and also more beef and poultry, for years to come).

The fear here is that the disease will arrive in North America via infected pork brought illegally by travellers. To lessen the chance of that happening, Ottawa is spending an extra \$31 million to triple the number of detector dog teams at Canadian airports — one small piece in a largely unseen but extensive biosecurity system.

China and plant proteins

Of course, even the most extensive preparations can only take you so far.

In January, the president of the Canola Council of Canada was citing its “long-standing trading relationship with China” as he looked ahead to increased canola seed exports to that country.

“We think the underlying drivers of that relationship are very sound,” Jim Everson said at the start of the year. “China has a growing appetite for high-quality, reliable supplies of canola, and Canada has a growing supply to provide.”

Those relationships are likely intact, but with Beijing allowing only a trickle of imports since early March, they’re not of much use for now.

Replacing the lost Chinese canola sales was never going to be easy, but the years-ago investment in building domestic crushing plants paid off as those facilities went full out in the months following the Chinese ban.

An even more ambitious effort is underway when it comes to processing pulses, canola, hemp, and other crops to create a wide variety of food ingredients. Although a new plant protein ‘supercluster’ started the year with \$153 million in federal funding in its pocket, this remained a very much in-the-background story in 2019.

Protein Industries Canada issued calls for proposals earlier in the year, with Calgary’s Botaneco Inc. (which has a unique way to process oil from canola, hemp, sunflower, and safflower seeds) receiving the first shot of funding (\$4 million).

It’s a start, though whether the Prairies become a major processing centre for protein and other food components from plants remains to be seen. But the picture should become clearer in the coming year. In November, CEO Bill Greuel said 17 projects were given the green light to submit full proposals.

“We are expecting to have a significant portion of our \$153 million committed into projects by the end of March 2020,” Greuel wrote in an update.

Evolving technology

A more quickly approaching target on the horizon is 'smart' agriculture.

With combine and tractor cabs starting to resemble cockpits, digital and computerized technology may seem like an old story. But the opening of a 'Smart Farm' at Olds College signals that technology is heading to a new level.

The operation, which has grown to more than 2,000 acres in little more than a year, employs soil monitors, digital weather stations, wireless grain bin sensors, multispectral imaging, precision ag technology, drones, data analytics, and artificial intelligence.

The goal is to evaluate the technology and identify ways to make it all work together.

"Technology is such a huge component of agriculture going into the future. It's making agriculture more sustainable, more productive and more profitable," said Joy Agnew, director of applied research at Olds College.

"But there's still a lot of uncertainty and unknowns about the operability and ease of use and robustness of these technologies. Those are all questions that producers have, and without an actual testbed, it's very difficult to answer those questions."

Producers had a chance to ask some of those questions and see the Smart Farm's technology this summer when the college hosted its first AgSmart event. The open house drew a big crowd but the true test, of course, is whether initiatives like this give Alberta producers an edge in the rapidly evolving world of ag tech and big data.

Research

This was a big topic in the past year for a couple of other reasons.

An effort to find support for two different types of seed royalties (a trailing royalty and an end point royalty) only succeeded in unifying farm groups in opposing both. Although cereal breeders say they can't afford to develop new varieties if there's no meaningful payback, farmers are leery of adding yet another expense in a business with very tiny margins.

Buy-in from producers for any model is a must, said Lynn Jacobson, president of the Alberta Federation of Agriculture.

"Unless the majority of people are willing to comply, it just is not going to fly," Jacobson said this summer.

After extensive consultations early in the year, the effort to find some sort of solution has gone quiet, but is expected to return to the fore sooner or later.

Meanwhile, the new provincial government has moved quickly to change the face of ag research in this province. The United Conservative government plans to cut its own agricultural research spending by \$34.1 million over the next four years.

Some of that money will apparently be flowing back to farmer-led research organizations, although details of how that would work haven't been announced.

"We want to be able to partner with farmers so that the type of research the government is funding is, at the end of the day, something that benefits farmers," Agriculture Minister Devin Dreeshen said earlier this winter.

"It's not that we're just looking at dollar figures — it's actually about outcomes."

And, as always, time will tell what those outcomes are.

[Read the Full Article](#)

China Brief | Edition 035

By Sarah Pittman | Policy analyst | Canada West Foundation

CANADAWEST
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CHINA
BRIEF

China's relationship
with Canada's West



Published: Jan. 13, 2020

“Here’s the problem: Whatever China commits to buying from the U.S. will inevitably come at the expense of other exporting countries. In farm products, Canada is among the countries most at risk of losing market share” – [Barrie McKenna](#), the Globe and Mail

Meng Wanzhou’s Trial

The extradition hearing of Meng Wanzhou, CFO of Chinese telecom Huawei, is set to start in Vancouver on [January 20](#). Meng’s arrest in December 2018 triggered a massive fallout in Canada-China relations.

[Business in Vancouver](#) named Meng “newsmaker of the year” for the impact her arrest has had on trade with China, diplomatic relations, and the seemingly arbitrary arrests and detainments of Canadian citizens.

Kai Valdez Bettcher at the [Asia Pacific Foundation](#) documented how this has impacted Canadian exports to China, and investments by Canadian and Chinese businesses into the other country. The main takeaways are an overall drop in Canadian exports to China (a \$1.5 billion drop compared to 2018) and a jaw dropping decline in Chinese investment in Canada (from \$3.6 billion Jan-Oct 2018, to \$351 million Jan-Oct 2019).

This first stage of the hearing will only take a maximum of [four days](#) – so if there is more fallout in the China-Canada relationship because of this, we’ll soon find out.

A new parliamentary committee on Canada-China relations

In December the House of Commons voted to appoint a [special committee](#) to review the Canada-China relationship. This was a conservative motion – all parties except the ruling Liberal Party voted in favour. This has been interpreted as a criticism of the Liberal government’s approach to the relationship with China.

This [committee](#) will review all aspects of the Canada-China relationship, and will be empowered to call Foreign Affairs Minister Francois-Philippe Champagne, Public Safety Minister Bill Blair, and Canada’s ambassador to China Dominic Barton as witnesses “as the committee sees fit.”

Will Canada gain from the US-China trade deal? Probably not

Many Canadian business owners are looking eagerly at whether the US-China trade deal will mean any improvements in trade and investment, but Bank of Canada governor [Stephen Poloz](#) says that it is too early to tell. He says that it’s not clear whether any other tariffs on China will be rolled back, and there are also concerns that the US could turn its attentions to the European Union. Either way, we’re still playing a “wait and see” game.

Barrie McKenna goes farther in the *Globe and Mail*, saying that the agreement is “[bad news](#) for Canada and we can’t do a thing about it. It’s also ominous for global trade more broadly.” He predicts that some of the Canadian exports that could be hurt include canola oil, soybeans, frozen pork, beef, lentils, wheat, beans, seafood, and coal.

Pork exporters gearing up to sell more to China in 2020

The largest Canadian exporter of pork to China is expecting shipments to jump as much as [60 per cent](#) in 2020. This comes after African Swine Fever has wiped out roughly half of China’s hog population (in [September](#), losses were estimated at 100 million pigs).

Last year was on track to be a record year for pork exports – until meat sales to China were suspended for four months. (For more of that see this [China Brief](#)).

China consumes 50 million tonnes of pork annually – and is believed to be short between 20 and 30 million tonnes.

A sign of how significant the shortage is: some [banks](#) in China are now giving out small amounts of pork to people who sign up as a customer.

A rare earths update: why Canada is unlikely to be competitive with China

China’s domination of the rare earth elements industry has prompted business in Canada and the US to try to build their rare earth elements capacity. However, a rare earth expert has thrown cold water on this, saying that Canada is “[decades](#)” behind China here.

For more in-depth coverage of China’s rare earth elements industry and Canada’s response to it, see this [China Brief](#).

And, in case you missed it:

China is close to overtaking the US as Canada's largest market for [lobster](#)

An op-ed in the Globe and Mail argues that Canada should re-up its efforts to have [other countries](#) help in its response to China.

In an effort to jumpstart its economy, China is releasing [\\$150 billion](#) into its financial system.

This CBC analysis questions if the question of allowing [Huawei](#) to be part of Canada's 5G network can be separated from the issue of the detention of Michael Kovrig and Michael Spavor in China.

Access the article [here](#)



The human side of unemployment

By TB Financial's Economics & Research Team | ATB Economics | Research

Published: Jan 13, 2020

Alberta's unemployment rate averaged 6.9 per cent in 2019. We know this is not a good number because it is higher than the year before (albeit by only 0.2 percentage points), higher than the national average of 5.7 per cent, and higher than the provincial average of 5.4 per cent between 2001 and 2019.

We want to see the unemployment rate go down from where it is as this would be a sign that the economy has improved.

But what does that 6.9 per cent mean in terms of real people?

Statistics Canada estimates that the average number of Albertans who were unemployed last year was 173,200. This is higher than in 2018 when the average was 164,100, but below the peak reached in 2016 (200,800).

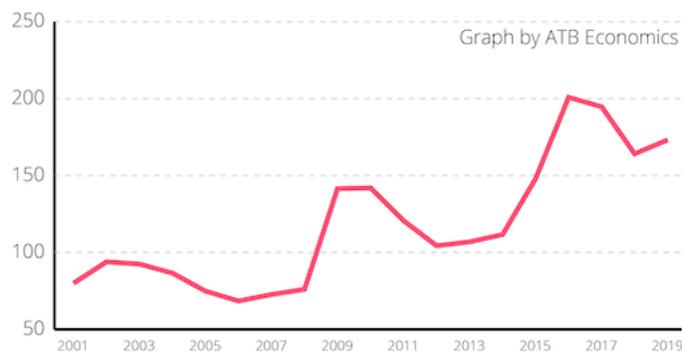
The actual number of individual Albertans who experienced a period of unemployment last year is not known, but it is higher than the average because some people are unemployed for a week while others are out of work for months on end. The average duration of unemployment was 21 weeks in 2019.

It's also important to keep in mind that the number of "unemployed" people only includes those who are actively looking for work. It does not include people who have given up (a.k.a. "discouraged" workers), retired early when they didn't want to, left the province because they lost their job, or are self-employed but have no clients or contracts at the moment.

So while the unemployment rate is an important and handy gauge of the overall direction of the labour market and economy, it does not tell us everything we need to know about the actual people who are between jobs, looking for the first time but unable to find work, or so disheartened that they have given up trying to find a job.

Average number unemployed, Alberta

Thousands



Source: Statistics Canada Table: 14-10-0090-01

Immigration is Alberta's main source of population growth

By TB Financial's Economics & Research Team | ATB Economics | Research

Published: Jan 7, 2020

Yesterday's *Owl* looked at how interprovincial migration has once again become a source of population growth for Alberta, albeit at a lower level than in the past. Today's *Owl* examines the role played by international migration to and from Alberta.

Over the first nine months of last year, 33,641 immigrants came to Alberta from other parts of the world. When we take into account Canadians who leave Alberta for other countries (emigrants), Canadians who came back to Alberta from abroad (returning emigrants), and those who come and go on a temporary basis (temporary emigrants and non-permanent residents), Alberta's net gain from international migration over this period works out to 33,910.

Net international migration accounted for 57 per cent of the nearly 60,000 people added to Alberta's population over the first nine months of 2019 with natural increase (births less deaths) accounting for 35

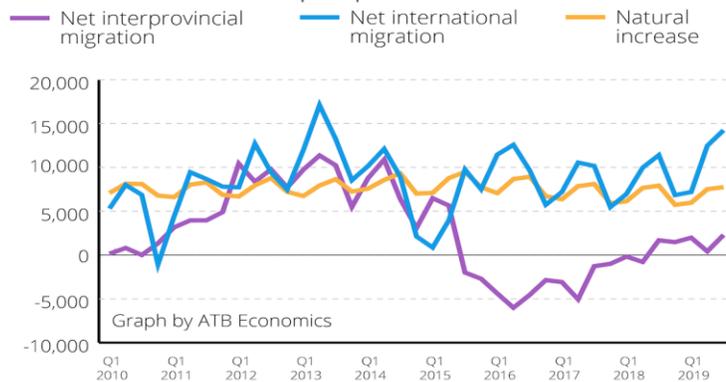
per cent and net interprovincial migration for 8 per cent.

Unlike net interprovincial migration which drained residents from Alberta during and immediately after the recent recession, net international migration has not been in negative territory since the fourth quarter of 2010. Except for the blip at the end of 2010 when there was a large exodus of temporary foreign workers, international migration has added people to Alberta's population every quarter since the mid-1960s.

During the third quarter of last year, Alberta accounted for 8 per cent of Canada's net international migration compared to 44 per cent for Ontario, 18 per cent for Quebec and 17 per cent for British Columbia.

Sources of population growth, Alberta

Number of new residents per quarter



Source: Statistics Canada Tables: 17-10-0020-01, 17-10-0040-01 and 17-10-0059-01

Weekly Economic Briefing

Brought to you by

For the week of **November 15 2019**

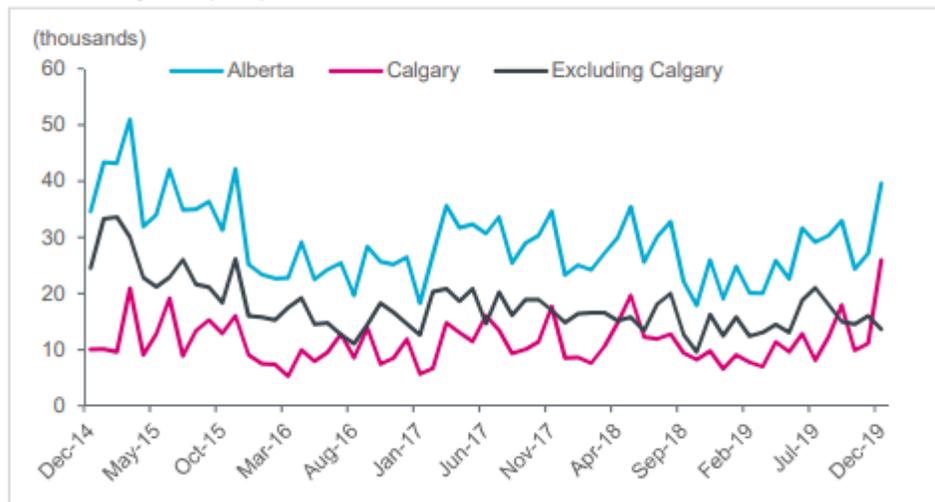


Housing Starts

Apartment starts surged in Calgary

Housing starts jumped to a four-year high in December as a flood of apartment projects began in Calgary. Starts increased by 46% month-over-month (m/m) to a seasonally adjusted annual rate (SAAR) of 39,610. A huge jump in Calgary drove the improvement, where there were 25,957 housing units started, the most for the month and third-most in any month since the series began in 1990. Outside Calgary, housing starts remained muted and slowed to a seven-month low (Chart 1) as starts in Edmonton and other cities continue to ease. With the strong end to 2019, an estimated 27,325 housing units were started in 2019, up 4.8% from the previous year..

Chart 1: Calgary starts surged, while rest of the province eases
 Alberta housing starts (SAAR)



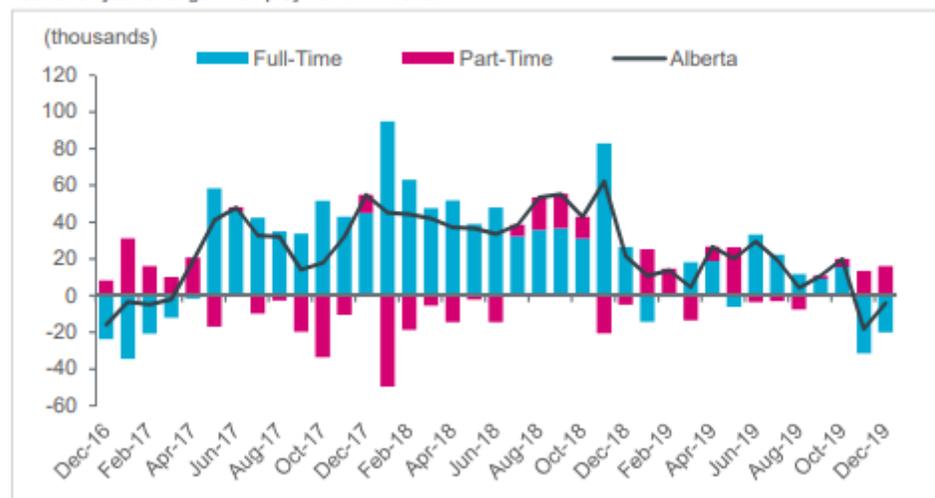
Source: Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation

Employment

Pullback in full-time

Employment held relatively steady in December following significant losses in the previous month. It eased 1,000 amid ongoing weakness in the goods-sector. In the goods sector, employment fell steadily over the past year, dragged down by continued weakness in oil and gas and construction. Compared to a year ago, employment was down 4,200 positions (-0.2% year-over-year or y/y), as a large pullback in full-time employment (-20,200 y/y) overwhelmed growth in part-time positions (+16,000 y/y) (Chart 2). Full-time employment pulled back in the second half of the year after solid employment growth in the first half of the year and over the previous two years. Meanwhile, with a falling labour force participation rate, the unemployment rate eased 0.2 percentage points to 7.0%.

Chart 2: Recent slowdown due to weakness in full-time
 Year-over-year change in employment in Alberta



Source: Statistics Canada

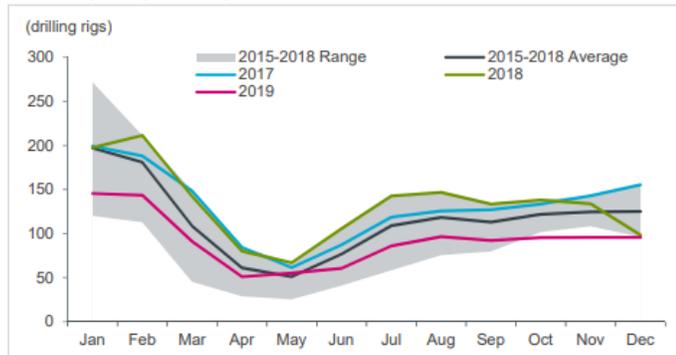
Alberta Activity Index

Activity stabilizing

Activity in the province continues to hold steady after giving back some of the gains made earlier in 2019. The Alberta Activity Index (AAX) was essentially unchanged in October 2019. The stabilization of activity came as modest growth in the labour market and uplift in general business activity were offset by a contraction in energy sector activity. Meanwhile, household activity was steady. Overall, the index

remained down 0.6% y/y, due to declines in energy and general business activity from 12 months ago. Nonetheless, the AAX remained up 2.0% from the February 2019 low.

Chart 4: Drilling activity lacklustre
Number of rigs drilling for oil and gas in Alberta



Source: Canadian Association of Oilwell Drilling Contractors

Rigs Drilling

Muted drilling activity

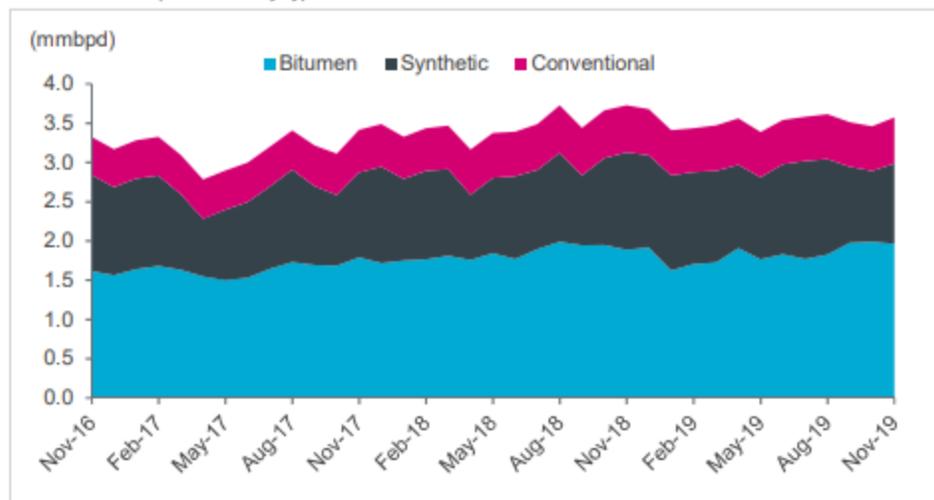
Drilling activity in Alberta remains on pause. The number of rigs drilling held steady for a third straight month at 96 rigs in December (Chart 4). On a year-over-year basis, rigs were down 2.8% and matched the 2015 recorded low for the month of December. Overall, the rig count averaged 92 for all of 2019, pulling back 31% from the previous year.

Merchandise Exports

Goods exports pull back due to transportation challenges

Goods exports are struggling to regain footing after reaching a high in 2019. Goods exported from Alberta in November declined for the fourth time in the last six months. The value of merchandise exports fell 13% m/m to \$8.5 billion as transportation disruptions hampered export volumes. Declines were broadbased and were led by energy products. The sharp decline in energy stemmed from a ruptured oil pipeline, which impacted throughput from late October and into November. In addition, both energy and non-energy exports were disrupted by a week-long nation-wide rail strike, which impeded crude-by-rail, forestry, and chemical shipments. Year-to-date, goods exports were down by 1.8%.

Chart 3: Production lifted by synthetic crude oil
Alberta crude oil production by type



Source: Canadian Real Estate Association

Oil Production

Rebound in synthetic output

Oil production bounced back in November following back-to-back declines. Alberta's crude oil production increased 3.4% m/m to 3.6 million barrels per day (mmbpd), driven by a jump in synthetic

(+14% m/m) (Chart 3). The rebound in synthetic output came as several oil sand upgraders ramped up production after undergoing turnarounds in October and September. This increase was accompanied by a solid gain in conventional oil (+3.4% m/m), while bitumen eased down (-1.3% m/m). Despite the monthly gain, total output remained down 4.1% y/y, reflecting a pullback in synthetic from the elevated level last November.

[Download the Full Report Here](#)

Things You Need To Know



DISCOVERING EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES 9 WORKSHOPS IN SERIES

JANUARY 14TH **INTRO TO DISTRIBUTED LEDGER (DLT)**
JANUARY 21ST **BLOCKCHAIN BASICS & SMART CONTRACTS**
JANUARY 28TH **DATA SCIENCE (LET'S TALK DATA)**

5:30 - 7:30 PM | AGILITY INNOVATION ZONE - SA6304



REGISTER @ WWW.ULETH.CA/AGILITY

Emerging Technologies Series

Tuesdays from 6:00 - 7:30 pm*

Are you interested in exploring the latest technology? All students and community members are welcome to attend our Emerging Technologies Series occurring Tuesdays evenings in the Agility Innovation Zone from 6:00 - 7:30 pm.

Each week we will focus on different topics from Distributed Ledger Technology, Blockchain, and Smart Contracts, to Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, and the Internet of Things. If tech is your thing, come and learn how these technologies are used in society today! Food will be provided!

Open to students, faculty, staff, and community!

To register or learn more about the Emerging Technologies Series, head over to <http://www.uleth.ca/agility>.

The poster features a dark blue header with the Farm Credit Canada logo and name. Below this, the word "presents" is written in a small, italicized font. The main title "STARTING LOCAL AND GOING GLOBAL" is in large, bold, dark blue letters, followed by the subtitle "Grow Your Future - Lethbridge" in a slightly smaller font. The background is a light blue gradient with a large, realistic image of the Earth's horizon. On the left is the University of Lethbridge logo, and on the right is the Agility logo. The event details "January 28th 4:30 - 6:30 PM" and "Science Commons Atrium Science and Academic Building" are centered over the globe. A green footer bar contains the website "www.uleth.ca/agility".

Starting Local and Going Global

January 28th, 4:30 - 6:30 pm

Are you looking for a job this summer? Do you know what's out there? Do you think you know what a career in agriculture looks like?

International Relations, Trade, Human Resources, Computer Science, Finance, Research, and Development, Biology, Chemistry, Economics-- the agricultural industry has it all. Come learn about these opportunities and come network with leading experts in the field! It's FREE and includes pizza!

Open to students, faculty, staff, and community!

If you're a student, register on my experience to get this event on your experiential learning transcript! <https://myexperience.uleth.ca/home.htm>

As a community member, register on Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/starting-local-and-going-global-grow-your-future-lethbridge-registration-85641266333?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

Stories to Follow



Economy & Markets

[Livestock beef exports favour Canada](#)

Western Producer | Jan. 9, 2020 | Livestocks

Canadians may be eating less beef, but offshore customers are hungry for more. While the national herd is not growing, increased imports of United States feeder cattle keep feedlots full and packing plants running at capacity ...

[Palm oil leading the way higher for oilseed prices](#)

Western Producer | Jan. 9, 2020 | Markets

Canola futures rallied in December, climbing to the upper level of the price range in place since the end of summer, but still lower than what they were at the same time last year and arguably disappointing considering the sharp rally in soybean oil. From the beginning of December to Jan. 3, March soy oil rallied 13 percent, March soybeans rallied about eight percent while March canola rallied a little less than five percent ...

[Canola price low, demand steady, what gives?: APAS](#)

Western Producer | Jan. 2, 2020 | News*

The president of the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan says farmers have to start to pushing back on canola prices and other numbers that affect markets. Todd Lewis, who was re-elected to a fourth term at the organization's December annual meeting, said producers should be asking more questions if it turns out China is obtaining the Canadian canola it needs by way of other countries ...

[Canadian red lentils see some strength to start New Year](#)

Western Producer | Jan. 2, 2020 | News*

Winnipeg, (MarketsFarm) – The red lentil market in Western Canada is seeing some life to start the New Year, with the improved bids creating some marketing opportunities.

"Green lentil prices have been steady since the end of 2019, but red lentils ...

Communities

[Alta. students make chlorophyll breakthrough](#)

Western Producer | Jan. 8, 2019 | News

Students at the University of Calgary have devised an award-winning method for removing chlorophyll from canola oil. Canola seeds contain chlorophyll when they are immature but typically lose the pigment as they ripen...

[Researchers look for new tools to diagnose TB in bison](#)

The Western Producer | Jan. 2, 2020 | Livestock

A study beginning in January at the University of Saskatchewan's Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence will work toward better diagnostics and a vaccine for tuberculosis in bison.

Dr. Todd Shury, wildlife veterinarian with Parks Canada, said the official caudal fold test under the

animal's tail is typically used, especially when they are exported, but it is stressful and presents a lot of false negatives ...

Science, Technology, & Innovation

Canadian Barley Research Coalition formed

The Western Producer | Jan. 13, 2020 | News

Western Canada has a new barley funding agency aimed at supporting research and variety development work.

The Canadian Barley Research Coalition (CBRC) is a national non-profit organization designed to facilitate long-term barley research investments that improve the profitability and competitiveness of Western Canadian barley growers ...

Error found in CGC's canola disappearance number

The Western Producer | Jan. 13, 2020 | Crops

The CGC reported 4.86 million tonnes of domestic disappearance of canola as of Jan. 5, 2020. That is a staggering 1.04 million tonnes ahead of the same time last year. How could they be crushing an additional one million tonnes of the oilseed? It turns out they weren't ...

Events



Alberta Federation of Agriculture sustainability conference and AGM

January 21-22, 2019

Holiday Inn and Suites Edmonton Airport — 1100 Fourth St., Nisku

"The Alberta Federation of Agriculture and its Board of Directors would like to invite you to our 2020 Sustainability Conference and Annual General Meeting, January 21-22, 2020 in Nisku, AB at the Holiday Inn & Suites Edmonton Airport & Conference Centre. Our new event format kicks off Monday evening with fellowship and networking at the president's reception, followed by a full day of conference based on our theme of sustainability in agriculture. The event will wrap with a half-day focused on AGM business."

For more info or to register visit [the AFA website](#).



FarmTech™

FARMTECH 2020

Jan 28 - 30, 2020

EDMONTON EXPO CENTRE — 7515 118 Ave NW, Edmonton.

FarmTech is Canada's premier crop production and farm management conference. This year's event features Keynote speakers Dr. Kimberly Ryan Amirault, Darby Allen, Jayson Lusk, and one more to be announced! Featured Speakers include Drew Lerner, Marty Seymour & Amber MacDonald, Chad Koschielny, Will Evans, Gordon Houlden.

Plus, Dean Thorpe will be broadcasting the Alberta Ag Show live from the conference all 3 days!

Registration:

Three-Day Registration: \$665.00 (includes Bayer Banquet)

Two-Day Registration: \$575.00 (includes Bayer Banquet)

One-Day Registration: \$275.00 (Tuesday or Thursday only)

For more info or to register visit the [event website](#).

DURUM
SUMMIT 2020 

JANUARY 30, 2020



LIVING SKY CASINO | SWIFT CURRENT, SASKATCHEWAN

Durum Summit 2020

Jan 30, 2020

Living Sky Casino — 1401 N. Service Rd. E., Swift Current, Sask.

Canada contributes a major share to the global trade of durum wheat. The quality of Canadian durum is highly prized by domestic and international buyers. Durum production is being challenged by the devastating effects of fusarium head blight and insects such as midge. Crop rotations have changed to include more pulses and canola. Consumers are concerned about pesticide residues. Integration of the latest cropping technologies offers opportunities to reduce the environmental footprint and increase sustainability.

The Durum Summit will provide updates on matching genetics to demand, responding to environmental pressures, and growing a more profitable crop.

For more info or to register visit the [event website](#).

ALBERTA FORWARD FORUM

BOOSTING THE RURAL ADVANTAGE

February 24-25, 2020

POMEROY INN & SUITES AT OLDS COLLEGE



EQUS

Alberta Forward Forum

February 24 - 25, 2020

Pomeroy Inn & Suites at Olds College — 4601 - 46 Avenue Olds, AB T4H 1P5

EQUS is pleased to announce the launch of the inaugural Alberta Forward Forum, taking place on February 24 – 25, 2020 in Olds, Alberta.

The first of its kind in our province – the **Alberta Forward Forum** will bring together over 200 attendees including key stakeholders, municipalities, business owners, government, and industry thought leaders, who will gather to discuss and debate key issues affecting economic development in rural Alberta, all with the same objective in mind – to boost our rural economy and move rural Alberta forward.

For more info or to register visit the [event website](#).

Resources



At SouthGrow's main office, we are working hard to further improve our implementation of technology and data to improve our organization and service. Here's what we are using, as well as some other tools we think would help the businesses within our communities.

EWS HIGHLIGHTS (NEW)

Export program refresh helps cut red tape

The newly streamlined Alberta Export Expansion Program reduces red tape for local businesses looking to expand around the world.

Enhancing economic tools for municipalities

Municipal Affairs Minister Kaycee Madu has tabled legislation to empower municipalities to offer property tax incentives to business owners for machinery and equipment.

GRANTS AND FUNDING:

Alberta Export Expansion Program (AEEP) (NEW - ATTACHED)

The Alberta Export Expansion Program (AEEP) supports Alberta small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), municipalities, Indigenous communities, industry associations, and economic development organizations that are promoting Alberta exports through international business travel or bringing international buyers to Alberta.

Canadian Agricultural Partnership - application deadline December 12, 2019

A package of 15 programs under five themes that support the unique needs of Alberta's agriculture industry.

CanExport Innovation - You must apply **at least 8 weeks prior to** your planned travel.

Canadian innovators who aim to commercialize technology can access up to \$75,000 in funding to establish new R&D collaborations with foreign partners to co-develop, validate or adapt their technologies for commercialization. Companies that were not successful with a CanExport SME Application in the past should check out this program which has different eligibility

criteria: https://www.tradecommissioner.gc.ca/trade_commissioners-delegues_commerciaux/funding-financement/canexport/innovation/index.aspx?lang=eng

TRADE DEVELOPMENT/MISSION OPPORTUNITIES:

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry Market News

What's new in agriculture's international markets

TECHWEST CANADA & Alberta Trade and Investment Attraction Mission (Feb 23-28, 2020)

The Government of Alberta is focused on attracting investment to the province, building international partnerships, showcasing our talents around the globe, and helping Alberta companies to access international markets. To that end, Alberta Economic Development, Trade and Tourism's Trade and Investment Attraction team collaborates with TECH WEST CANADA on a trade missions aimed at facilitating export development and investment attraction from targeted international markets. Join the Western Canadian delegation in Barcelona for February 23-27, 2020 to participate in MWC

2020. **Deadline to register: Dec 20, 2019**

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRADE AND TOURISM BUSINESS RESOURCES:

Export.alberta.ca

Find new market opportunities for your product using the interactive export data tool. Find information on Alberta exports, world imports, tariffs, and more.

Economic development indicators

Alberta economic dashboards, commentaries and highlights, and overviews of major projects.

Economic development supports

Alberta international offices, market access, industry information and other supports and resources.

Regional Economic Development Services (REDS)

Through the Regional Economic Development Services (REDS) unit, Economic Development and Trade (EDT) helps facilitate economic development by providing targeted services, knowledge and expertise across the province. For assistance navigating the Government of Alberta economic development supports and to learn more about the REDS unit and available supports, please contact Linda Erickson, Southwest Region at 403-393-2614 or linda.erickson@gov.ab.ca

OTHER BUSINESS RESOURCES:

Alberta Innovates

Alberta Innovates manages a number of high-demand technology entrepreneurial investment programs with a growing number of subscribers. Due to the competitive nature of these programs, Alberta Innovates searches to invest in high-potential, high-growth companies that will provide economic and social benefits for Alberta.

Tourism Research & Statistics

Understand the value of Alberta's tourism industry and consumer vacation trends with the latest tourism statistics and research reports. The [Alberta Tourism Market Monitor](#) is available online.

Co-operative Business Supports

- Alberta Community & Co-operative Association helps to strengthen Alberta communities by providing leadership development and fostering co-operative values <http://acca.coop>
- Co-operatives First is a business development agency that supports business, economic and community development in rural and Indigenous communities across western Canada. www.cooperativesfirst.com

Questions? Suggestions? Have something you would like us to share? Contact the SouthGrow team!

info@southgrow.com | (403) 394-0615

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