



Creating opportunities in **South-Central Alberta**



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Featured

2020 Outlook: Canada's grains, oilseeds and pulses sectors

By Leigh Anderson | Senior Agricultural Economist | Jan, 21 2020

FCC Ag Economics helps you make sense of these top economic trends and issues likely to affect your operation in 2020:

- Trade tensions' influence on the global economy and agri-food markets
- African Swine Fever's disruption of livestock and meat markets
- Large global supplies amid challenging growing conditions for crops

Profitability is expected to be uneven for grain, oilseed, and pulse producers in 2020. Prices will continue to be pressured by abundant global supplies. Demand will be the story to watch in 2020. A reduction in the global hog herd from African Swine Fever (ASF), trade tensions and flat U.S. ethanol demand may result in weaker demand. Futures markets suggest prices for most grain, oilseed and pulse commodities will remain under their five-year average (Table 1).

Table 1. The upside for crop prices remains limited in 2020

CASH CROP	2020 FORECAST \$/TONNE	2019 AVERAGE	5-YEAR AVERAGE	RELATIVE TO 5-YEAR AVERAGE
Corn (ON)	\$206	\$210	\$190	
Soybeans (ON)	\$440	\$432	\$470	
Canola (SK)	\$465	\$427	\$468	
Peas (yellow – SK)	\$243	\$242	\$306	
Lentils (red – SK)	\$397	\$393	\$553	
Spring wheat (SK)	\$241	\$230	\$221	
Feed barley (AB)	\$255	\$258	\$207	
Durum (SK)	\$253	\$244	\$289	

Arrows indicate a higher price forecast ; moderately higher ; neutral ; moderately lower ; or lower 

Sources: Statistics Canada, AAFC, USDA, CME, MGEX and ICE Futures contracts, and FCC calculations.

While low prices likely result in tight margins for 2020, several factors can shift this outlook. A faster-than-expected rebuild of the Chinese hog herd could grow the demand for oilseeds. The U.S. and China agreed to a phase one deal which, upon implementation, could yield a significant jump in grain and oilseed purchases, raising North American prices. And the U.S. administration may choose to boost ethanol demand looking to offset the declines of recent years. In short, the uncertain environment of 2019 will carry into 2020.

Crop input prices are expected to trend slightly higher in 2020. While fertilizer prices are currently weaker due to harvest challenges that delayed fall fertilizer placement across North America, they could climb before the Spring, with an annual jump between 5% to 7% in 2020. Inflation for fuel and pesticides is expected to stay in the 0% to 3% range. There shouldn't be any increase in interest rates in 2020, making interest expenses manageable.

Grains

U.S. wheat prices for the 2019-20 crop year are projected 10% lower than the year prior, resulting in a projection of C\$241 per tonne for the 2020 average Canadian spring wheat price. This puts margins slightly above break-even levels, assuming average yield. Global wheat ending stocks in 2020 are projected to be at a record high, pressuring global prices. A 3.5% year-over-year (YoY) increase in 2019 Canadian production yields a projected increase in the [Canadian stocks-to-use ratio](#) (Table 2). However, premiums for high-quality protein wheat are expected to remain strong due to supply challenges for hard red spring wheat and quality issues in Canada and the northern U.S.

Weaker global and domestic supplies of durum are expected to result in higher durum prices in 2020; our projection is for an average price of C\$253 a tonne, resulting in positive margins for growers. While Italy's country-of-origin legislation remains in place, exports of durum to Italy have nearly doubled in the 2019-20 crop year compared to the 2018-19 crop year. Profitability is expected to trigger an increase in 2020 durum seeded acreage.

We expect corn profitability to be positive for 2020 based on a much tighter Canadian supply due to 2019 weather challenges. Prices should also improve if estimates of the U.S. 2019 crop production are revised downward as expected.

Table 2. Stocks-to-use ratios point to a tighter available supply in Canada

STOCKS-TO-USE	2019-20 FORECAST	2018-19	5-YEAR AVERAGE	RELATIVE TO 5-YEAR AVERAGE
Canadian corn	11.5%	11.6%	14.1%	↑
Canadian soybeans	5.9%	8.2%	6.9%	↑
Canadian wheat	18.7%	15.5%	19.3%	→
Canadian durum	14.6%	30.4%	24.0%	↑
Canadian canola	18.1%	21.7%	13.4%	↓
Canadian dry peas	9.5%	8.2%	11.2%	↑
Canadian lentils	18.5%	26.6%	19.5%	→
Canadian barley	18.9%	10.2%	16.6%	↓
U.S. corn	13.4%	14.6%	14.3%	→
U.S. soybeans	11.8%	23.0%	10.1%	↓
U.S. wheat	45.1%	23.0%	49.5%	→

Arrows indicate an outlook which is bullish ↑; moderately bullish ↗; neutral →; moderately bearish ↘; or bearish ↓

[Read full article.](#)

Brexit effect on Western Canadian wheat exports uncertain, experts say

By Madeleine Cummings | CBC News | Feb, 01 2020



Wheat industry experts say they plan to lobby the federal government and trade negotiators for a new trade deal with a post-Brexit United Kingdom.

"I expect, from our intelligence, that they have already started that," Tom Steve, general manager of the Alberta Wheat Commission, said on Friday in an interview with CBC's [Radio Active](#). Canada and Britain exchange nearly \$30 billion in goods per year, and though the country is not Canada's top wheat buyer, experts say it's a key customer for western Canadian farmers.

Wheat was the top product exported from Alberta to the United Kingdom in 2018, after crude petroleum and dried legumes. According to the Alberta government's [Export Tool](#), which is based on data from Statistics Canada, the U.S. Census Bureau and other international trade databases, Alberta exported \$45.3 million in wheat to the U.K. that year. "We are one of their primary suppliers of high-quality, high-protein wheat that goes into things like fluffy loaves of bread," said Cam Dahl, president of the industry group Cereals Canada.

Warburtons, the biggest bakery in the U.K., sources much of its wheat from Canada. Dahl said the industry is uncertain about the future but hoping for an imminent tariff-free agreement. "The freer the trade, the better it is for Canadian farmers," he said.

- [Brexit Day: United Kingdom divorces from EU, steps into transition twilight zone](#)
- [Brexit Day: What you need to know](#)

One hurdle to that goal, according to Carlo Dade, the director of the Canada West Foundation's Trade and Investment Centre, is Britain's shortage of experienced trade negotiators. When the country was part of the EU, this task was outsourced to Brussels. "They're desperately training up staff and recruiting people from New Zealand, Australia and Canada," Dade said. "They don't have a lot of people and they're starting from scratch."

Steve said the new negotiations could end up providing Canada an opportunity. "Potentially the UK would be less likely to buy wheat from other European countries, for example," he said.

Brennan Turner, CEO of the online grain marketplace FarmLead, said the weeks ahead offer a chance to "reset the scales" and promote the quality of Canadian wheat. "At the same time, trying to preserve the status quo as much as possible is probably going to be the best route for both sides," he said.

[Full Article.](#)

China Brief | Edition 037

By Sarah Pittman | Policy Analyst | Feb, 2020



Dominic Barton appears before the Special House Committee

On Wednesday, Dominic Barton, Canada's ambassador to China, appeared before the Special Committee on Canada-China relations. His testimony was illustrative of what Canada is doing in the many contested areas of the relationship. This is the first major appearance before the China-Canada relations committee, which was created recently and will likely have more big names appear before it in the near future.

- Barton described his mandate, which he says has three key priorities and one caveat:
 - Priority 1: secure release of Michael Kovrig and Michael Spavor, and obtain clemency for Robert Schellenberg.
 - Priority 2: Protect and promote human rights.
 - Priority 3: deepen person-to-person relationships between Canada and China – in government, in business, in universities, etc.
 - Caveat: that this be done keeping with “international rules and principles that provide predictability and security.”
- Engagement over hardline approach: Barton said that Canada needs to keep engaging with China in order to try to end the diplomatic spat. He rejected the hardline approach that some in Canada are advocating for.
- The “chill is real”: Barton described the deep levels of anger and frustration held on the Chinese and Canadian sides since the arrest of Huawei CFO Meng Wanzhou in December 2018.

See Barton's full testimony [here](#).

Wuhan Coronavirus

- 176 Canadians that were in Wuhan who requested to be repatriated because of the coronavirus landed Friday at a military base in Ontario, where they will stay under quarantine for 14 days.
- There have been seven confirmed cases of the coronavirus in Canada – 3 in Ontario and 4 in British Columbia.

- In terms of [economic impact](#) on Western Canada, key tourism areas – like Banff and Yellowknife – have seen significant Chinese trip cancellations.

Which way with Huawei?

- Pressure is mounting on the federal government to decide on whether to allow the Chinese telecommunications company Huawei to participate in building Canada's 5G network.
- Canadian [military leaders](#) have told senior government officials that “they believe Huawei would threaten national security.”
- The debate comes down to cost-benefit analysis vs. security concerns. Huawei has [the best and cheapest](#) 5G equipment on the market. At the same time, however, there are concerns that Huawei could be used to do the [Chinese government's bidding](#).
- What is already a difficult decision has been complicated by other factors:
 - • Canadian governments (mostly the federal government) has given Huawei [millions](#) in funding (largely through university research partnerships) to help develop and refine their 5G technology.
 - • [Britain](#) just announced that it will allow Huawei to be part of Britain's 5G, but only on the periphery. This makes Canada the only country in the Five Eyes security alliance to not have made any decisions on how to proceed with Huawei.
 - • Lastly – but certainly not least – the arrest of Meng Wanzhou, the CFO of Huawei, is at the heart of the Canada-China relationship breakdown. Her arrest sparked the arrest of two Canadians, Michael Kovrig and Michael Spavor, in China. The Canadian government will have to take into account how their 5G decision will have an impact here.

Phase one trade truce

In January, the US and China signed a phase one trade deal (see [last China Brief](#) for more details). Some analysts are arguing that Canada could see significant negative impacts from the deal, particularly agriculture.

China has committed to buying \$200 billion more of additional US imports. Of the 25 categories of goods listed in the agreement that China has committed buying more of, 15 are exported by Canada to China in significant quantities – in 2017, they were 51 per cent of Canada's total exports to China, worth \$12 billion.

The Canada West Foundation trade team is completing an analysis of how the phase one agreement will impact Canada – stay tuned!

Trade levels fall in 2019

Recently released Statistics Canada data shows that Canada's overall goods exports to China [dropped](#) 16 per cent last year – the biggest decline seen in the last two decades.

[Full article.](#)



Chinese trade restrictions dampen Alberta exports in 2019

Alberta's merchandise exports rebounded in December, rising by 18.6 per cent. This comes after a 13.0 per cent drop in November linked to the Keystone oil pipeline being offline for two weeks and the week-long CN Rail strike.

Energy product exports from Alberta were up \$1.5 billion in December (25.7 per cent) and account for the majority of the overall rise in exports.

Chemical exports also rebounded in December, growing by \$189 million (37.8 per cent). Although down compared to the previous December, forestry products also saw improvement, rising by \$42 million (14.7 per cent) compared to November.

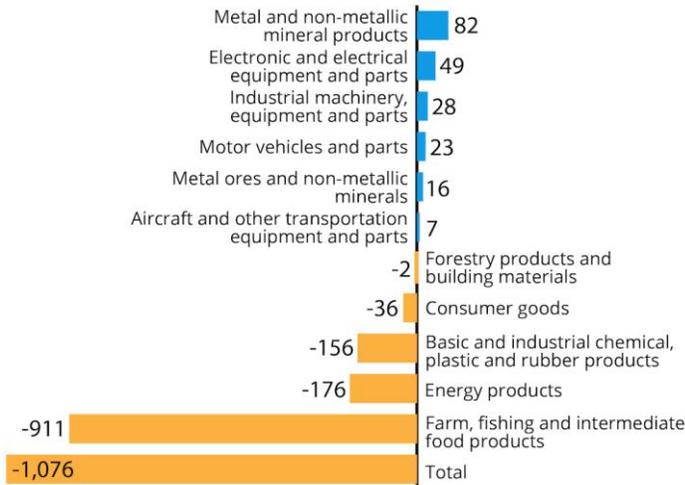
Several sub-sectors saw the value of their exports decline in November including consumer goods (-17.7 per cent), agricultural products (-12.1 per cent), and metal and non-metallic mineral products (-18.0 per cent).

On an annual basis, Alberta's exports declined by 0.6 per cent (\$655.5 million) in 2019. The main reason for the annual decline is reduced agricultural exports to China in the face of the Chinese government's ban on canola and meat from Canada. Agricultural exports to China were down by \$911 billion in 2019. The ban on meat has been lifted but the ban on canola remains in place.

Alberta's annual exports to the United States grew modestly by 0.3 per cent (\$356 million) in 2019 with energy exports up by 1.3 per cent (\$1.0 billion).

Alberta's exports to China, 2018 vs. 2019

Annual change in dollar value, millions



Source: Statistics Canada Table 12-10-0133-01

Counting our economic blessings

It was a tough year for the Alberta economy in 2019 with annual output forecast to grow by just 0.4 per cent. The slow growth along with high unemployment translates into real pain for a lot of Albertans struggling to make ends meet.

Taking nothing away from the economic straits many Albertans are in, it's a good time to remind ourselves that we still have an awful lot going for us when it comes to our provincial economy.

We have, for example, the highest GDP per capita in the country. At about \$79,000 of nominal GDP per Albertan in 2018, we are about \$20,000 above the national average.

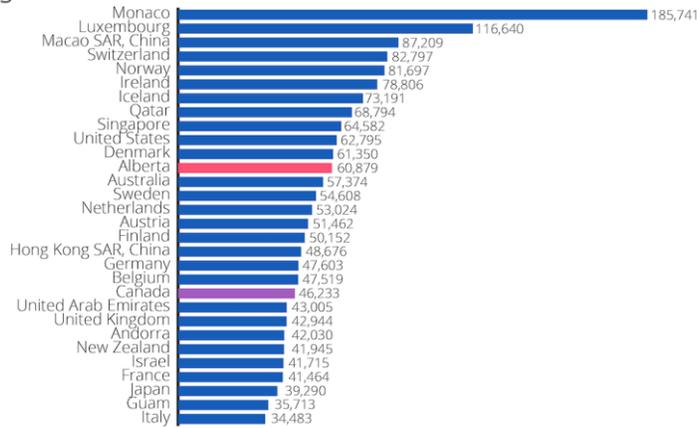
Putting things in an international context, Alberta's per capita GDP would put us 13th on the list of the largest economies in the world in 2018 and ahead of places such as Australia, Sweden and Germany. Canada as a whole is 20th on the list.

Even when our economy is in the doldrums, we have the highest retail sales per capita, the highest average wages, the highest average household income, the highest capital spending per capita and, despite a large number of people looking for work, the highest employment rate* among the provinces. We also have a relatively young and highly educated population.

While these things are cold comfort if you are struggling economically, they point to the underlying strength of the Alberta economy and highlight that it remains a great place to invest, start a business, bring one's skills, and find opportunities.

Nominal GDP per capita, 2018 Graph by ATB Economics

\$US



Source: World Bank, Statistics Canada Tables 36-10-0222-01 and 17-10-0009-01, ATB Economics

Weekly Economic Briefing

Brought to you by

For the week of **February 15 2020**



[Download full report](#)

Indicators Updated this Week *

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

+0.5%
7.3%



In January 2020, Alberta's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 7.3%, an increase of 0.5 percentage points from January 2019.

The national unemployment rate was 5.5% in January 2020, 0.3 percentage points lower than the same period in 2019.

EMPLOYMENT

-0.4%
2.32M

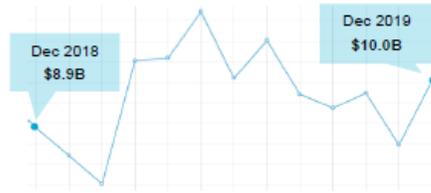


Total employment in Alberta decreased by 18,900 jobs between December 2019 and January 2020. On a year-over-year basis, employment decreased by 9,300 jobs or -0.4% in January. Over the same period, Canada's employment increased by 1.4% or by 267,700 jobs.

Part-time employment had the largest year-over-year change, growing 0.7% compared to January 2019. Full-time employment decreased by 0.6% over the same period.

MERCHANDISE EXPORTS

+13.1%
\$10.0B



Alberta's international merchandise exports were \$10.05 billion in December 2019, an increase of 13.1% over December 2018. Canadian exports increased by 6.9% over the same period.

In Alberta, the only year-over-year gains were in industrial machinery and equipment (+8.3%) and energy products (+23.8%), while the largest declines included farm, fishing and intermediate food products (-13.1%) and basic and industrial chemical, plastic and rubber products (-13.4%).

For the year, Alberta's merchandise exports were \$117.03B, down -0.6% in 2019 compared to the previous year.

BUSINESS INCORPORATIONS

-3.9%
3,752



In January 2020, the number of businesses incorporated in Alberta totalled 3,752, a decrease of 3.9% from the same period a year earlier. Alberta incorporations were down 2.8% to 3,378, while non-Alberta incorporations decreased 12.8% from a year earlier to 374.

OIL PRODUCTION

+1.6%
18.4M m³



Oil production in Alberta was 18.42 million cubic metres in December 2019, up 1.6% compared to December 2018.

Non-conventional (or oil sands) production, which constituted 84.2% of all oil production in Alberta in December 2019, increased by 1.8% year-over-year, while production of conventional oil was up 0.5% over the same time frame.

Oil production in Alberta increased 0.9% in 2019 over 2018 production to 204.5 million cubic metres.

ACTIVE DRILLING RIGS

+3.4%
153



The average number of active drilling rigs in January 2020 was 153, increasing by 5 (+3.4%) from January 2019. The number of inactive rigs decreased by 18.3% from 241 to 197 over the same period.

CATTLE PRICE



Cattle prices in Alberta increased by 2.9% in December 2019 compared to the same time period a year earlier, to \$139.42 per hundredweight, the highest price in Canada.

Calf prices increased by 3.1% year-over-year in December 2019 to \$183.43 per hundredweight.

Hog prices increased by 9.5% in December 2019 compared to the same period a year earlier, to \$68.41 per hundredweight.

WHEAT PRICES



In December 2019, Alberta non-durum wheat prices, which include the weighted average prices of milling and other wheat excluding durum, recorded \$233.62/metric tonne, down 8.8% from December 2018.

Durum wheat was \$296.82/metric tonne in December 2019, 23.7% higher than December 2018.

News Highlights

- Suncor Energy writes down oilsands and offshore assets, posting \$2.3B loss. [Read more](#)
- Two Edmonton-based startups selected by NASA to showcase their innovations. [Read more](#)
- Alberta to open office in Montreal for energy promotion. [Read more](#)
- Aurora Cannabis replaces CEO, cuts 500 workers. [Read more](#)
- Edmonton-based Alley Kat Brewing is sold to local owners. [Read more](#)
- Proposed upgrades to Lethbridge Airport on the right track. [Read more](#)
- Two Alberta tech companies behind redevelopment of USAFacts website. [Read more](#)
- Federal Court dismisses First Nations' challenges to the Trans Mountain pipeline. [Read more](#)
- Coronavirus affecting oil prices may hit Alberta economy hard: RSM Canada. [Read more](#)
- 'Get out of the way of our province': Alberta urges Teck oilsands mine approval, rejects federal aid idea. [Read more](#)
- Calgary City Council approves \$30 million in rebates for small business, capping tax increase at 10%. [Read more](#)
- An Edmonton lab is making a face mask that kills coronavirus instead of spreading it. [Read more](#)
- CN to close rail traffic control centre in Montreal, relocating 100 jobs to Edmonton. [Read more](#)

Major Projects

- \$500M investment means construction to start on Canada's largest solar farm this year. [Read more](#)
- City council approves redevelopment of Stony Plain Road shopping centre. [Read more](#)
- Cost of Trans Mountain expansion soars to \$12.6B. [Read more](#)
- U of A steps closer to developing lands near south campus. [Read more](#)
- Crane goes up at site of future 21-storey downtown Edmonton residential tower. [Read more](#)
- \$14M Vermilion Valley Lodge renovations complete. [Read more](#)
- John Simpson donates \$5M to help create new agricultural research centre at U of C. [Read more](#)

Key Economic Indicators

Period	Indicator	Latest Update	Change	Last Updated
2018	GDP <i>yr/yr</i>	\$336.3B	+1.9%	November 2019
Q4 2019	Population <i>yr/yr</i>	4.4M	+1.7%	December 2019
Jan 2019	Unemployment Rate <i>yr/yr</i>	7.3%	+0.5%	February 2020
Feb 3 - 7, 2020	WTI Oil Price <i>wk/wk</i>	USD \$50.32	-7.1%	February 7, 2020 Closing
Nov 2019	Retail Trade <i>yr/yr</i>	\$6.6B	-3.0%	January 2020

Looking Ahead

Mon 10	Tue 11	Wed 12	Thu 13	Fri 14
Indicator Releases: Building permits				Indicator Releases: New motor vehicle sales

Things You Need To Know



Municipal Wetlands Data Workshop in the Bow River Basin

The Miistakis Institute is hosting a free workshop for municipalities located in the Bow River Basin. The workshop will help municipal staff better understand wetland data challenges and create a strategy for moving forward to secure wetlands data relevant to municipal planning and wetland conservation.

[Learn more...](#)

The workshop will be held on February 13 at [Mount Royal University](#) in the Roderick Mah Centre for Continuous Learning in Room EC 2075 from 10:00 am - 3:30 pm.

Click [here](#) to view the agenda.

Click [here](#) to register for the workshop.

A promotional banner for a workshop. The background is dark blue with a hand reaching up towards glowing, multi-colored cubes. The text 'teccconnect +ED' is at the top left, with 'EDUCATING & EMPOWERING ENTREPRENEURS' below it. The main title 'Emerging Tech Understanding Data Science & Machine Learning Package' is in large white font. A blue box at the bottom right says '\$150 for 6 sessions'.



Emerging Tech

The overarching goal of this module is to provide a clear understanding of emerging technologies such as data science, machine learning, internet of things in the context of the entrepreneurial landscape. The course will cover their applications and address industry needs.

The aim is that in providing knowledge and familiarization with the go-to software and hardware tools of the industry, entrepreneurs are inspired to incorporate emerging technologies into their businesses.

We will embark on a journey of hands-on learning. You will learn not just by observing but by doing and interacting. The goal is to provide you all the necessary tools and make you self-sufficient in exploiting the potential of these technologies. The focus is not only on programming, but also on developing business cases and charting an entrepreneurial path.

Session Dates:

Thursday, February 13, 2020 to Thursday, March 19, 2020

Session Times:

Thursday Evenings, 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm (dinner included)

Package Cost:

\$150

[REGISTER NOW](#)



Entrepreneurship 201 Go-to-Market Strategy Package

This 6-course package will get you drafting your business plan with our specialized template and teach you about the key elements of a Go-to-Market Strategy. We'll help you take the time to build and consider these strategy components so that you have a strong foundation and confidence to step into the market.

Expand your business toolkit and build into your business plan so that you have a clearer path towards getting customers and finding product-market fit.

Sessions included:

- Introduction to Business Planning & Go-to-Market Strategy
- Conducting Market Research & Building Customer Profiles
- Customer-centric Product Design & Brand Strategy
- Creating a Marketing Plan & Developing Pricing and Sales Strategies
- Supply Chain Management & Distribution Strategy
- Business Project & Milestone Planning and Knowing When & How to Pivot

Session Dates:

Wednesday, February 12, 2020 to Wednesday, March 25, 2020

*no course on Wednesday March 18. 2020

Session Times:

Wednesday Evenings, 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm (dinner included)

Package Cost:

\$150

[REGISTER NOW](#)



Trade Accelerator Program Lethbridge & Southern Alberta Export Meetup

Are You Looking For Information On Where to Export Your Product And/Or Services?

Whether you are looking to understand market entry strategies or resources available to help companies grow globally, this is a great entry point to the export community.

As we gear up for our first cohort of the Trade Accelerator Program (TAP) in Lethbridge this April, we are excited to host this meet up at our local community partner Economic Development Lethbridge's Tecconnect facility!

Grab a drink and get networking with local experts, community leaders and other companies on their own export journey. This event will feature a casual environment for small & medium size business owners either ready to export or considering.

More about TAP:

Canada's Trade Accelerator Program (TAP) is an innovative and dynamic accelerator supporting small and medium sized enterprises in their export journeys.

In the past year, TAP has rapidly gained momentum across Canada with a reputation for providing companies with actionable tools that lead to real results. TAP companies work alongside Canada's top export advisors, resources and contacts to build and implement a comprehensive export plan.

During four in-person workshops taking place starting in April in Lethbridge, TAP participants receive:

- Customized face-to-face coaching and advice
- Support in navigating the complex global trade ecosystem
- Access to a network of experts and thought leaders
- Familiarization with international best practices

- Support in developing an actionable export plan

Graduates are seeing results and finding value in the program. Mark Tansley, president of Tansley Associates Environmental Services, says, "Attending the TAP program has fast-tracked Tansley Associate's export plan. The program was exhilarating and incredibly insightful."

Join us for this free networking event to get to know more people in the area who are dealing with and interested in exporting!

[Register here.](#)



JOIN US

Canada West Foundation
FEBRUARY 26, 2020

How safe are our waters?
Hear from a marine pilot responsible for ensuring safe shipping and transportation along Canadian coastlines
WITH CAPTAIN ANDREW RAE

Arthur J.E. Child POP UP POLICY in Calgary

Pop Up Policy with Captain Andrew Rae, Master Mariner and class 'A' pilot with the Atlantic Pilotage Authority's Port of Halifax District

How safe are our waters? Hear from a marine pilot responsible for ensuring safe shipping and transportation along Canadian coastlines

Wednesday, February 26

Time: 8 am - 9:15 am

Canada West Foundation

110 - 134 11 Avenue SE

Calgary, Alberta

Please RSVP by February 24 to Brenda Bretzke:

bretzke@cwf.ca

Stories to Follow



Government

Producer-gov't research deal proposed

Western Producer | Jan. 30, 2020 | News

The head of Saskatchewan's general farm organization says the province's farmers have a great opportunity to help determine the federal government's future role in wheat and barley breeding and

variety development. Todd Lewis, president of the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan, said earlier this month ...

Food Regulation Update Regarding Cannabis Production Facilities

RMA Bulletin | Jan. 28, 2020 | Advocacy

Minister Shandro issued a Ministerial Order in December 2019, which exempts cannabis production facilities in Alberta from Alberta Health's Food Regulation, to help avoid unnecessary overlap with existing pieces of federal and provincial legislation ...

Economy & Markets

Canadian grain exports behind on year due to poor Chinese demand

Western Producer | Jan. 31, 2020 | Markets

Canadian grain exports from licensed facilities are running well behind the previous year's pace, due primarily to a sharp reduction in movement to China, according to latest monthly data from the Canadian Grain Commission ...

Prospects remain positive for wheat market

Western Producer | Jan. 23, 2020 | Crops

The wheat market outlook is decent despite a forecast for record world ending stocks of the crop, says an analyst. Remove China's stocks from the picture and global stocks are the lowest they have been since 2014-15. "We're not swimming in wheat," Chuck Penner, analyst with LeftField Commodity Research, told farmers attending his CropSphere presentation ...

Market development work pays off for oats in Mexico

Western Producer | Jan. 31, 2020 | Market

Canadian oats continue to make a big splash in Mexico.

Alan Butuk, chair of the Saskatchewan Oat Development Commission (SaskOats), said Mexican imports of Canadian-grown oats have the potential to exceed 200,000 tonnes in 2019 ...

Communities

Fort McKay First Nation, Alberta government to meet in 3 months on fate of Moose Lake protected area

Global News | Jan. 31, 2020 | News

In 2018, the band thought it had a deal putting a 10-kilometre buffer around Moose Lake. But the deal wasn't ratified and Alberta's energy regulator later approved an oilsands mine that would come within two kilometres of the shore ...

Cache Valley Virus reports remain unconfirmed in Sask. sheep

The Western Producer | Jan 31, 2020 | Livestock

Reports that a case of Cache Valley Virus has been recently found in a Saskatchewan sheep flock are unconfirmed, according to the Saskatchewan agriculture department. The virus, spread by biting insects, causes early term abortion and defects in lamb fetuses, as well as malformed lambs in those that make it to term...

Science, Technology, & Innovation

[Pulse Canada looking to build data inventory for industry](#)

The Western Producer | Jan 31, 2020 | News

Pulse Canada has undertaken a survey of pea and lentil growers to gauge the environmental footprint and to provide data for a public repository. The survey is a joint project with Alberta Pulse Growers, SaskPulse and Manitoba Pulse and Soybean Growers ...

[Water treatment tech tackles manure](#)

The Western Producer | Jan 30, 2020 | Crops

Research and development teams from OriginClear and Depuporc meet at a research farm in Aragon, Spain, to discuss future waste-water treatment plans. Because of initial treatment projects, Depuporc has already experienced a 13 percent increase in piglets per sow per year. Animal welfare is the number one method of increasing productivity in Spain ...

Events



Co-Packers – Best Practices Event*

February 26, 2020 - 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Theatre, Agriculture Center, 97 East Lake Ramp NE, Airdrie,

This Event brings together processors interested in adding co-packing services to their operations and those currently offering co-packing services in Alberta.

[Learn more.](#)

To register call 1-800-387-6030

Registration Deadline: February 19, 2020

Working with a co-packer – Best Practices

Tuesday, February 25, 2020 - 1:15 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. San Francisco Seminar Room, Agriculture Center, 97 East Lake Ramp NE, Airdrie

This Event brings together food, beverage, and natural health product businesses interested in utilizing the services of a co-packer to expand market access. Co-packing services are often used to increase production volumes or to meet market requirements.

[Learn more.](#)

To register call: 1-800-387-6030

Registration Deadline: February 19, 2020

future food-tech

INNOVATION & INVESTMENT FROM FARM TO FORK

London, October 22-23, 2020

SOUTH COUNTRY CO-OP AG-EXPO

February 26 - 28, 2020

Evergreen Park in Grande Prairie

Future Food Tech brings together over 1000 C suite food brand executives, investors, and entrepreneurs to share ideas, network, collaborate and invest. During the summit more than 80 speakers will explore the plant-based products of the future, ingredient innovation, AI and robotics, the human gut microbiome, fermentation, genetics and sustainable packaging.

Prairie Biosciences Canada will be offering a travel subsidy of up to 75% of eligible expenses, to a **maximum of \$3800** to cleantech SMEs. Applications for the PBC Gateway Program open soon!

Apply for the PBC Gateway Program here:

<http://bioscience.biomb.ca/e/731933/r->

[FQRG9H2/qt6vv/177602051?h=BGPOmhiJza1dLen78I00L7utkvipgF2DnE3PkT2HNIE](http://bioscience.biomb.ca/e/731933/r-FQRG9H2/qt6vv/177602051?h=BGPOmhiJza1dLen78I00L7utkvipgF2DnE3PkT2HNIE)

future food-tech

INNOVATION & INVESTMENT FROM FARM TO FORK

London, October 22-23, 2020

Future Food Tech

March 19-20

San Francisco

Future Food Tech brings together over 1000 C suite food brand executives, investors, and entrepreneurs to share ideas, network, collaborate and invest. During the summit more than 80 speakers will explore the plant-based products of the future, ingredient innovation, AI and robotics, the human gut microbiome, fermentation, genetics and sustainable packaging.

Prairie Biosciences Canada will be offering a travel subsidy of up to 75% of eligible expenses, to a **maximum of \$3800** to cleantech SMEs. Applications for the PBC Gateway Program open soon!

Apply for the PBC Gateway Program here:

<http://bioscience.biomb.ca/e/731933/r->

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World Bio Markets

March 23-25

Amsterdam

World Bio Markets connects the entire bio industry value chain across investors, regulators, chemical and material companies, industrial biotech innovators, and end market brands, focusing on scaling efficient, competitive, value added end market solutions.

Prairie Biosciences Canada will be offering a travel subsidy, details will be announced soon.

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.

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS (NEW)

Fair Deal Panel

Consulting Albertans on strategies to secure a fair deal in the Canadian federation and advance our vital economic interests.

Submit your feedback

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.

GRANTS AND FUNDING:

Alberta Export Expansion Program (AEEP)

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.

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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