



# Written Submission for the Pre-Budget Consultations in Advance of the Upcoming 2022 Federal Budget

*Saskatchewan Crop Commissions*

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**Recommendation 1:** That the government ensure inclusion of an agricultural perspective from both AAFC and Canadian growers when developing policies in pursuit of the path to net-zero, in recognition of agriculture's contributions to the Canadian economy.

**Recommendation 2:** That the government ensure it is considering potential impacts on the domestic and international competitiveness of Canadian agriculture when finding ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

**Recommendation 3:** That the government continue to invest in, and encourage, agricultural innovation to help enable farmers to lower their carbon footprint, while at the same time increasing their capacity to meet Canadian and global demand for their products.

**Recommendation 4:** That government further build on earlier investments by the agricultural community, which continue the actions taken to date contributing to progress in emissions reduction.



## About Saskatchewan Crop Commissions

The Saskatchewan Crop Commissions, consisting of SaskBarley, SaskCanola, SaskFlax, SaskOats, Saskatchewan Pulse Growers, and Sask Wheat, represent the vast majority of grain and oilseed growers in Saskatchewan. The commissions were established to invest farmer dollars in varietal development, agronomic research, and market development. The common goal of these organizations is to ensure that Saskatchewan farmers remain competitive and profitable. We support and advocate for science-based policy to create and maintain an efficient, predictable business environment for Saskatchewan growers.

Policies under consideration in Canada and the world to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions may risk the competitiveness of Saskatchewan farmers and challenge their ability to be part of the solution to climate change. Modern farming practices have made a positive impact on environmental sustainability, and yet the focus remains on the GHG emissions created as a by-product of food production. The success of Saskatchewan farmers is dependent on finding environmental policy solutions that meet the government's goals while at the same time recognize farmers' environmental conservation efforts.

Appropriate recognition of the innovation that farmers have adopted over time is imperative. These innovations include sequestration of carbon through the adoption of reduced tillage practices and other land management and production practices that have positively influenced soil health and reduced their carbon footprint. The research that our commissions have invested in over the past several decades supports the sustainability of our farms. The food that farmers produce is a major contributor to Canadian exports, the economy, and an effective strategy for sequestering carbon and removing GHG's from the atmosphere.

With that in mind, the Saskatchewan Crop Commissions would like to make the following recommendations:

**Recommendation 1: That the government ensure inclusion of an agricultural perspective from both AAFC and Canadian growers when developing policies in pursuit of the path to net-zero, in recognition of agriculture's contributions to the Canadian economy.**





Farmers have a key role to play in helping the federal government meet its environmental and sustainability goals; however, policies developed need to reflect that farmers are a part of the solution to the problem of moving to net-zero. Ensuring farmers are involved early on in policy discussions is crucial to develop regulatory solutions that work for both farmers and government.

**Recommendation 2: That the government ensure it is considering potential impacts on the domestic and international competitiveness of Canadian agriculture when finding ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.**

Farmers are concerned about the impact policies such as the carbon tax have on their competitiveness. Even though there are exemptions in place, farmers' position in the supply chain results in additional indirect costs from input manufacturers and transportation providers being passed down to them. Farmers are price takers, and as such, they cannot pass any additional costs they incur to their customers. Careful analysis of any proposed policies needs to be done in order to identify potential downstream impacts to farmers and unintended harmful consequences to environmental and economic sustainability both nationally and internationally.

**Recommendation 3: That the government continue to invest in, and encourage, agricultural innovation to help enable farmers to lower their carbon footprint, while at the same time increasing their capacity to meet Canadian and global demand for their products.**

Innovation will be crucial to ensuring farmers remain competitive and profitable as the government moves towards net-zero. Additionally, innovations and incentivized practices need to be thoroughly tested to ensure they are practical for wide-scale adoption and that they provide value to farmers. We are some of the best in the world at feeding a growing population, using the same amount of land, in the most carbon efficient way possible, while simultaneously sequestering greenhouse gases in the soil, and removing them from the atmospheric environment.

**Recommendation 4: That government further build on earlier investments by the agricultural community, which continue the actions taken to date contributing to progress in emissions reduction.**



Saskatchewan farmers have been early adopters of technologies and production practices such as reduced tillage and continuous cropping that have greatly lowered our emissions compared to other agricultural regions of the country and indeed, the world. The carbon sequestered through these practices is a major asset to help the government meet its emissions reduction targets. Therefore, the conservation efforts farmers have undertaken and continue to undertake, need to be recognized in policy development.

The Saskatchewan Crop Commissions want to be involved in discussions with the government on environmental policy, emissions reduction, and the path to net-zero. Farmers are making important contributions to help the government meet its goals and these contributions should be taken into consideration as the government undertakes GHG mitigation and environmental policy. Finding solutions that work for both farmers and government is vital to ensure farmers remain competitive and profitable while at the same time ensuring a healthy sustainable environment for future generations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jill McDonald".

Jill McDonald  
Executive Director, SaskBarley

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Shawna D. Mathieson".

Shawna Mathieson  
Executive Director, SaskOats

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tracy Broughton".

Tracy Broughton  
Executive Director, SaskCanola

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Carl Potts".

Carl Potts  
Executive Director, Saskatchewan Pulse Growers

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Wayne Thompson".

Wayne Thompson  
Executive Director, SaskFlax

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Blair Goldade".

Blair Goldade  
Executive Director, Sask Wheat

