

ALBERTA FARMERS' PERCEPTIONS 2025

PRODUCER PRIORITIES FOR A COMPETITIVE, RESILIENT AGRI-FOOD ECONOMY

By Ohi Ahmed and Guillaume Lhermie.

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By Ohi Ahmed and Guillaume Lhermie

The Simpson Centre, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Calgary, Calgary, AB, Canada

Corresponding author: Ohi Ahmed, ohi.ahmed@ucalgary.ca.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Alberta is a powerhouse in Canadian agriculture, with a large land base and strong export potential for beef, wheat, and canola. This briefing highlights Alberta-specific insights from a 979-response national farmer survey (222 responses from Alberta) conducted in March 2025. It captures what producers consider most important, which policies they think help or hinder, and which risks feel most immediate. The survey results show that producers are notably civic-minded: most voted in 2021, most plan to vote in 2025, and political discussions are common across the farm community. Three main themes shape producer priorities: trade and market access, transportation and logistics, and tax and financial support, indicating a focus on growth opportunities and cost management. Farmers encounter daily challenges from tariffs, supply-chain delays, and currency fluctuations, yet many still view modern trade agreements positively. When asked where barriers should be reduced, the United States is the top choice, followed by China and the EU. On climate and water, producers prefer tools with immediate financial effects, such as disaster relief, stronger insurance, and soil health, over long-term mitigation strategies. Concerns about water resources are moderate; the demand is for clearer, harmonized rules, explicit allocations, and proven precision-water technologies. Adaptation measures are already in progress, including conservation tillage, drought-resistant crops, and additional on-farm storage; capital-intensive irrigation upgrades are adopted more selectively. Financing is generally accessible, but satisfaction with risk management programs is mixed, and many question Canada's farm competitiveness given logistics and foreign exchange volatility. The bargaining power of farmers appears weakest with supply-chain partners and retailers. It is more stable with lenders and largely neutral in labour markets. Most employers believe they can hire domestically, though views on permanent-residency pathways for foreign workers remain uncertain. The sector considers itself "somewhat united," indicating shared priorities.

Therefore, Alberta's agricultural producers are growth-focused, pragmatic, and highly engaged. They seek reliable market access, efficient logistics, and practical risk management tools that support their daily competitiveness.

Next Steps for Research:

- Study co-design models and engagement methods to improve agricultural policy participation and program uptake.
- Evaluate transport corridors and regulatory barriers to boost productivity and export efficiency.
- Analyze crop insurance and disaster relief systems to improve reliability and timeliness without added burden.
- Compare water allocation rules and test precision-water tech to improve sustainability and ROI.
- Examine market structure and contracts to identify and address power imbalances in Agri supply chains.
- Measure how tax rules and financial incentives affect farm investment and succession planning.
- Monitor Ag labour trends and test training and support models to enhance recruitment, retention, and productivity.

- Research current data practices and develop model clauses to clarify ownership, consent, and interoperability.
- Explore tools like a producer sentiment index and ROI frameworks to guide transparent policy and investment decisions.

BACKGROUND

Alberta is a core exporting province in Canada's agri-food economy. While the agriculture and agri-food system nationally contributes roughly \$150 billion to GDP and 2.3 million jobs (Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, 2024), Alberta's producers and processors are tightly integrated into the value chains, supplying grain, oilseeds, and livestock. Alberta ranks among the country's largest farming provinces by land base, accounting for about 32% of Canada's total farm area ([Statistics Canada, 2022](#)).

According to [Invest Alberta](#), the sector contributed about \$10.3 billion to provincial GDP in 2023. It employed roughly 83,000 people across farming and processing, underscoring its role as a core engine of jobs and growth. On the trade front, Alberta exported about \$17.9 billion in agri-food in 2023, split between approximately \$8.2 billion in primary commodities and \$9.7 billion in value-added products, with beef, wheat, and canola among the top export earners. On production, Alberta is described as a "top beef & wheat exporter." Its crop footprint is nationally significant: about 28.5% of Canada's canola (around 5.09 MT), 28.4% of Canada's wheat (around 9.9 MT), and a dominant 51.9% of Canada's barley (around 4.2 MT) comes from Alberta farms. The province also accounts for roughly 72.7% of Canada's irrigated farmland, about 680,000 hectares, giving producers a critical productivity and reliability advantage in a variable climate. The province's export orientation is anchored by major markets in the United States, China, Japan, Mexico, and India, with 2024 figures showing \$17.5 billion in agri-food exports, of which the U.S. accounted for \$9.3 billion alone ([Alberta, 2025](#)).

ISSUE

As Canada prepared for the period following the 2025 federal election, the voices of farmers, who operated at the vital intersection of food security, rural employment, and trade competitiveness, were more critical than ever. The agriculture and agri-food system contributes nearly \$150 billion to the national GDP. It provides jobs for over 2.3 million Canadians, or about one in every nine workers (Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, 2024). Alberta is a cornerstone of that system as it holds around 32% of Canada's total farm area (49.2 million of 153.7 million acres) ([Statistics Canada, 2022](#)). Alberta also accounted for over a quarter (25.5%) of Canada's total farm revenues of \$87.0 billion (Statistics Canada, 2022).

Using a subset of survey data extracted as part of the [Voices from the Field: The 2025 Federal Elections Project](#) (that yielded several briefing papers and policy trends pieces showcasing the political inclinations and policy preferences of Canadian farmers), this briefing paper examines farmers' policy preferences and business concerns in the regional setting of Alberta. Given Alberta's importance in the Canadian agricultural landscape, the Government of Alberta should deepen its analysis in a few areas to better understand Alberta's farmers' perspectives. Farmers' perceptions regarding (1) trade exposure and diversification (including tariff risks and non-tariff barriers); (2) market structure and price discovery (assessing supply-chain concentration and farmer bargaining dynamics); (3) program performance (testing how risk-management, insurance, and tax instruments perform across farm sizes and commodities); (4) demographic conditions and workforce (mapping succession pathways and the balance of domestic and international labour); and (5) data and logistics infrastructure (advancing agricultural data governance, real-time market intelligence, and trade-enabling transport capacity etc.) need to be explored. Focusing policy research on these agendas will position the province to enhance competitiveness and resilience in a more volatile global environment.

KEY FINDINGS & DISCUSSIONS

In anticipation of the 2025 federal election, a national survey was conducted to identify the policy preferences, political inclinations, and business concerns of Canadian farmers, as well as to assess how these producers’ priorities align with the current political landscape. The survey aimed to determine: (1) the issues most concerning farmers in the current local and global business environments, (2) which policies and programs, such as trade and market access, taxation, financial supports, and transportation infrastructure, most strongly influence voting intentions, and (3) how well federal party platforms reflect these policy preferences.

To achieve this, a national survey was conducted across all ten provinces from March 26 to April 13, 2025, targeting a representative sample of at least 50 Canadian farmers with a Gross Farm Income (GFI) in each segment ranging from “Less than \$100,000” to “2 million and over.” The Simpson Centre and Stratus Ag Research collaborated on developing the survey instrument, which was translated into French for Quebec respondents and administered online after extensive internal and pre-field testing to gather the necessary data. A portion of the summary and related survey questions can be found in the appendix. It is worth noting that Stratus Ag Research is Canada’s leading market research company dedicated solely to agriculture. The Stratus database includes several thousand commercial farmers who participate in surveys each year.

979 completed responses were gathered, representing 0.52% of 189,874 Canadian farms according to the last farm census 2021 (Statistics Canada, 2022). Provincial quotas were established based on Statistics Canada’s distribution of farms above the GFI threshold to ensure geographic representation. Overall, the study provides a solid snapshot of farmer sentiment, broken down by region, farm size, and commodity type, allowing for a detailed understanding of political alignment and policy demands in Canadian agriculture. We received the following number of responses from each province:

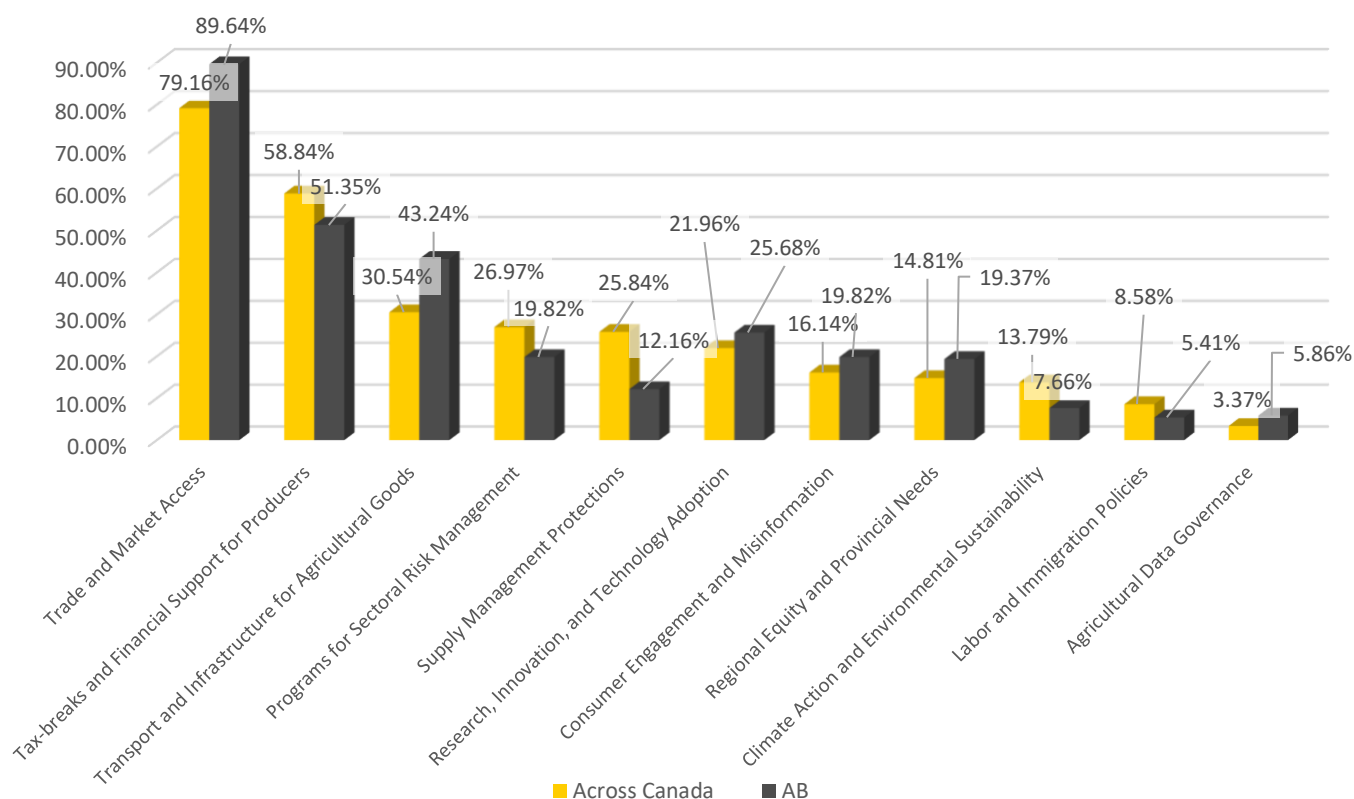
Alberta (AB)	Atlantic Canada (comprising of Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick)	British Columbia (BC)	Manitoba (MB)	Ontario (ON)	Quebec (QC)	Saskatchewan (SK)
222	22	46	124	225	103	237

The survey’s findings provide critical insights into the business concerns, aspirations, and political and policy preferences of Alberta agricultural producers.

POLICY PRIORITIES: TRADE, TRANSPORT, AND TAX RELIEF

Alberta producers heavily prioritize Trade and Market Access, with 89.64% citing it as a top concern, significantly above the national average of 79.16%. This reflects the province’s export-driven agriculture sector, which depends significantly on global commodity markets. The second most crucial policy area for Alberta farmers is Transport and Infrastructure for Agricultural Goods, selected by 43.24% of respondents, also surpassing the national average of 30.54%. This aligns with the logistical needs of Alberta’s large-scale, geographically spread-out operations that rely on efficient rail and road networks. Next, tax breaks and Financial Support for Producers remain a key policy focus at 51.35%, showing ongoing concern over costs and tax policies. Alberta farmers also demonstrate a higher-than-average interest in Consumer Engagement and Misinformation (19.82%) and Research, Innovation, and Technology Adoption (25.68%), likely driven by concerns about public misconceptions of farming practices and a desire for technological advancements. Lower concerns were reported for Climate Action and Environmental Sustainability (7.66%) and Labour and Immigration Policies (5.41%), even though these issues are more urgent in other provinces, such as BC and Atlantic Canada. Please refer to Figure 1 (see Appendix Table 1 for more details).

Figure 1. Policy preferences
(up to top 3 for every farmer)



Implications

Trade and Export Diversification: Political platforms aiming to succeed in Alberta should focus on trade facilitation, export diversification, and targeted infrastructure investment suited to primary producers' needs.

Market Access Instruments: Since nearly 90% of respondents identified Trade and Market Access as a key area, federal and provincial governments may need to intensify efforts to improve Alberta's access to international markets through new bilateral agreements, dispute resolution mechanisms, and reductions in domestic interprovincial barriers.

Infrastructure Investment: The emphasis on infrastructure highlights an urgent need for investment in rail capacity, highways, and other facilities.

Tax Policy Priorities: Tax policies, including carbon tax exemptions and capital cost allowances, should stay high on the policy agenda, particularly given the province's historical opposition to federal taxation schemes perceived as unfair or misaligned with rural realities.

Climate and Labour, a lower stated priority but of ongoing importance: The relatively low priority assigned to Climate Action and Labour Policies may reflect Alberta's dominant crop and livestock systems, as well as a political culture that often prefers market-led approaches. However, policymakers need to understand that, even though these issues are lower in priority, they remain vital for long-term resilience.

Positioning and Communication: A communication strategy that presents sustainability and labour policies as means to improve competitiveness, rather than solely focusing on environmental stewardship or social equity, could boost adoption and alignment.

In conclusion, Alberta's policy landscape is characterized by a strong emphasis on economic enablers: market access, infrastructure, and cost-management mechanisms. Any federal-provincial collaboration that neglects these themes risks alienating a critical segment of Canada's agri-food economy.

WHAT CHANGES WITH SCALE: TRANSPORT, TECH, AND SUPPLY MANAGEMENT

Producer policy priorities vary notably by income category, highlighting how financial scale influences expectations from federal parties and government support. Across all income groups, Trade and Market Access remains the top concern, with nearly universal support, reaching 100% for farms earning \$100,000-\$249,999 and staying high even among the largest operations (\$ 2 million+: 82.35%). This emphasizes a strong cross-sectoral demand for better domestic and international market access, regardless of operation size.

Tax breaks and financial assistance for producers also stand out as a nearly universal second-tier priority, especially among mid-sized producers (61.54% of the \$100,000-\$249,999 group) and small farms (50% of < \$100,000). This suggests that managing costs, maintaining input affordability, and having risk-mitigation tools remain essential for financial sustainability, particularly as operating margins decrease.

Smaller yet meaningful distinctions emerge in less prioritized categories. Transport and Infrastructure for Agricultural Goods gain significant traction among mid-income groups (\$500,000-\$999,999: 50%; \$250,000-\$499,999: 45.16%), indicating that logistical bottlenecks and input and output cost pressures are particularly felt by farms moving towards bigger commercial scales. Interestingly, support for Supply Management Protections is disproportionately higher among the lowest income group (33.33% of farms earning <\$100,000), reflecting that smaller-scale and possibly niche operators benefit most directly from quota-based systems.

Meanwhile, Research, Innovation, and Technology Adoption are most prioritized by farms in the \$1 million-\$1.99 million range (40%) and those earning over \$2 million (29.41%), suggesting larger operations are more actively engaged in or reliant on tech-driven efficiency and scaling solutions. In contrast, Climate Action and Environmental Sustainability fail to exceed 15% in any income bracket, registering near-zero concern among farms below \$100,000, a striking indication of the disconnect between environmental policy discourse and perceived producer relevance. Please Refer to Table 2.

Policy Priorities/ Income Range	\$2 million and over	\$1 to \$1.99 million	\$0.5 to \$0.99 million	\$0.25 to \$0.49 million	\$0.1 to \$0.249 million	Less than \$100,000	Prefer Not to Answer
Climate Action and Environmental Sustainability	3.92%	5.45%	14.00%	12.90%	7.69%	0.00%	0.00%
Trade and Market Access	82.35%	94.55%	84.00%	96.77%	100.00%	83.33%	93.75%
Supply Management Protections	19.61%	5.45%	10.00%	12.90%	15.38%	33.33%	6.25%
Tax-breaks and Financial Support for Producers	56.86%	47.27%	42.00%	51.61%	61.54%	50.00%	68.75%
Labour and Immigration Policies	9.80%	3.64%	2.00%	9.68%	7.69%	0.00%	0.00%
Research, Innovation, and Technology Adoption	29.41%	40.00%	20.00%	19.35%	15.38%	0.00%	12.50%
Programs for Sectoral Risk Management	19.61%	14.55%	26.00%	22.58%	7.69%	16.67%	25.00%
Transport and Infrastructure for Agricultural Goods	33.33%	41.82%	50.00%	45.16%	46.15%	66.67%	43.75%
Consumer Engagement and Misinformation	23.53%	20.00%	18.00%	19.35%	0.00%	16.67%	31.25%
Regional Equity and Provincial Needs	13.73%	25.45%	22.00%	6.45%	30.77%	33.33%	18.75%
Agricultural Data Governance	7.84%	1.82%	12.00%	3.23%	7.69%	0.00%	0.00%

Implications

Policy Tailoring by Income: These findings suggest that tailoring policies by income group could significantly enhance both political support and program effectiveness.

Larger Enterprises (> \$1 million): For larger commercial enterprises (earning over \$1 million), federal parties and agencies might need to expand initiatives related to trade liberalization, digital adoption, and logistical modernization, areas where this group shows both interest and reliance. Support for innovation, such as matching grants for precision agriculture, digital advisory tools, and export-readiness services, could be pivotal.

Mid-Sized Producers: Mid-sized producers exhibit strong demand for financial relief mechanisms, sectoral risk management tools, and improvements in transportation costs. Policymakers might consider enhancing existing AgriInvest or AgriStability programs and improving rural infrastructure to support this high-output but cost-sensitive group. Given their dual concern for competitiveness and cost management, integrating financial incentives with trade facilitation could be a winning strategy.

Lower-Income Producers: Lower-income producers express distinctive preferences, particularly around supply management protections and regional equity. These producers may benefit more from targeted support tied to local processing, cooperative logistics, or price stability programs.

Climate Communication & Incentives: The lack of engagement with climate priorities across all income bands (and especially among smaller farms) should prompt policy actors to rethink how sustainability measures are communicated, incentivized, and delivered, perhaps shifting from punitive models (e.g., carbon pricing) to reward-based approaches (e.g., ecosystem service payments).

CLIMATE & WATER PRIORITIES: STABILIZE, SIMPLIFY, MODERNIZE

Among Alberta farmers, there is a strong focus on immediate, tangible support to address increasing environmental volatility. Disaster relief for farmers affected by extreme weather ranks as the top climate-related policy priority, cited by 53.15% of respondents, followed closely by federal financial aid to reduce climate risks (50.90%) and soil health (46.85%). This trend shows that Alberta producers mainly concentrate on damage control amid unpredictable weather patterns rather than on investments like renewable energy or climate research.

While carbon pricing and regenerative agriculture receive moderate attention (24.32% and 25.68% respectively), only 14.41% of producers ranked climate adaptation research as a top priority, and even fewer supported incentives for renewable energy (18.92%). This likely reflects a pragmatic approach towards policies that provide immediate cost relief or safeguard yields, rather than those seen as long-term or policy driven.

When it comes to water availability, Alberta farmers show a relatively low level of concern: only 13.06% expressed high concern, and the same percentage expect a significant impact from water shortages. The largest portion of respondents reported low (34.23%) or medium (30.18%) concern about water shortages, and a similar pattern exists for expected impact, with 36.49% indicating low impact and 28.83% selecting medium impact. This may reflect Alberta's comparatively better access to water resources for agriculture than other provinces, or a perception that water risks are manageable in the near future.

Alberta producers prefer practical, system-level solutions for water management over isolated subsidies. The two most common interventions are simplifying and harmonizing water regulations (37.39%) and supporting research and innovation in precision water-use technologies (36.94%). A secondary focus is on the rules and tools that influence water access and on-farm decisions: modernizing water rights and allocation policies (27.03%), investing in smart, technology-driven irrigation systems (22.52%), and combining weather forecasting with water management tools (20.27%). Preferences for data governance frameworks (18.02%) and public-private partnerships for “smart” solutions (18.92%) indicate a preference for clearer rules and collaborative efforts rather than new mandates. In contrast, direct financial incentives for digital technologies (13.96%) and education or technical support programs (9.46%) are less popular, aligning with earlier findings that overall water anxiety in Alberta is moderate and producers primarily seek predictable policies and evidence-based innovations before training or broad subsidies. Please refer to Figures 2 to 4 (see Appendix Tables 3 to 5 for more details).

Figure 2. Degree of concern & impact due to water scarcity

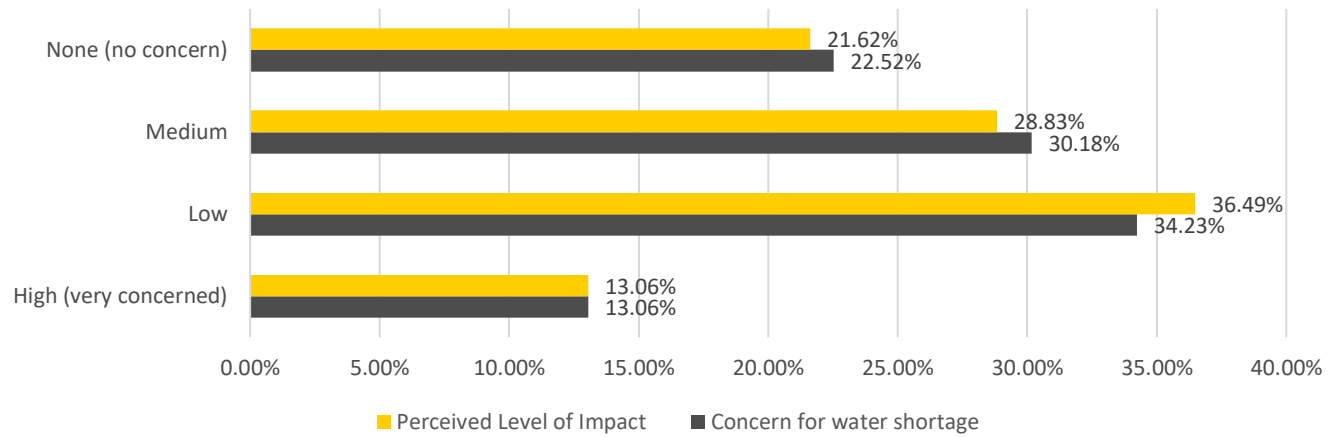


Figure 3. Environmental and climate related priorities % of AB farmers indicating priority (as a top 3 priority)

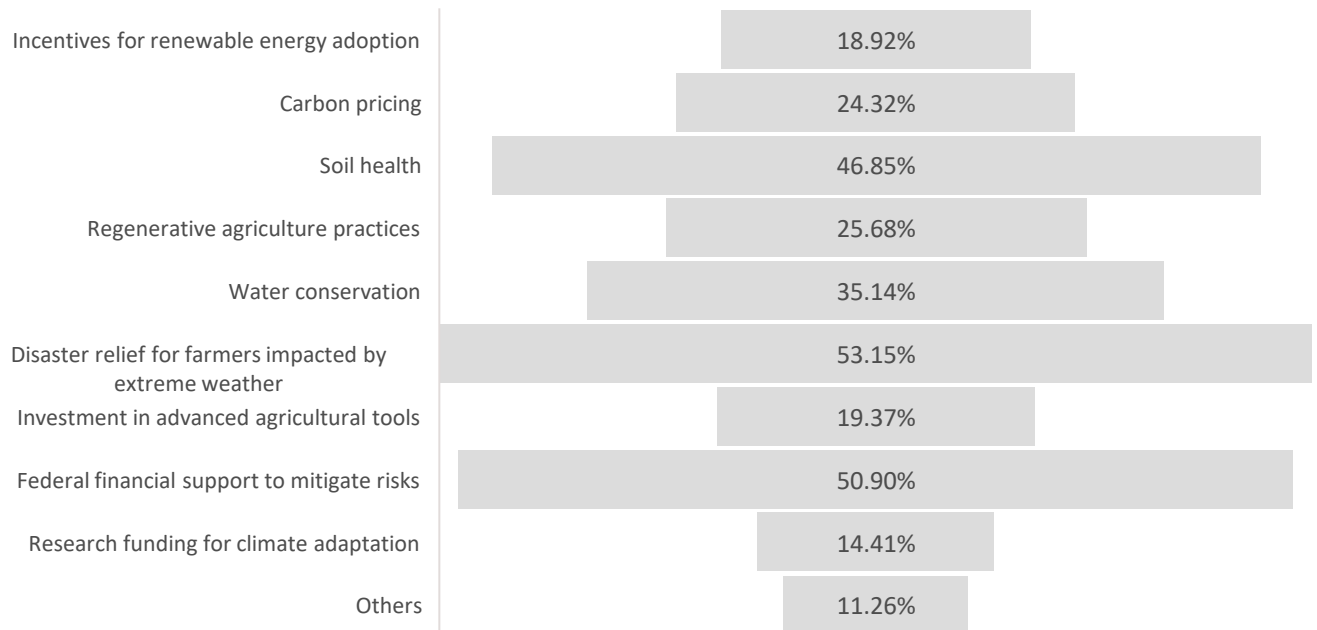
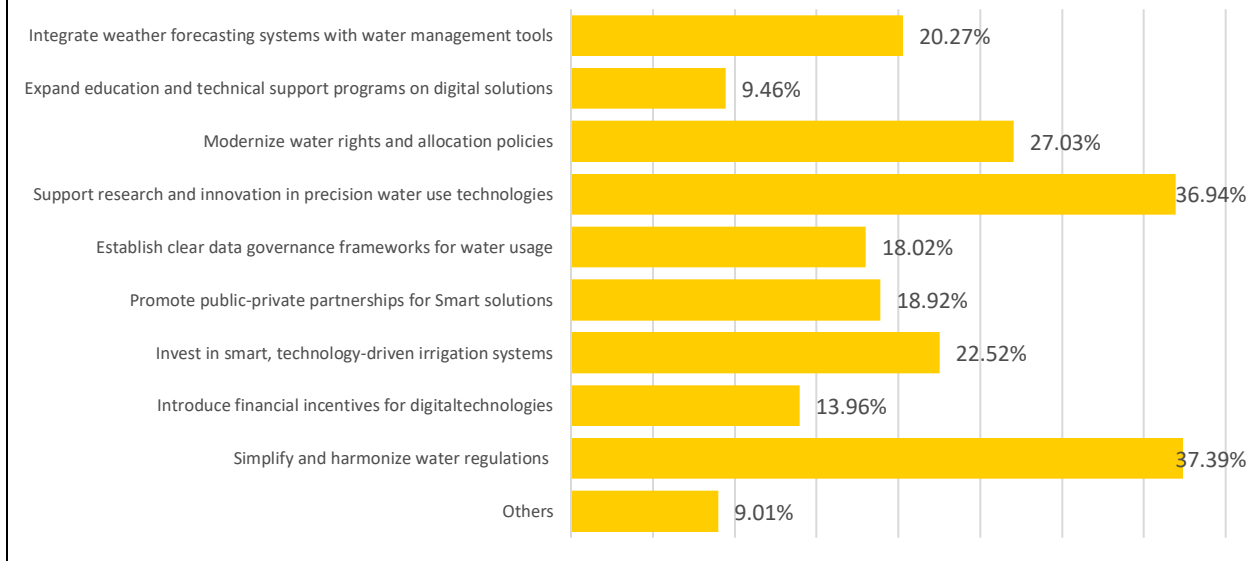


Figure 4. % of AB farmers prioritizing policy intervention as one of their top 3 preference for water management



Implications

Policy Preference: These findings indicate that Alberta farmers prefer climate resilience policies that are financial in nature and focus on risk recovery rather than regulatory actions or long-term mitigation tools. Federal and provincial governments aiming to engage Alberta’s agricultural sector on climate issues should prioritize programmes that incorporate financial risk-sharing, such as expanded disaster relief, crop insurance updates, and flexible federal-provincial funding models.

Water Investments & Co-Benefits: Since water-related anxiety is not yet severe in Alberta, proactive investments in water conservation infrastructure or drought resilience might find it hard to gain political support unless accompanied by co-benefits such as increased productivity or cost reductions.

Awareness & Preparedness Window: However, the moderate concern levels present an opportunity to raise awareness and improve preparedness without facing major opposition. Incorporating water-smart tools into existing financial supports or agronomic extension services could be an effective way to address this gap.

Federal-Provincial Alignment: To strengthen provincial alignment, Alberta’s Ministry of Agriculture may wish to advocate for federal climate and disaster funding that de-emphasizes carbon-centric tools, such as strict carbon pricing, in favour of localized emergency relief, soil-health incentives, and producer-driven adaptation solutions. In the federal policy space, these insights highlight the need for regionally tailored climate strategies that respect the priorities of Prairie producers while maintaining a cohesive national climate policy framework.

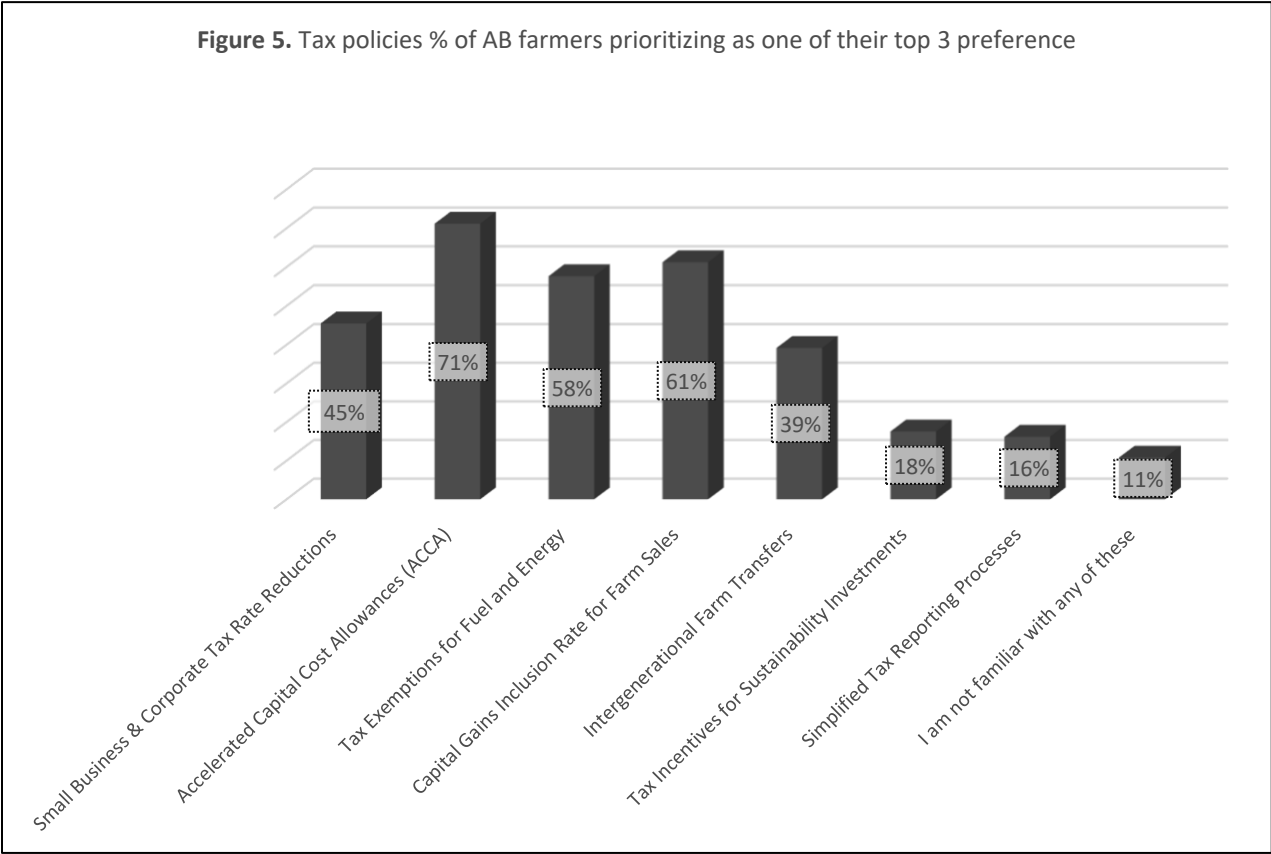
Regulatory Consistency & Water Rights Modernization: For Alberta, the focus should be on ensuring regulatory consistency and certainty of rights across basins and irrigation districts, including reducing administrative hurdles for allocation, transfer, and licensing; modernizing water rights in stages, along with transparent, digital registries and compatible data standards, etc. These would directly address farmers’ main concerns and boost confidence in investment for irrigation upgrades.

R&D Priorities & Interoperable Toolchains: Federally and provincially funded research can explore avenues such as field-scale precision-water technologies (including sensors, variable-rate irrigation, and decision-support models) and reliable toolchains that integrate with farm software.

Targeted Cost-Share & Partnerships: Cost-sharing programs can support capital-heavy smart-irrigation upgrades and can also be part of a broader system that simplifies rules and makes data more accessible. Public-private partnerships with irrigation districts, ag-tech companies, and producer groups can explore pilots and mitigate risks associated with adoption.

TAX LEVERS THAT MATTER: ACCA, CAPITAL GAINS, FUEL RELIEF

Alberta producers prioritize tax tools that directly support investment, liquidity, and succession planning. The clearest signal is for Accelerated Capital Cost Allowance (ACCA), selected by 71% of respondents as a top three priority, reflecting the sector’s capital intensity and the need to upgrade equipment for productivity and risk management. Capital gains treatment at farm sale follows closely (61%), underscoring the importance of intergenerational transfer, retirement planning, and balance-sheet stability. Input-cost relief remains essential: 58% favour fuel and energy tax exemptions, while 45% seek small-business and corporate rate reductions to ease ongoing operational pressures. Conversely, only 18% emphasize tax incentives specifically for sustainability investments, 16% focus on simplified reporting, and 11% are unfamiliar with these instruments, indicating uneven awareness and a preference for broadly applicable, cash-flow-oriented mechanisms over program-based or compliance-driven incentives. Please see Figure 5 (see Appendix Table 6 for more details).



Implications

Protect ACCA & Capital Gains: Advocacy to the federal government should centre on maintaining and, where possible, enhancing ACCA treatment for farm machinery and on protecting predictable, farm-friendly capital gain. Uncertainty in either area would disproportionately affect Alberta's large, equipment-heavy operations.

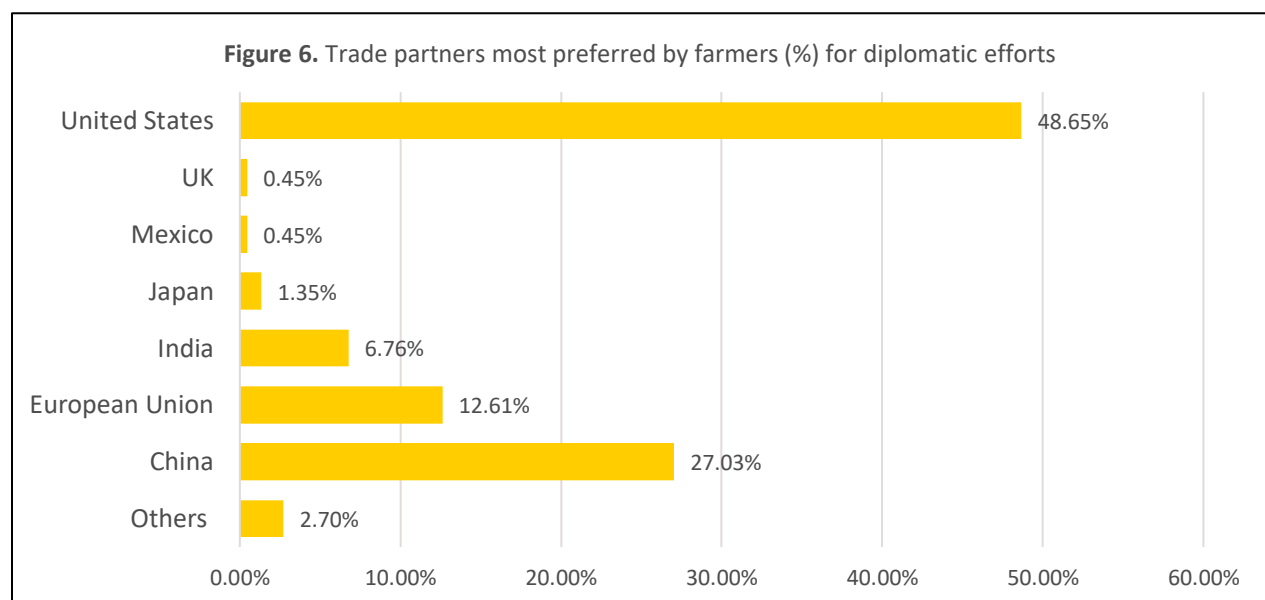
Pair Financing with Succession Support: Provincial policy can complement these federal levers by pairing low-cost financing or loan-guarantee programs with advisory and legal support for succession, helping producers translate favourable tax treatment into viable transfer plans.

Prioritize Input-Cost Relief & Practical Messaging: Given strong demand for input-cost relief, Alberta can continue to press for pragmatic fuel and energy policies while using communications and extension to raise awareness of underused tools such as sustainability credits and simplified reporting. By linking these to tangible ROI (yield stability, fuel savings, equipment longevity) rather than framing them primarily as compliance measures.

Close Knowledge Gaps & Align Programs: Closing the 11% knowledge gap through targeted outreach and producer workshops would broaden take-up, while aligning provincial programs with the tax instruments producers already favour would magnify fiscal impact without creating new administrative burdens.

MARKET MARCHING ORDERS: U.S. FIRST, ASIA & EU NEXT

When Alberta producers were asked which international market Canada should focus on for lowering agricultural trade barriers, the United States received the most responses (48.65%), significantly surpassing China (27.03%) and the European Union (12.61%). Interest in India was moderate (6.76%), while Japan (1.35%), Mexico (0.45%), and the UK (0.45%) garnered limited support; 2.70% chose "other." The pattern shows Alberta's strong ties with U.S. supply chains and logistics, while also indicating a notable interest in stabilizing and growing access to China and, to a lesser extent, the EU. Please refer to Figure 6 (see Appendix Table 7 for more details).



Implications

Importance of Frictionless U.S. Access: Streamlined border processes and inspection regimes, removal of CUSMA-related irritants, and improved cross-border transport reliability can deliver outsized benefits for beef, canola, cereals, and other commodities, thereby enhancing trade prospects with farmers' economy of choice.

Lock in Predictable China Access: Stable market-access arrangements paired with risk-management strategies suited to geopolitical volatility can reduce unwanted uncertainty associated with trade with China.

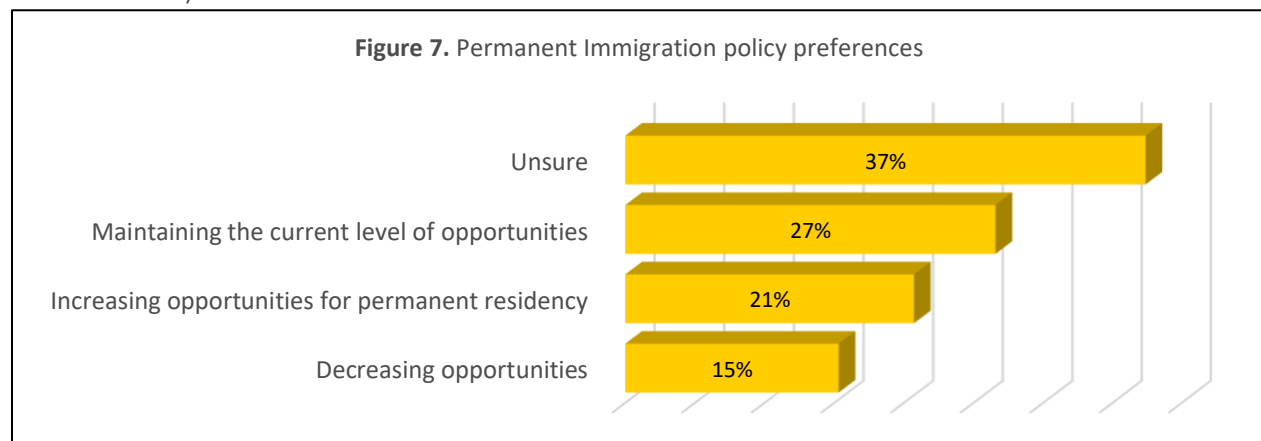
Chip Away at EU Non-tariff Barriers: The different orders of government should continue CETA-focused work on veterinary approvals, residue limits, and traceability standards to unlock greater value for Alberta goods.

Targeted diversification to emerging markets: Exploring opportunities in growing markets like India to expand our customer base without diluting near-term priorities is crucial.

Sequencing the Agenda by Reliability First: Producers are asking first for dependable U.S. access, and second for credible pathways into Asia and Europe that cut non-tariff friction and logistics bottlenecks.

ALBERTA ON PERMANENT RESIDENCE FOR TEMPORARY FOREIGN WORKERS: UNCERTAIN, CAUTIOUSLY SUPPORTIVE

Alberta producers are divided on permanent-residency pathways for Temporary Foreign Workers (TFWs), with uncertainty dominating the response. Over one-third (37%) are unsure of their position, while 27% prefer maintaining current opportunities and 21% favour increasing them. A smaller share (15%) supports decreasing opportunities. Taken together, almost half of respondents (48%) back either maintaining or expanding PR options, indicating a mild, status-quo-to-growth tilt, tempered by considerable hesitation that likely reflects information gaps and variation in labour needs across commodities and regions. Please refer to Figure 7 (see Appendix Table 8 for more details).



Implications

Close the PR Information Gap: Plain-language guidance on immigration streams, timelines, and employer responsibilities needs to be more widely available so producers understand how permanent residency pathways intersect with labour stability, rural retention, and community integration, and how TFW processes work.

Align Programs with Seasonality: Pathway design, intake timing, and processing should be aligned with agricultural peak seasons and regional realities to improve fit and predictability.

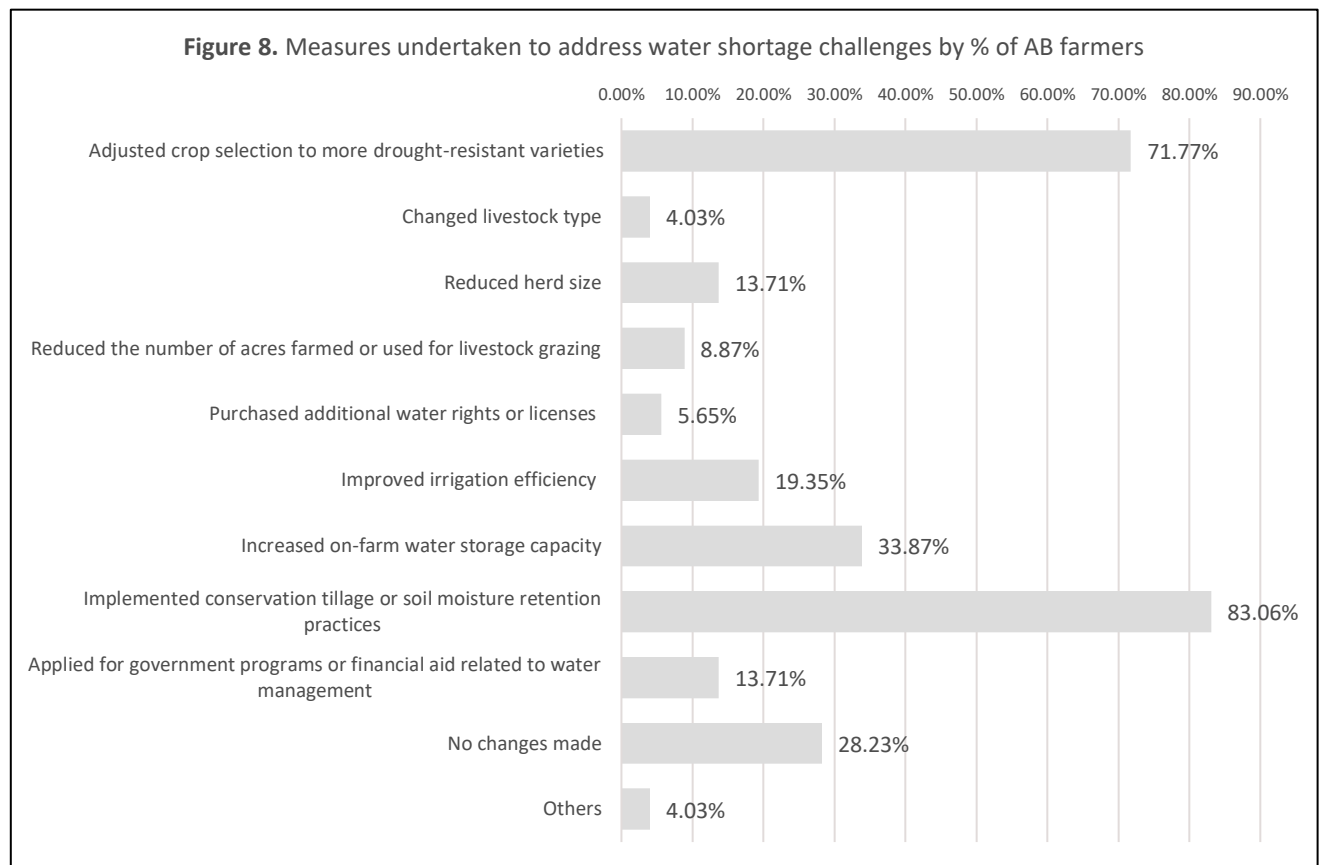
Coordinate Rural Settlement Supports: More productive outcomes require integrating housing, transportation, language training, and credential recognition in rural areas, thereby ensuring PR pathways translate into durable workforce outcomes.

Pilot Evidence-Based PR Models: More pilots are required that pair PR pathways with standards on training, retention, and local recruitment to build confidence while addressing legitimate concerns.

Strengthen Labour-Market Intelligence: Improved provincial data on vacancies, turnover, and productivity impacts are needed to inform undecided producers and calibrate future adjustments to immigration policy in line with Alberta’s regional conditions.

DROUGHT PLAYBOOK: TILLAGE, TOLERANT CROPS, AND TANKS

Most Alberta producers are already adapting to water stress, but they are doing so mainly through agronomic and on-farm practices rather than regulatory or market tools. The two most common measures are conservation tillage or soil-moisture retention (83.06%) and switching to more drought-tolerant crops (71.77%), showing a strong preference for management-based responses. A significant minority has invested in physical resilience: about one-third increased on-farm storage (33.87%) and roughly one-fifth improved irrigation efficiency (19.35%). More disruptive changes are less common, with only 13.71% reducing herd size and 8.87% cutting acres, while few pursued additional water rights (5.65%) or changed livestock types (4.03%), indicating barriers such as license availability, transaction costs, or fit with current operations. Notably, 28.23% reported taking no action, highlighting a group that may be unconvinced of risk, limited by capital, or waiting for clearer policy signals and program support. Please see Figure 8 (see Appendix Table 9 for more details).



Implications

Moisture & Storage First: For Alberta, the pattern indicates a high receptivity to measures that enhance soil moisture and storage, alongside underutilization of instruments that require larger capital outlays.

Modernize Rights, Simplify Transfers: The province can accelerate resilience by pairing its water-rights modernization work with simpler, lower-cost transfer mechanisms and clear guidance.

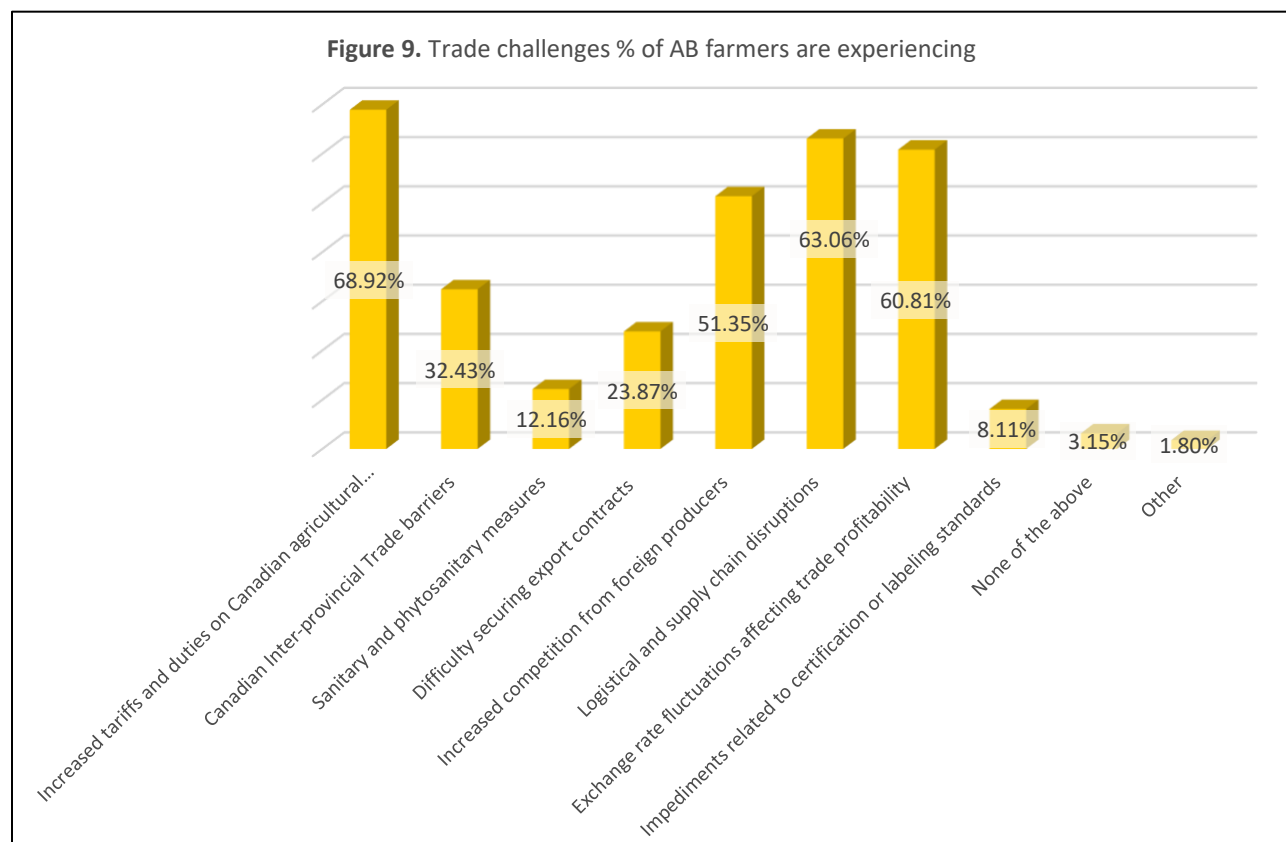
Targeted Financing for Upgrades: Further research on targeted cost-share or low-interest financing for storage and irrigation upgrades through financial partners and irrigation districts might be beneficial.

Refocus Extension programs and R&D: Given the widespread adoption of conservation tillage, extension programs and research can now emphasize precision water management, cover crop systems suited to Prairie rotations, and practical, field-scale water budgeting.

Streamlined Program Access: Assessing procedural support options can improve access to federal or provincial programs, thereby reducing friction from application to implementation.

TARIFFS, TRUCKS, AND TURBULENCE: A TRADE REALITY CHECK

Alberta's producers report a trade environment dominated by external frictions and cost volatility. Nearly seven in ten experienced higher tariffs and duties on Canadian exports (68.92%), and roughly two-thirds were affected by logistical and supply-chain disruptions (63.06%) and by foreign-exchange (FX) rate swings that eroded margins (60.81%). Competitive pressure from foreign suppliers is also widespread (51.35%). Domestic frictions are not negligible: almost a third cite interprovincial trade barriers (32.43%), and about a quarter report difficulty securing export contracts amid shifting global rules (23.87%). Regulatory hurdles such as sanitary and phytosanitary measures (12.16%) and certification or labelling impediments (8.11%) are less commonly reported but still crucial for specific segments. Only 3.15% indicated that none of the listed challenges applied, underscoring how pervasive trade headwinds are for Alberta farms. Please refer to Figure 9 (see Appendix Table 10 for more details).



Implications

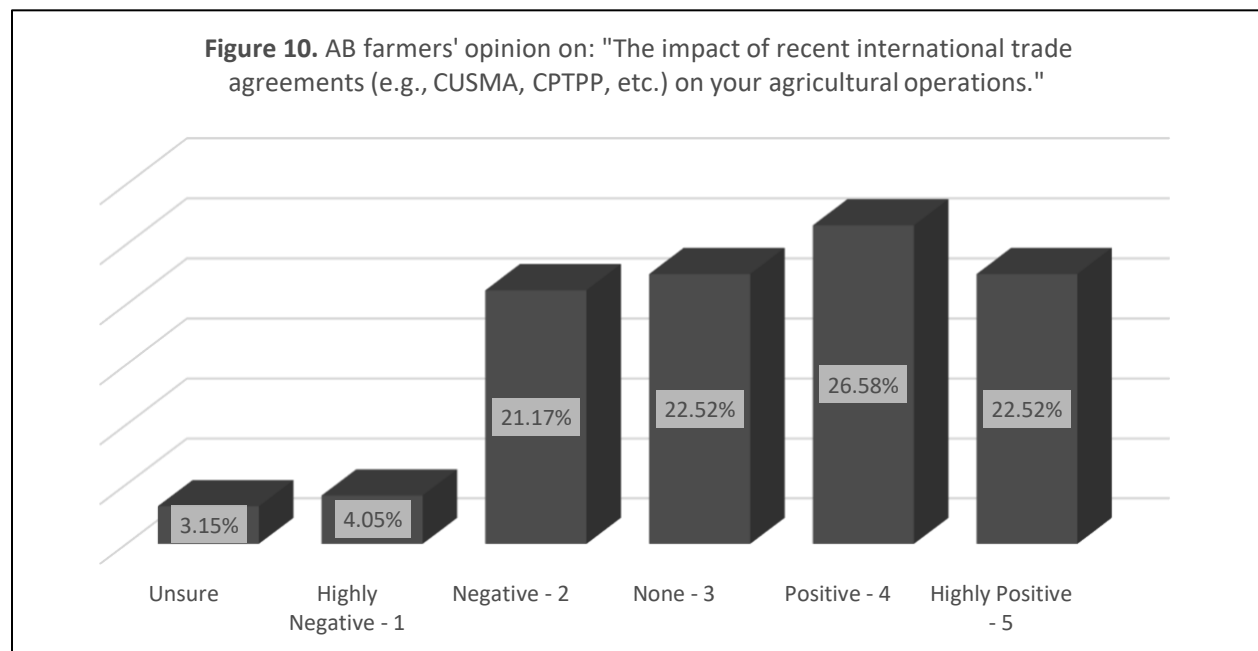
Strengthen Financial Shock Absorbers: Exposure to tariffs, FX volatility, and contract risk requires more substantial buffers, including scalable working-capital lines tied to export cycles, inventory and receivables finance for delayed shipments, and straightforward FX risk management tools with low-fee hedging options.

Plan For Logistics Disruptions: The frequency of bottlenecks suggests a role for provincial and federal partners in contingency planning. Financing partners can supplement this with support for on-farm storage and diversification, as well as supply-chain finance that accelerates cash conversion when freight is slow.

Necessity For Reducing Domestic Frictions: With one-third citing interprovincial barriers and a notable minority pointing to regulatory impediments, Alberta has grounds to pursue interprovincial trade agreements and to streamline certification across provinces.

TRADE AGREEMENTS AND TENSIONS: ALBERTA FARMERS' OUTLOOK ON GLOBAL MARKET FORCES

Among Alberta producers, the perceived impact of recent trade policy is generally favourable. For modern trade agreements such as CUSMA and CPTPP, just under half of farmers (49.1%) report a positive or highly positive effect on their operations. In comparison, about a quarter (25.2%) view the impact as negative, and roughly the same share remain neutral (22.5%), with a small group (3.2%) unsure. Taken together with earlier evidence that many Alberta farms still face daily challenges from tariffs, logistics, and exchange rates, these results suggest producers are distinguishing between short-term obstacles and a longer-term view that Canada's current trade posture and agreements ultimately benefit their businesses. Please refer to Figure 10 (see Appendix Table 11 for more details).



Implications

Leverage Export Momentum: This optimism provides Alberta with the opportunity to lean into export-oriented growth strategies.

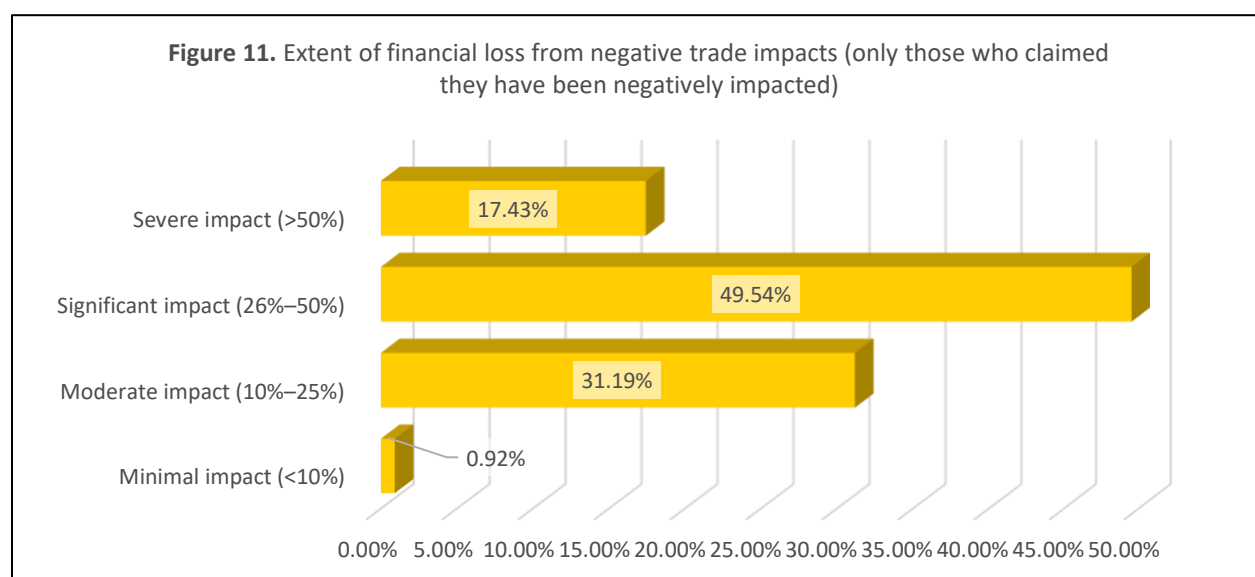
Back-Market Access Provincially: Alberta should highly consider sustaining support for market-access initiatives, trade missions, and certification or traceability to align with positive expectations under CUSMA, CPTPP, etc.

Target Skeptical Subsectors: Since a meaningful quarter still views agreements negatively, prioritizing focused outreach and support in those areas is necessary.

Fix Friction in the System: Alberta needs to collaborate continuously on rail and highway reliability and port performance so producers can convert favourable trade conditions into reliable, profitable shipments.

THE COST OF INSTABILITY: QUANTIFYING REVENUE LOSS FROM TRADE TURBULENCE IN ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

Among Alberta producers who believe recent international trade changes will negatively affect their farm, the expected revenue hit is skewed to the large side. Only about 1% anticipate a minimal impact (<10%), roughly 31% expect a moderate impact (10–25%), nearly half (around 49.5%) foresee a significant effect (26–50%), and about 17.4% anticipate a severe impact (>50%). In other words, about two-thirds of this group expect losses of at least 26%, indicating concentrated exposure to trade shocks. Please refer to Figure 11 (see Appendix Table 12 for more details).



Implications

Strengthen Domestic Recruitment and Retention: More research on province-level pipelines should be conducted to target training for agricultural and ag-tech roles, offer paid apprenticeships, and deliver micro-credentials through colleges.

Enable Workers to Stay Rural: Options like workforce programs with practical supports, such as rural housing, transportation solutions, and childcare, where feasible, to improve retention outside major centres warrant more exploration.

Streamline Peak-Season Matching: There is a need for fast, user-friendly job-matching for seeding/harvest and other peak windows, enabling farms to fill roles on time.

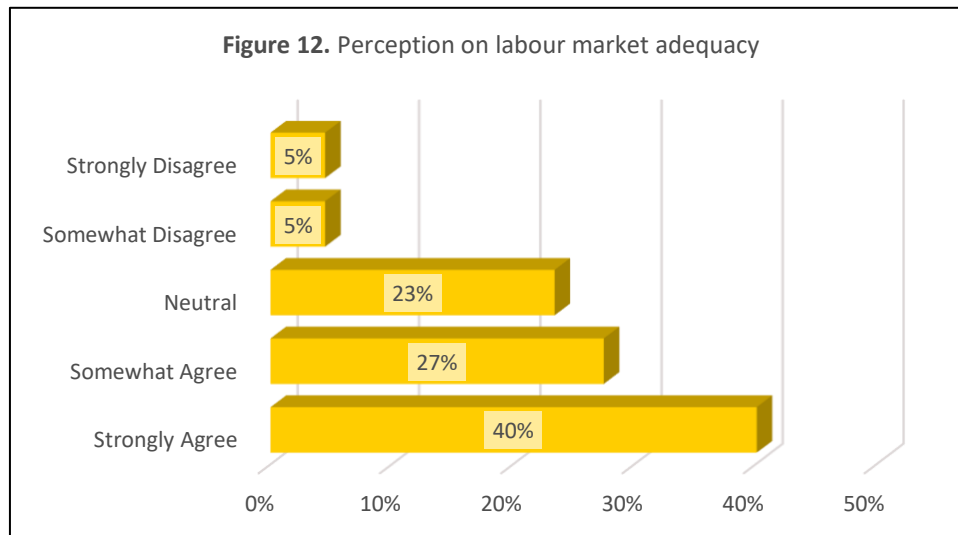
Accelerate Recognition of Experience: There is a need for faster credential recognition for experienced workers so skills translate quickly into on-farm productivity.

Improve Labour Mobility to Hotspots: Targeted mobility incentives are needed to move willing workers to high-demand regions and commodities when local supply is thin.

Maintain Predictable Seasonal Pathways: Reliable seasonal streams that complement (not displace) domestic hiring, giving employers planning certainty, are crucial for business operations.

DOMESTIC LABOUR SUFFICIENCY IN ALBERTA AGRICULTURE: HIGH CONFIDENCE WITH NUANCED GAPS

Most Alberta producers report they can meet labour needs with Canadians or permanent residents: 67% agree (40% strongly, 27% somewhat). Only 10% disagree (5% somewhat, 5% strongly), while 23% are neutral. The pattern suggests that a clear majority currently manage with the domestic labour pool. Still, nearly one in three remain uncertain or report gaps likely reflecting seasonal spikes, geographic disparities in rural labour supply, or skill mismatches. Please refer to Figure 12 (see Appendix Table 12 for more details).



Implications

Strengthen Domestic Recruitment and Retention: More research on province-level pipelines should be conducted to target training for agricultural and ag-tech roles, offer paid apprenticeships, and deliver micro-credentials through colleges.

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POWER IMBALANCES IN AGRI-MARKETS: ALBERTA FARMERS REPORT WEAK BARGAINING POSITION ACROSS KEY RELATIONSHIPS

Alberta producers report the weakest leverage with their supply-chain partners: half of respondents say their bargaining power is inadequate, and only 13% feel it is sufficient, highlighting ongoing vulnerabilities related to input procurement, storage, transportation, grading, and contracting. The situation with retailers is mixed: 37% feel underpowered, 35% are neutral, and 28% believe they have adequate leverage, indicating many transactions still operate as price-taker relationships driven by concentrated buying power. Conversely, relationships with financial institutions tend to be more balanced: 36% report sufficient leverage and 43% are neutral, though one in five still perceives a lack of bargaining power. Labour-market bargaining power leans heavily towards neutrality (62%), with 21% feeling sufficiently empowered and 17% feeling they lack leverage, suggesting that staffing availability and wage-setting do not consistently advantage or disadvantage most farms but remain uncertain areas. Please refer to Figures 13-16 (see Appendix Tables 14 to 17 for more details).

Figure 13. AB farmers' perception on: Bargaining power with retailers

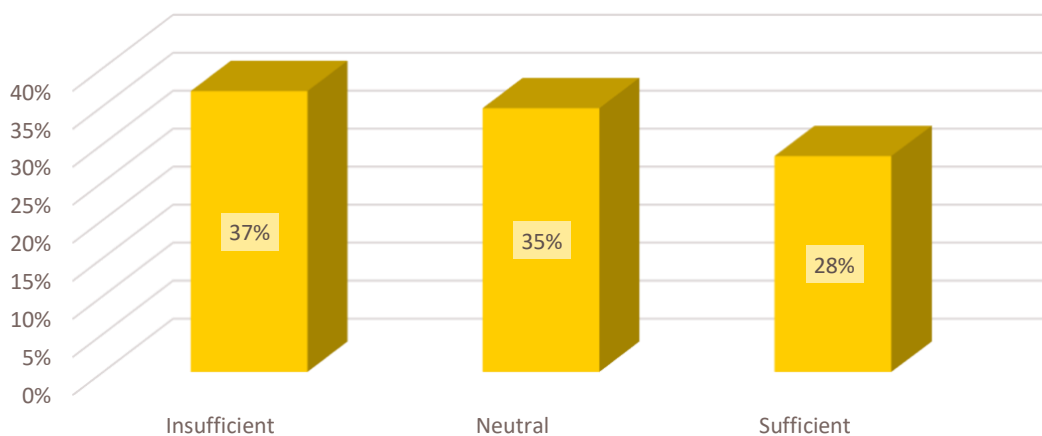


Figure 14. AB farmers' perception on: Bargaining power with supply chain partners

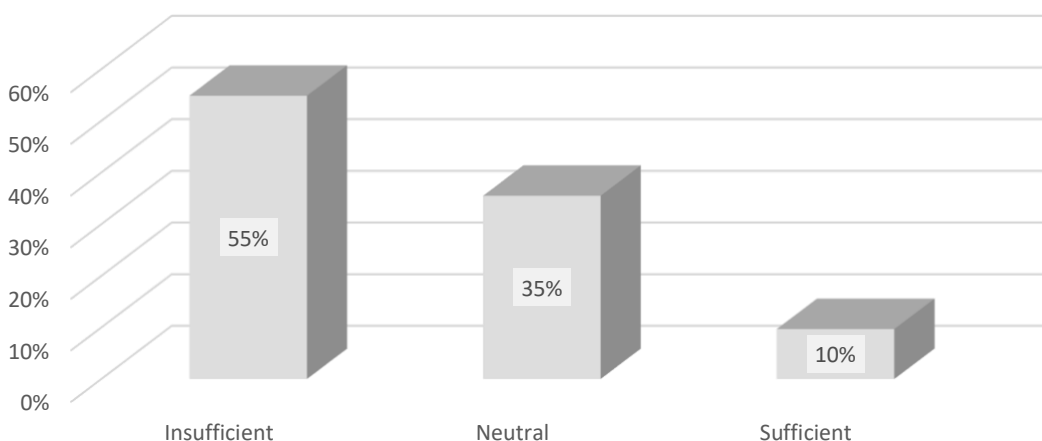


Figure 15. AB farmers' perception on: Bargaining power with financial institutes

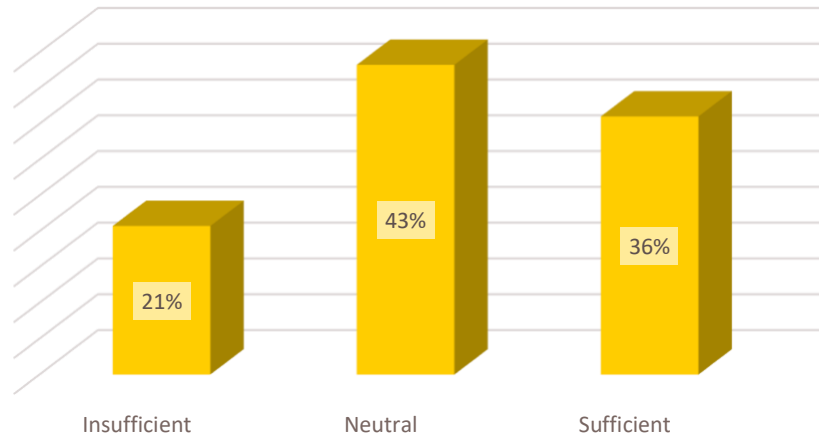
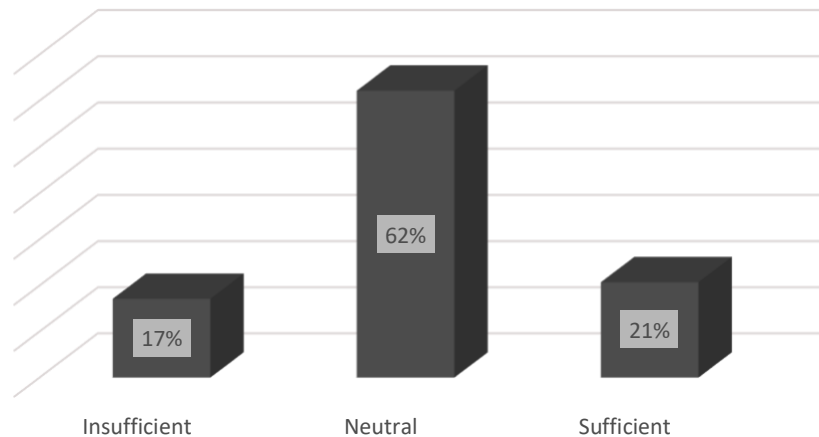


Figure 16. AB farmers' perception on: Bargaining power with labour force



Implications

Back Producer Collaboration: There is a need for increased support for co-ops and alliances for input purchasing and marketing to strengthen negotiating leverage.

Expand Low-Cost Dispute Resolution: There is a need for accessible mediation or arbitration to address issues related to grading, delivery windows, and penalties, thereby rebalancing contracts.

Advance Competition And Fair-Dealing: There is a need to address concentration in handling, trucking, and retail so that producers can secure fairer terms with buyers and shippers.

Increase Market Access: Expanding buyer options, such as digital marketplaces, regional processors, and new channels, can help reduce exposure to a few dominant counterparties.

ALBERTA FARMERS: CANADA'S MOST ENGAGED ELECTORATE

Alberta's agricultural producers demonstrate some of the highest levels of civic and political engagement in Canada. 94.14% of Alberta respondents reported voting in the 2021 federal election, slightly exceeding the national average of 92.54%, reflecting consistent democratic participation. Looking ahead, 93.24% indicated they are very likely to vote in the 2025 federal election, with an additional 4.5% saying they are somewhat likely. Only 1.8% expressed low or no likelihood of voting, placing Alberta well above the expected national turnout of 92.13% for those 'very likely' to vote. Alberta also leads the nation in political discussion within the agricultural community, with 68.18% of producers saying they frequently discuss political or agricultural issues with peers, the highest rate among all provinces and nearly 20 percentage points above the national average of 49.13%.

These findings confirm that Alberta's producers are not only active during elections but also deeply engaged in informal political discourse. The province's farming community is more vocal, participatory, and politically attuned than those in most other regions of Canada. Please refer to Figures 17 to 19 (see Appendix Tables 18 to 20 for more details).

Figure 17. Voting record from the 2021 federal election

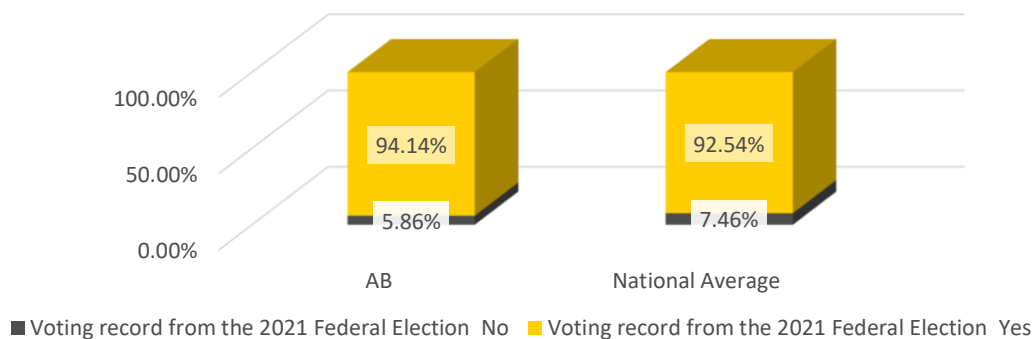
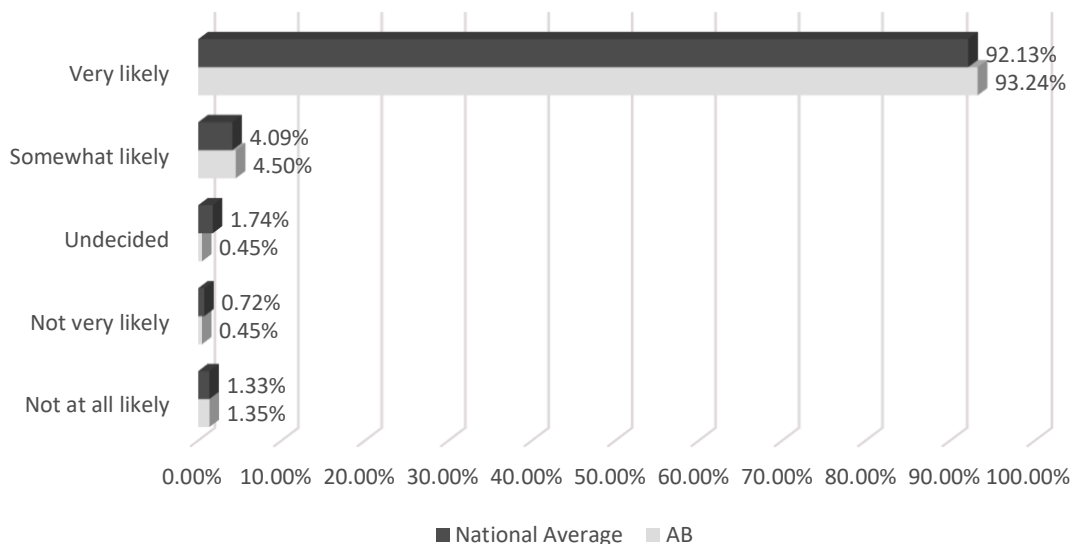
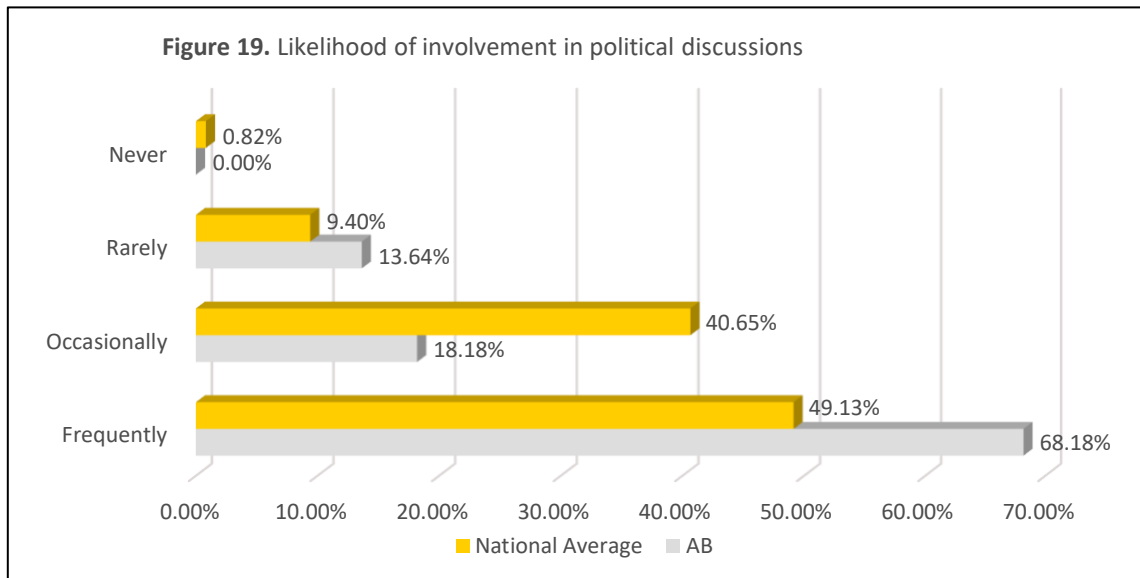


Figure 18. Probability of voting in the 2025 federal elections





Implications

High Civic Engagement: Alberta farmers are highly politically engaged, which boosts the credibility and legitimacy of consulting them on agricultural policies and federal advocacy.

Co-Development Over Top-Down Approach: Engagement should be viewed as co-development rather than a top-down approach.

Electoral Influence: With over 93% of Alberta producers likely to vote in the 2025 federal election, their collective voice can strongly influence agriculture-related policies.

Clear Policy Platforms Needed: Provincial stakeholders and farming organizations should establish clear policy platforms to inform and influence key decisions.

Heightened Scrutiny of Policy: This politically aware and vocal producer base is more likely to scrutinize policy proposals and government actions.

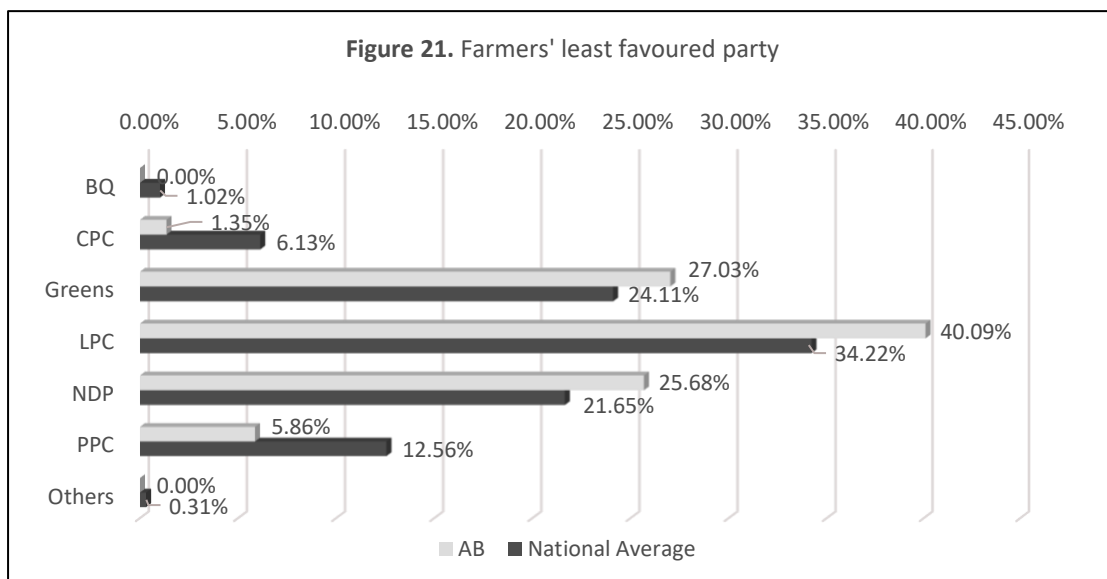
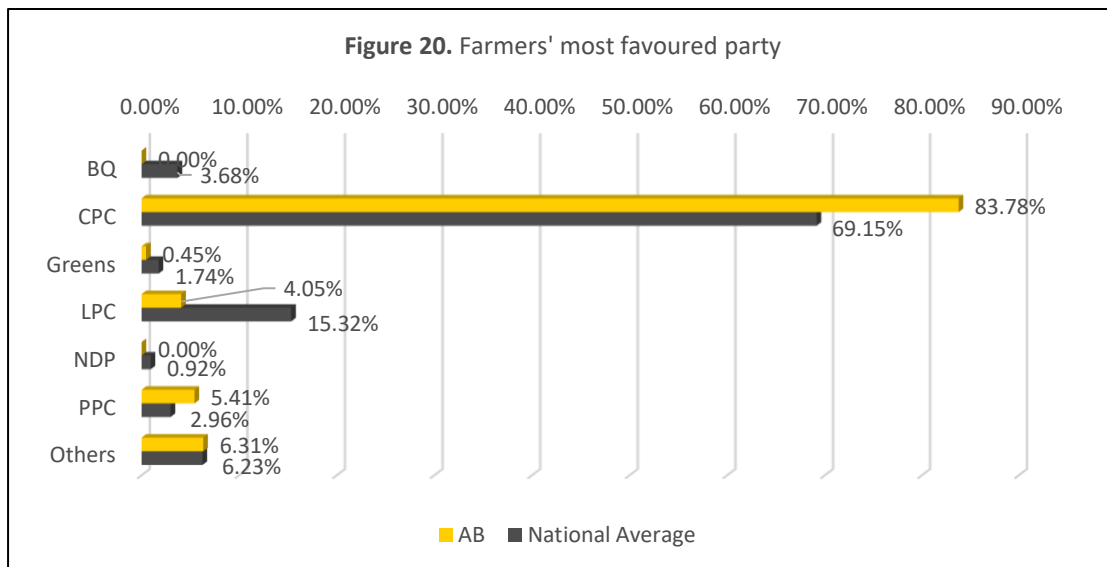
Transparency and Authentic Engagement: Transparent communication and genuine engagement will be essential for provincial ministries and service-delivery institutions operating in Alberta.

Testbed for Innovation: Alberta farmers' high level of political involvement makes the province an ideal place to test new programs, tools, and governance models, particularly those that require grassroots input and quick adaptation.

PARTY STANDING: CONSERVATIVES COMMAND THE FARM VOTE

The political landscape among Alberta farmers leading up to the 2025 federal election was clearly outlined, with distinct partisan preferences and biases. An overwhelming 83.78% of Alberta producers identified the Conservative Party of Canada (CPC) as the party that best represents their interests, marking the highest provincial support for the CPC across all surveyed regions. The next most popular parties were the People's Party of Canada (PPC) at 5.41% and the Liberal Party of Canada (LPC) at 4.05%, showing limited support for other options. Alberta farmers considered the Liberal Party of Canada (LPC) their least preferred party, with 40.09% naming it as least representative of their interests. The Green Party (27.03%) and the New Democratic Party (25.68%) also faced significant disapproval. Only 1.35% identified the CPC as their least favoured, underlining its strong dominance in the province.

This data reflects both a strong partisan tilt toward the CPC and deep skepticism toward progressive federal parties, particularly the LPC, despite its incumbency in Ottawa. Please see Figures 20 and 21 (see Appendix Tables 21 and 22 for more details).



Implications

Alignment with Conservative Priorities: Alberta producers' strong support for the CPC suggests that advocacy strategies and policy proposals aligned with Conservative values: reducing regulatory burdens, supporting private enterprise, and resisting perceived federal overreach are more likely to resonate.

Federal Tensions and LPC Disapproval: The notable disapproval of the LPC (40%) could exacerbate existing tensions between Alberta producers and the federal government.

Implications for Policy Acceptance: This has consequences for policy acceptance, particularly for federal initiatives associated with LPC governance, such as climate measures, emissions reduction, or carbon pricing, which may face heightened skepticism.

Pathways for Non-CPC Parties: For other political parties, rebuilding trust with Alberta producers will require consistent, transparent, and agriculture-focused engagement that speaks directly to farm-level realities.

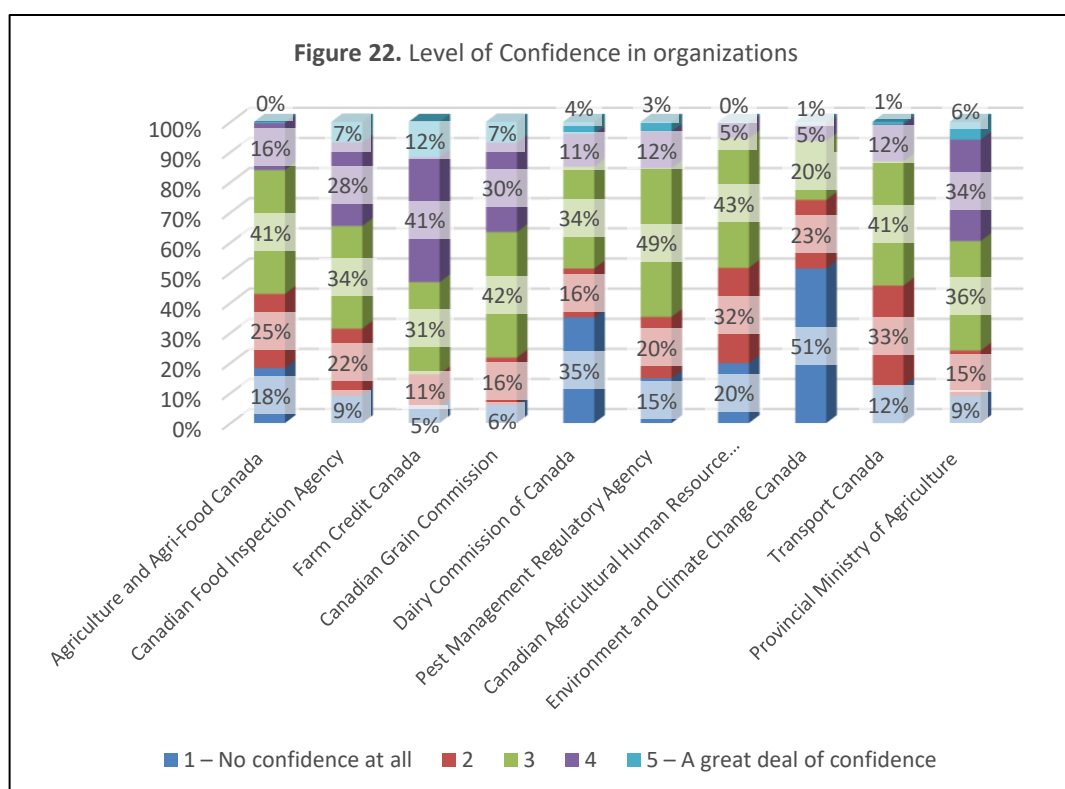
Polarization Signal: The significant gap between the most and least favoured parties may signal rising partisan polarization within Alberta’s rural electorate.

TRUST MAP OF AGENCIES: HIGHS, LOWS, AND NEUTRALS

Among Alberta’s agricultural producers, trust levels in federal and provincial agencies vary significantly. Farm Credit Canada (FCC) has the highest trust, with 53% of respondents indicating high confidence (scores of 4 or 5), and only 5% expressing no confidence at all. This makes FCC a leading institution in terms of perceived reliability and service value. Similarly, the Canadian Grain Commission (CGC) is generally viewed favourably, with 37% expressing high trust and a modest 6% indicating no confidence.

In contrast, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) and Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) face considerable skepticism in Alberta. A combined 43% of respondents report low confidence in AAFC, and no one selected the highest trust score. Distrust in ECCC is even more widespread, with nearly three-quarters (74%) of Alberta respondents expressing low confidence, highlighting ongoing tensions between federal climate policies and provincial agricultural priorities.

Trust in the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and Transport Canada remains moderate, with about one-third of respondents showing higher confidence. The Dairy Commission of Canada and the Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council (CAHRC) face the highest mistrust after ECCC, with most respondents rating them poorly or neutrally. Notably, Alberta producers display relatively more trust in their Provincial Ministry of Agriculture, with 40% expressing high confidence and only 9% indicating no trust, suggesting that provincial bodies are seen as more in tune with local realities. Please refer to Figure 22 (see Appendix Table 23 for more details).



Implications

Dual-Level Policy Implications: These findings have important implications for both provincial governance and federal policy design.

FCC as a Trusted Delivery Channel: FCC's strong trust profile provides a critical entry point for expanding financial service delivery and for tailoring new Agri-finance products and programs to Alberta's large-scale, export-oriented farming operations. FCC may also serve as a more accepted partner for implementing federal policy tools in the province, especially in areas where other federal agencies face resistance.

Trust Gap with AAFC and ECCC: The widespread skepticism toward AAFC and ECCC reveals a growing trust gap between Alberta producers and key federal ministries, which could hinder the uptake of federal programs, particularly those tied to climate adaptation, sustainability, or carbon pricing, and may intensify policy pushback unless offset by stronger coordination between provinces and the federal government.

Localized Federal Engagement: To address this, federal bodies might consider localizing their engagement strategies, collaborating with the Alberta Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, and better aligning programs with region-specific needs.

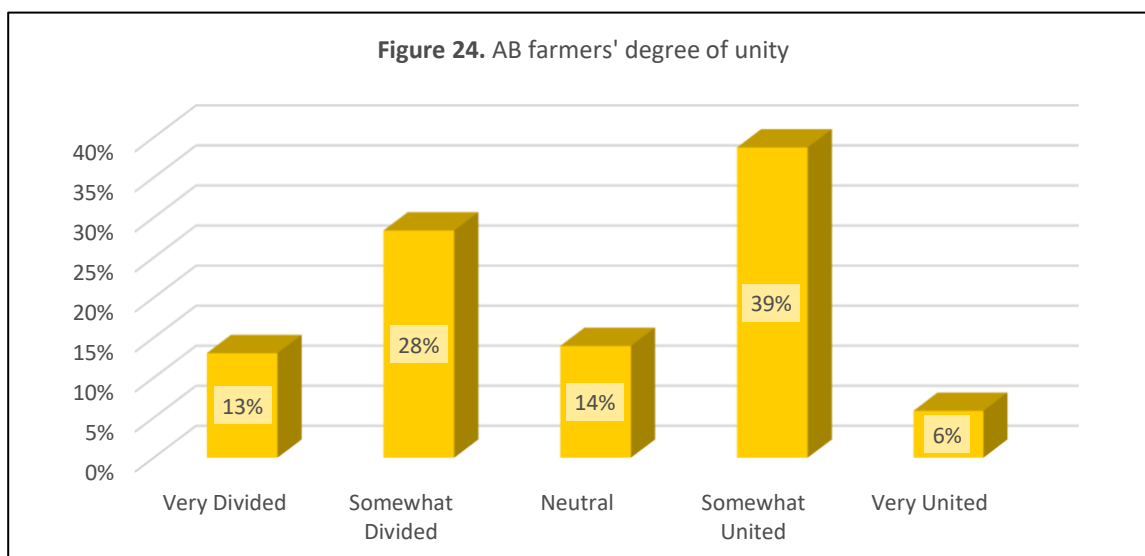
Targeted Outreach & Sector Supports: Low confidence in CAHRC and dairy-related institutions suggests an opportunity for targeted outreach or education campaigns, particularly in workforce development and sectoral risk supports.

Visibility & Responsiveness: Negative perceptions of CFIA and Transport Canada indicate opportunities to improve institutional visibility, responsiveness, and alignment with producer expectations.

Trust as a Policy Prerequisite: Policymakers should recognize that trust is a crucial factor in shaping producer engagement with federal programs, and that institutional credibility must be established through regionally tailored policy and program delivery.

FRAGMENTED VOICES: PERCEPTIONS OF POLITICAL UNITY AMONG ALBERTAN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS

Producers tend to see the sector as more unified than divided, but this unity is superficial. Nearly half of respondents (45%) believe farmers are united: mostly "somewhat united" (39%) rather than "very united" (6%). At the same time, 41% view the sector as divided, with 28% selecting "somewhat divided" and 13% choosing "very divided." The remaining 14% are neutral. Overall, these results suggest a fragile consensus: while there is broad acknowledgment of shared interests, there is limited confidence that producers speak with a unified, strong voice. Please see Figure 23 (see Appendix Table 24 for more details).



Implications

Focus Advocacy on Shared Priorities: Concentrating policy efforts on overlapping priorities of trade and market access, transport and logistics reliability, and water management is essential to maximize progress.

Form Cross-Commodity Working Teams: Provincial groups can build cohesion by convening mixed-sector tables that develop joint briefs and present common positions.

Translate “Somewhat United” into Alignment: By structuring inclusive processes, common metrics, and synchronized advocacy, the sector can move from partial unity to consistent, action-oriented alignment on priority issues.

GAUGING FUTURE OUTLOOK: ALBERTA PRODUCERS WEIGH IN ON SUCCESSION, FINANCING, RISK, AND INNOVATION

Across the statements, a clear pattern emerges: producers feel they can obtain capital, but they are far less confident in the policy and market conditions that determine whether that capital pays off. Roughly two-thirds say they have no issues acquiring financing (68% agree or strongly agree), while only 11% disagree, and one-fifth are neutral. That places access to credit in the “generally workable” column rather than a universal pain point. This sits comfortably beside the separate bargaining-power finding (discussed previously) with financial institutions, where “sufficient” (36%) plus “neutral” (43%) outweigh “insufficient” (21%). In short, most operators can secure financing on acceptable terms, even if not everyone feels they are at an advantage at the negotiating table.

Satisfaction with risk programs is split down the middle. Only 35% are satisfied with crop insurance and disaster relief, 35% are dissatisfied, and 30% are neutral. The even three-way split suggests uneven program fit: some farms feel reasonably covered, others do not, and a sizable group sits on the fence, often a sign of inconsistent experiences with timeliness, eligibility, or payouts across commodities and regions. Given how frequently producers in Alberta face drought and extreme weather, these neutrality and dissatisfaction points suggest program awareness is less critical than delivery gaps under real-world stress.

Perceptions of international competitiveness are notably fragile. Nearly half of respondents (49%) do not believe Canadian producers can compete effectively with foreign competitors, while only 28% agree and 23% remain neutral. This pessimism aligns with trade-challenge data showing high exposure to tariffs, logistics disruptions, and exchange-rate volatility. The concern over competitiveness seems less about on-farm capabilities and more about systemic challenges that operators cannot control.

On agricultural data governance, half of producers are neutral (50%), with 32% agreeing that the federal government should focus on clearer frameworks and 19% disagreeing. This distribution is typical of an emerging policy area: awareness varies, practical use-cases depend on farm size and technology adoption, and there is no common baseline of rules for ownership, sharing, and privacy. The signal here is not resistance; it is uncertainty. Providing clarity and practical guidance could encourage some of the neutral group to support.

Succession expectations are cautious. A combined 43% are optimistic their child will succeed them, 31% are pessimistic, and 25% are undecided. The undecided share is considerable and suggests many families are still weighing the economics of passing the farm on. Where long-term viability feels uncertain, optimism about succession fades, even when financing is available.

Taken together, the findings paint a consistent picture: producers generally have access to capital, but uneven risk coverage, persistent trade or logistical frictions, and unclear data rules dampen confidence in both day-to-day competitiveness and long-term continuity. The policy levers that matter most now are those that reduce exposure and uncertainty in the operating environment rather than simply expanding lending. Please refer to Figures 24 to 28 (see Appendix Tables 25 to 29 for more details).

Figure 24. Perception on: "I have no issues acquiring the financing I need to sustain and grow my farming operations"

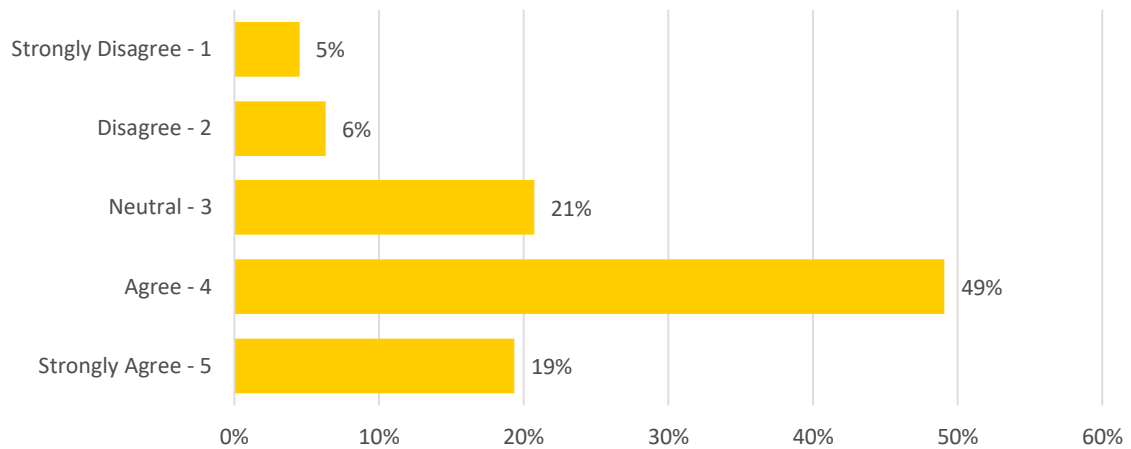


Figure 25. Perception on: "I am satisfied with the current crop insurance and disaster relief programs available to farmers."

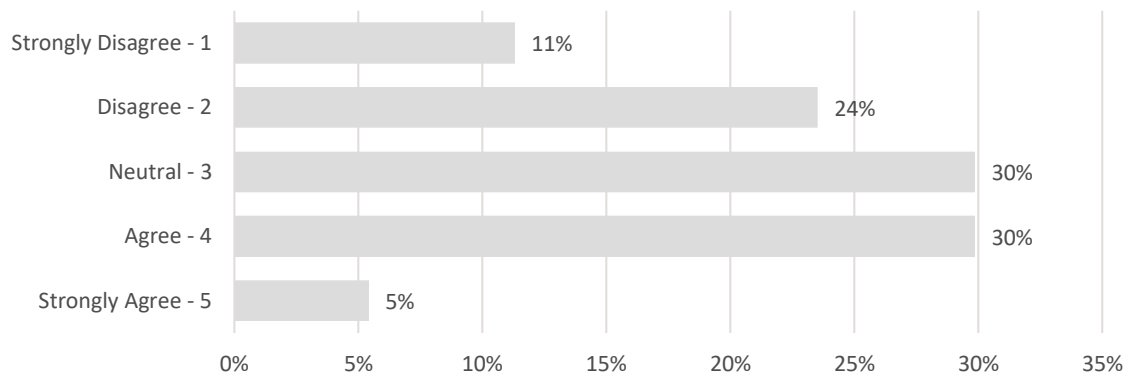
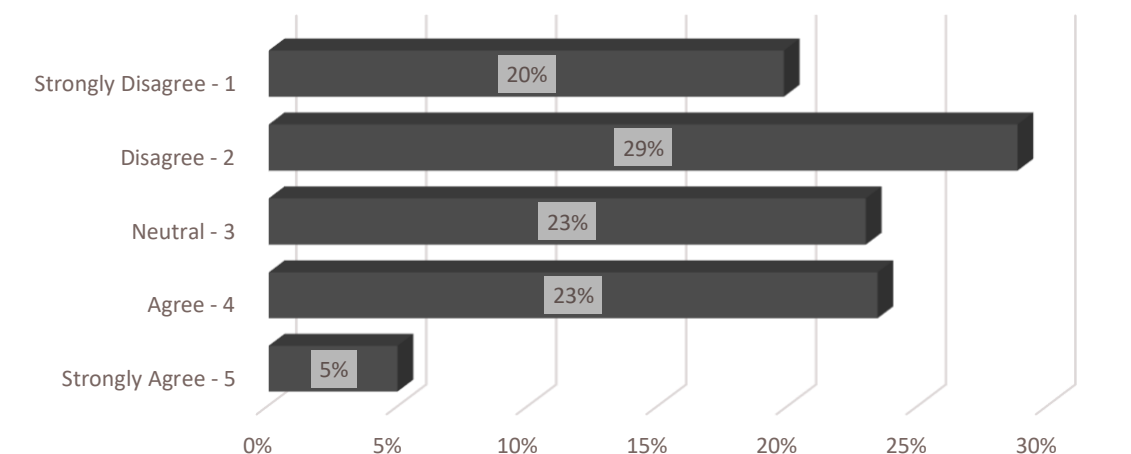
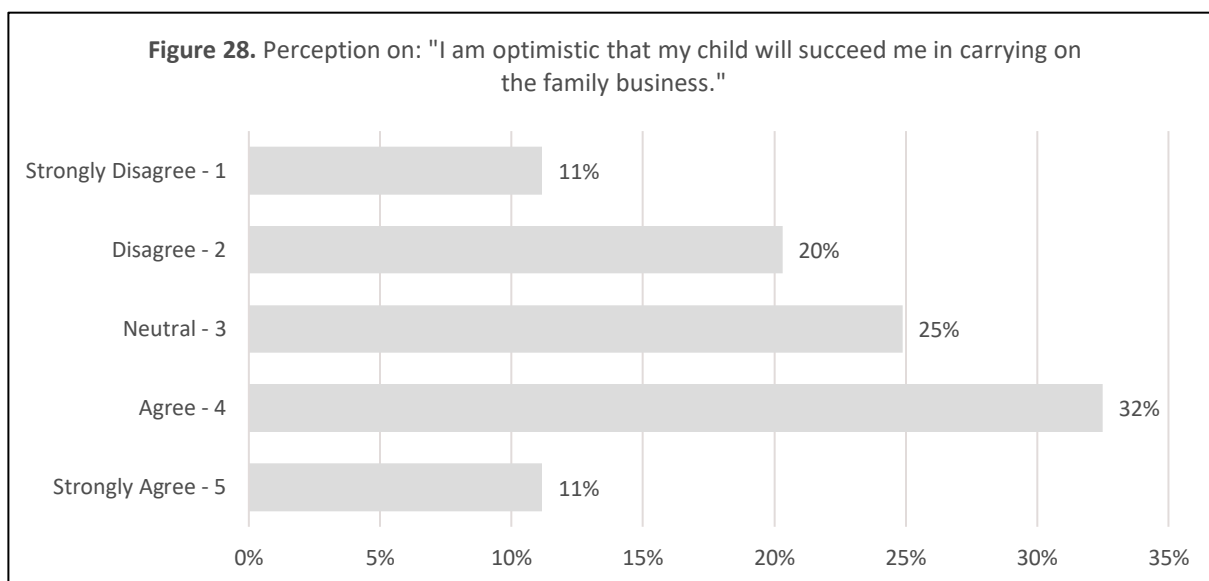
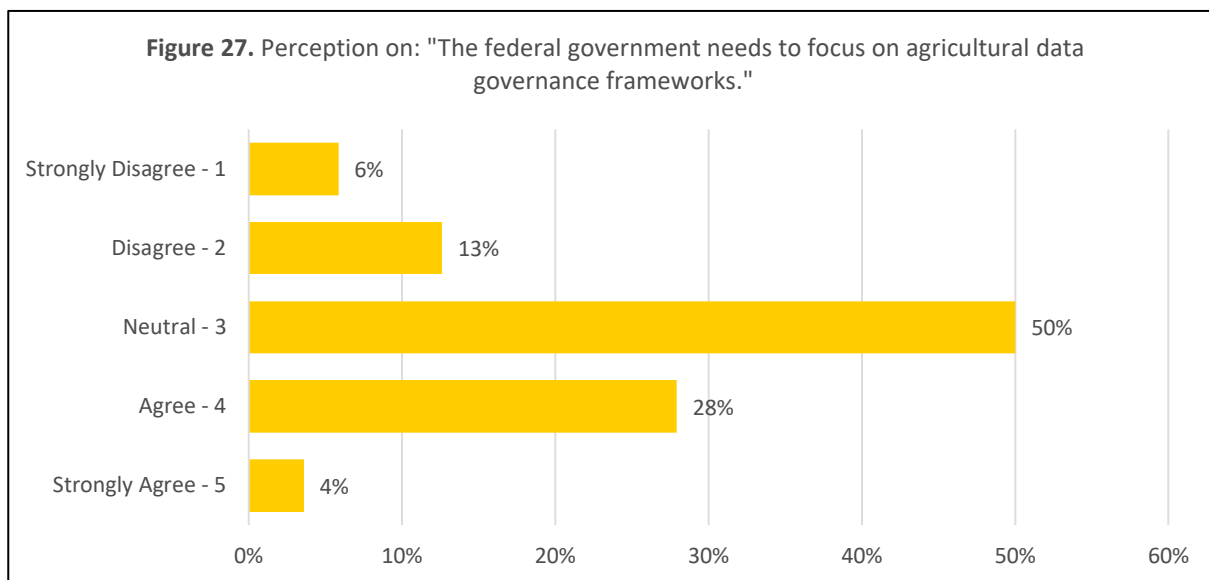


Figure 26. Perception on: "Canadian agricultural producers can compete effectively with producers from other countries."





Implications

Risk Tools Tailored to Prairie Shocks: There is a need to refine crop insurance and disaster relief to better reflect the realities of drought and extreme weather, with clearer triggers, faster adjudication, and predictable payouts.

Steadier Program Delivery: There is a need to improve the reliability and speed of provincial–federal program administration so that support reaches farms when cash flow is lowest.

System Fixes For Competitiveness: There is a need to strengthen grain and livestock transportation, expand practical market-access supports and standards compliance, and reduce border transaction costs to lift profitability.

Pragmatic Data Governance: There is a need to co-develop plain-language guidance with producer groups on data ownership, consent, portability, and contracts, thereby moving neutrality toward informed support without adding red tape.

Succession Made Simpler: To facilitate a smoother transition, targeted supports are needed, including advisory capacity, training for incoming operators, and tax or administrative simplifications, thereby helping families transfer operations with fewer hurdles.

NEXT STEPS

Alberta farmers' survey results suggest a tightly focused set of questions that warrant deeper study before any policy or program changes are contemplated. The aim is to generate the evidence, design options, and decision tools that would allow governments and producer groups to adopt solutions with confidence if they choose to do so.

A first line of inquiry is governance and engagement. Given Alberta producers' unusually high civic participation, it would be valuable to study which co-design models work for agricultural policy in practice. Comparative research (Prairie provinces, U.S. states, EU regions) could map how standing forums, regional caucuses, or "producer-champion" networks influence program quality and uptake. Methods that test rapid feedback loops could be evaluated for representativeness, speed, and cost.

Trade and logistics deserve more attention. Performance evaluations of corridors and how rail, highway, and port reliability influence productivity warrant more resources. A legal and regulatory review could identify interprovincial barriers relevant to agriculture. On farms, experiments or pilots could test simple scenarios for FX and price risk, export-compliance toolkits, and model contracts, measuring their impact on profit margins and transaction times.

Risk management deserves a fit-for-Prairie review. Administrative data and user experience studies could examine the timeliness and payout adequacy of crop insurance and disaster relief. Findings would inform whether and how adjustments might improve reliability without increasing administrative burden.

Water governance and technology are ripe for structured exploration. Comparative policy research could analyze allocation and transfer rules across jurisdictions, including the costs and environmental safeguards associated with each model. Parallel agronomic studies could quantify the ROI of precision-water technologies through cost-benefit analysis.

Bargaining power within supply chains would benefit from research on market structure, transactions and contracts. Concentration index, contract-term audits, and dispute-resolution case reviews could reveal where power asymmetries are most acute. Scenario modelling could also assess how assets that reduce switching costs shift dynamics along the supply chain.

Prospects of adopting fiscal and transition tools require more impact evaluation rather than assumption. Longitudinal surveys could measure how accelerated depreciation, capital-gains rules, and tax treatments for fuel or energy influence actual investment and succession behaviour across farm size and sector. Case studies of intergenerational transfers could identify where legal or financial frictions arise, while user testing could determine how best to close persistent knowledge gaps about available tax instruments.

Labour warrants a dual analytical track. A provincial labour-market observatory could regularly compile vacancy rates, turnover, skill gaps, and seasonal peaks by region and commodity. Concurrently, discrete choice experiments or field trials could test the effectiveness of different training formats, apprenticeships, mobility supports, and information on immigration pathways in improving recruitment, retention, and productivity, without presupposing any change in program settings.

Data governance is an area where clarity can be built through legal-technical research. Surveys and interviews with producers, vendors, and platforms could map current contract terms on ownership, consent, portability, and liability. From there, model clauses and plain-language templates could be drafted and user-tested for comprehensibility and enforceability. Interoperability assessments across common farm software and devices would indicate where standards work in real operations.

Finally, Alberta would benefit from a standing measurement platform. The feasibility of a quarterly producer-sentiment index: tracking confidence, risk exposure, logistics reliability, and investment intent could be explored with academic partners. A lightweight evaluation framework could also be designed to quantify on-farm ROI from any pilots arising out of the studies above, enabling transparent comparisons across options before any wider adoption is considered.

Collectively, this agenda emphasizes learning before scaling: rigorous benchmarking, targeted pilots with independent evaluation, and practical decision aids. By investing in these lines of inquiry, stakeholders will be better positioned to judge which solutions merit broader uptake in Alberta's agricultural economy.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We gratefully acknowledge the contributions of Robert Falconer from the School of Public Policy at the University of Calgary for his expert guidance in developing the survey questionnaire. We also wish to express our appreciation to Stratus Ag Research for their leadership in the survey rollout and data collection, as well as their dedicated partnership and support throughout the project.

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APPENDIX

(Survey Questions and Summary of the data extracted using those questions)

Q. Which of the following policy issues do you believe political parties should prioritize the most in the lead-up to the next federal election?

(Please select up to three policy issues that are most important to you, then rank them as per priority)

RANDOMIZE ORDER

POLICY ISSUES		PRIORITY
Climate Action and Environmental Sustainability	e.g., climate change, carbon pricing, soil health, water conservation initiatives for agriculture	#1 PRIORITY
Trade and Market Access	e.g., Dismantling Interprovincial Trade, expanding international markets, reducing non-tariff barriers, addressing Canada-USA trade conflicts	#2 PRIORITY
Supply Management Protections	e.g., safeguarding supply-managed industries like dairy, poultry, and eggs, ensuring fair compensation in trade deals	#3 PRIORITY
Tax-breaks and Financial Support for Producers	e.g., tax relief, carbon tax exemptions, financial aid for operational and equipment investments	
Labor and Immigration Policies	e.g., enhancing Temporary Foreign Worker Programs, addressing labor shortages, pathways to permanent residency	
Research, Innovation, and Technology Adoption	e.g., increased funding for agricultural research, digital tools for productivity and sustainability	
Programs for Sectoral Risk Management	e.g., improving AgriStability and AgriInvest for managing market volatility, weather, and disease risks	
Transport and Infrastructure for Agricultural Goods	e.g., improving transportation networks to reduce costs and delays for agri-products	
Consumer Engagement and Misinformation	e.g., combating misconceptions about farming practices, improving public trust in agriculture	
Regional Equity and Provincial Needs	e.g., ensuring federal policies reflect the unique needs of specific provinces and rural communities	
Agricultural Data Governance	e.g. Regulations and Legislations around Agricultural data use, data sharing, privacy, and ownership	

Table 1								
POLICY ISSUES	Across Canada	MB	AB	Atlantic Canada	BC	ON	SK	QC
Trade and Market Access	79.16%	85.4 8%	89.6 4%	63.64%	50.0 0%	78.2 2%	87.7 6%	47.5 7%
Tax-breaks and Financial Support for Producers	58.84%	62.9 0%	51.3 5%	68.18%	69.5 7%	65.3 3%	51.4 8%	66.0 2%
Transport and Infrastructure for Agricultural Goods	30.54%	40.3 2%	43.2 4%	9.09%	10.8 7%	15.5 6%	45.1 5%	3.88 %
Programs for Sectoral Risk Management	26.97%	32.2 6%	19.8 2%	54.55%	21.7 4%	31.1 1%	20.6 8%	37.8 6%
Supply Management Protections	25.84%	16.9 4%	12.1 6%	18.18%	43.4 8%	34.6 7%	12.6 6%	70.8 7%
Research, Innovation, and Technology Adoption	21.96%	20.9 7%	25.6 8%	9.09%	21.7 4%	17.7 8%	25.3 2%	19.4 2%
Consumer Engagement and Misinformation	16.14%	8.87 %	19.8 2%	9.09%	17.3 9%	18.6 7%	15.1 9%	14.5 6%
Regional Equity and Provincial Needs	14.81%	11.2 9%	19.3 7%	18.18%	13.0 4%	11.5 6%	19.4 1%	5.83 %
Climate Action and Environmental Sustainability	13.79%	11.2 9%	7.66 %	18.18%	28.2 6%	16.8 9%	13.5 0%	16.5 0%
Labor and Immigration Policies	8.58%	6.45 %	5.41 %	31.82%	23.9 1%	6.67 %	7.17 %	13.5 9%
Agricultural Data Governance	3.37%	3.23 %	5.86 %	0.00%	0.00 %	3.56 %	1.69 %	3.88 %

Q. Climate change is altering water availability for farming operations worldwide.

a) How concerned are you about a potential change in water availability for your farm?

None (no concern)	Low	Medium	High (very concerned)
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

b) What is the level of impact you expect due to a change in water availability for your farm?

None (no impact)	Low	Medium	High (large impact)
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Table 3					
Degree	High (very concerned)	Low	Medium	None (no concern)	Grand Total
Concern for water shortage	13.06%	34.23%	30.18%	22.52%	100.00%
Perceived Level of Impact	13.06%	36.49%	28.83%	21.62%	100.00%

Q. Which environmental and climate issues should political parties prioritize in the next federal election?
Select your 3 top priorities.

	PRIORITY
Incentives for renewable energy adoption	• Top Priority
Carbon pricing	• 2 nd
Soil health	• 3 rd
Regenerative agriculture practices	
Water conservation (e.g., drought resiliency initiatives, irrigation changes, etc.)	
Disaster relief for farmers impacted by extreme weather	
Investment in advanced agricultural tools for adapting to changing weather patterns	
Federal financial support (E.g., insurance programs) to mitigate climate risks	
Research funding for climate adaptation in agriculture	
Others: Please type other options	

Table 4	
Environmental and Climate related Priorities	% of AB farmers indicating priority (top 3 priority)
Incentives for renewable energy adoption	18.92%
Carbon pricing	24.32%
Soil health	46.85%
Regenerative agriculture practices	25.68%
Water conservation (e.g., drought resiliency initiatives, irrigation changes, etc.)	35.14%
Disaster relief for farmers impacted by extreme weather	53.15%
Investment in advanced agricultural tools for adapting to changing weather patterns	19.37%
Federal financial support (E.g., insurance programs) to mitigate climate risks	50.90%
Research funding for climate adaptation in agriculture	14.41%
Others	11.26%

Q. Which policy interventions should political parties prioritize to improve water management? (Select up to 3)

- Simplify and harmonize water regulations across jurisdictions
- Introduce financial incentives for digital water management technologies
- Establish clear data governance frameworks for agricultural water usage

- Invest in smart, technology-driven irrigation systems
- Modernize water rights and allocation policies
- Expand education and technical support programs on digital water management
- Integrate weather forecasting systems with water management tools
- Support research and innovation in precision water use technologies
- Promote public-private partnerships to develop smart water solutions
- Other (please specify): _____

Table 5	
Policy Intervention for Water Management	% of AB Farmers Prioritizing as one of their top 3 preference
Simplify and harmonize water regulations across jurisdictions	37.39%
Introduce financial incentives for digital water management technologies	13.96%
Invest in smart, technology-driven irrigation systems	22.52%
Promote public-private partnerships to develop smart water solutions	18.92%
Establish clear data governance frameworks for agricultural water usage	18.02%
Support research and innovation in precision water use technologies	36.94%
Modernize water rights and allocation policies	27.03%
Expand education and technical support programs on digital water management	9.46%
Integrate weather forecasting systems with water management tools	20.27%
Others	9.01%

Q. Which of the tax incentives and policies you're familiar with are the most critical to your farm or agribusiness?

(Select three most important ones)

Tax Policies & Incentives		Most Important
Small Business & Corporate Tax Rate Reductions	e.g., lower tax rates for businesses to ease financial burdens	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accelerated Capital Cost Allowances (ACCA)	e.g., faster depreciation on equipment and machinery to encourage investments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tax Exemptions for Fuel and Energy	e.g., exemptions for propane, natural gas, and diesel used on farms from carbon pricing or other taxes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Capital Gains Inclusion Rate for Farm Sales	e.g., taxation policies when selling farm properties or businesses	<input type="checkbox"/>
Intergenerational Farm Transfers	e.g., tax measures supporting family farm transfers like amendments under Bill C-208	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tax Incentives for Sustainability Investments	e.g., deductions or credits for renewable energy, sustainable practices, or climate-resilient infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>
Simplified Tax Reporting Processes	e.g., streamlined tax filing requirements and reduced compliance burdens	<input type="checkbox"/>
I am not familiar with any of these		<input type="checkbox"/>

Table 6	
Tax policies & incentives	% of AB Farmers prioritizing as one of their top 3 preferences
Small Business & Corporate Tax Rate Reductions	45%
Accelerated Capital Cost Allowances (ACCA)	71%
Tax Exemptions for Fuel and Energy	58%
Capital Gains Inclusion Rate for Farm Sales	61%
Intergenerational Farm Transfers	39%
Tax Incentives for Sustainability Investments	18%
Simplified Tax Reporting Processes	16%
I am not familiar with any of these	11%

Q. Which international market should Canada prioritize for reducing agricultural trade barriers? (Select 1)

- United States
- Mexico
- European Union
- UK
- China
- India
- Japan
- Others (Please specify): _____

Table 7	
Trade Partner	Most preferred by farmers %
China	27.03%
European Union	12.61%
India	6.76%
Japan	1.35%
Mexico	0.45%
Others (Please specify)	2.70%
UK	0.45%
United States	48.65%
Grand Total	100.00%

Q. Which of the following changes to permanent residency opportunities do you support for Temporary Foreign Workers (TFWs) working in agriculture and agri-food production?

- Increasing Opportunities for permanent residency
- Maintaining the Current Level of Opportunities
- Decreasing Opportunities
- Unsure

Table 8	
Row Labels	% of farmers having that opinion
Decreasing Opportunities	15%
Increasing Opportunities for permanent residency	21%
Maintaining the Current Level of Opportunities	27%
Unsure	37%

Q. If changes in water availability have impacted your farming operation, what measures, if any, have you taken to address these challenges?

(Select all that apply.)

- Adjusted crop selection to more drought-resistant varieties
- Changed livestock type
- Reduced herd size
- Reduced the number of acres farmed or used for livestock grazing
- Purchased additional water rights or licenses (from irrigation districts or private holders)
- Improved irrigation efficiency (e.g., upgraded to drip irrigation, soil moisture sensors)
- Increased on-farm water storage capacity (e.g., dugouts, reservoirs)
- Implemented conservation tillage or soil moisture retention practices
- Applied for government programs or financial aid related to water management
- No changes made
- Other (please specify): _____

Table 9	
Measures undertaken to address water shortage challenges	% of AB Farmers adopting the measure
Adjusted crop selection to more drought-resistant varieties	71.77%
Changed livestock type	4.03%
Reduced herd size	13.71%
Reduced the number of acres farmed or used for livestock grazing	8.87%
Purchased additional water rights or licenses (from irrigation districts or private holders)	5.65%
Improved irrigation efficiency (e.g., upgraded to drip irrigation, soil moisture sensors)	19.35%
Increased on-farm water storage capacity (e.g., dugouts, reservoirs)	33.87%
Implemented conservation tillage or soil moisture retention practices	83.06%
Applied for government programs or financial aid related to water management	13.71%
No changes made	28.23%
Others	4.03%

Q. What trade-related challenges have you faced in the past five years? (Select all that apply)

- Increased tariffs and duties on Canadian agricultural exports
- Canadian Inter-provincial Trade barriers
- Sanitary and phytosanitary measures
- Difficulty securing export contracts due to shifting global trade policies
- Increased competition from foreign producers
- Logistical and supply chain disruptions
- Exchange rate fluctuations (e.g., devaluation of the Canadian Dollar) affecting trade profitability
- Impediments related to certification or labeling standards
- None of the above
- Other (please specify): _____

Table 10	
Trade Challenges Experienced	% of farmers experiencing this Challenge
Increased tariffs and duties on Canadian agricultural exports	68.92%
Canadian Inter-provincial Trade Barriers	32.43%
Sanitary and phytosanitary measures	12.16%
Difficulty securing export contracts due to shifting global trade policies	23.87%
Increased competition from foreign producers	51.35%
Logistical and supply chain disruptions	63.06%
Exchange rate fluctuations (e.g., devaluation of the Canadian Dollar) affecting trade profitability	60.81%
Impediments related to certification or labeling standards	8.11%
None of the above	3.15%
Other	1.80%

Q. What is your outlook on the following:

	Very Negative 1	Negative 2	Neutral 3	Positive 4	Very Positive 5	unsure
The impact of recent international trade agreements (e.g., CUSMA, CPTPP, etc.) on your agricultural operations.	?	?	?	?	?	?

Table 11. The impact of recent international trade agreements (e.g., CUSMA, CPTPP, etc.) on your agricultural operations.	
Perception	% of farmers with this perception
Highly Negative - 1	4.05%
Negative - 2	21.17%
None - 3	22.52%
Positive - 4	26.58%
Highly Positive - 5	22.52%
Unsure	3.15%
Grand Total	100%

Q. You indicated recent changes in international trade will have a negative impact on your farm. How much impact do you expect that to have on your total revenue from farming operations?

- No impact (0%)
- Minimal impact (<10%)
- Moderate impact (10%–25%)
- Significant impact (26%–50%)
- Severe impact (>50%)
- Unsure
- Prefer not to say

Table 12	
Impact from Trade	% of Farmers with negative impact from trade
Minimal impact (<10%)	0.92%
Moderate impact (10%–25%)	31.19%
Significant impact (26%–50%)	49.54%
Severe impact (>50%)	17.43%

Q. I can meet my operation's labour needs by hiring Canadian citizens or permanent residents.

- Strongly Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Neutral
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Table 13	
Perception on Labour Market Adequacy	% of farmers having that opinion
Strongly Agree	40%
Somewhat Agree	27%
Neutral	23%
Somewhat Disagree	5%
Strongly Disagree	5%

Q. To what extent do you feel your farm operation has sufficient bargaining power with the following entities?

	Sufficient	Neutral	Insufficient
Retailers	?	?	?
Supply Chains	?	?	?
Financial Institutions	?	?	?
Labour Force	?	?	?

Table 14	
Bargaining Power with Retailers	% of farmers endorsing this view
Insufficient	37%
Neutral	35%
Sufficient	28%
Grand Total	100%

Table 15	
Bargaining Power with Supply Chain	% of farmers endorsing this view
Insufficient	50%
Neutral	36%
Sufficient	13%
Grand Total	100%

Table 16	
Bargaining Power with Financial Institutes	% of farmers endorsing this view
Insufficient	21%
Neutral	43%
Sufficient	36%
Grand Total	100%

Table 17	
Bargaining Power with Labour force	% of farmers endorsing this view
Insufficient	17%
Neutral	62%
Sufficient	21%
Grand Total	100%

Q. Did you vote in the last federal election? The last federal election was held on September 20, 2021

- a. No
- b. Yes

Table 18. Voting record from the 2021 Federal Election		
Province	No	Yes
BC	2.17%	97.83%
Atlantic Canada	4.55%	95.45%
ON	5.33%	94.67%
AB	5.86%	94.14%
QC	6.80%	93.20%
MB	8.87%	91.13%
SK	11.81%	88.19%
National Average	7.46%	92.54%

Q. How likely is it that you will vote in the next federal election?

- a. Very likely
- b. Somewhat likely
- c. Not very likely
- d. Not at all likely
- e. Undecided

Table 19. Probability of voting in the 2025 Federal Elections					
Province	Not at all likely	Not very likely	Undecided	Somewhat likely	Very likely
BC	0.00%	0.00%	2.17%	0.00%	97.83%
ON	0.89%	0.00%	1.78%	3.11%	94.22%
AB	1.35%	0.45%	0.45%	4.50%	93.24%
MB	2.42%	0.81%	1.61%	3.23%	91.94%
Atlantic Canada	4.55%	0.00%	0.00%	4.55%	90.91%
SK	1.27%	0.84%	2.95%	4.64%	90.30%
QC	0.97%	2.91%	1.94%	6.80%	87.38%
National Average	1.33%	0.72%	1.74%	4.09%	92.13%

Q. How often do you discuss agricultural policies or political issues with other producers in your region?

- a. Frequently
- b. Occasionally
- c. Rarely
- d. Never

Table 20. Likelihood of involvement in political discussions				
Province	Frequently	Occasionally	Rarely	Never
AB	68.18%	18.18%	13.64%	0.00%
Atlantic Canada	58.70%	28.26%	13.04%	0.00%
BC	54.50%	37.39%	7.21%	0.90%
MB	54.03%	37.90%	8.06%	0.00%
ON	49.37%	43.04%	7.17%	0.42%
QC	41.33%	46.67%	10.22%	1.78%
SK	39.81%	42.72%	16.50%	0.97%
National Average	49.13%	40.65%	9.40%	0.82%

Q. "Of the following federal parties, which one do you believe BEST represents the interests of farmers and producers, and which LEAST represents them?" (Select one for BEST and one for LEAST.)

	BEST	LEAST
Liberal Party of Canada (LPC)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conservative Party of Canada (CPC)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Democratic Party (NDP)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bloc Québécois	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Green Party of Canada	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Table 21. Farmers' Most Favoured Party							
Province	BQ	CPC	Greens	LPC	NDP	PPC	Others
AB	0.00%	83.78%	0.45%	4.05%	0.00%	5.41%	6.31%
Atlantic Canada	0.00%	50.00%	9.09%	27.27%	0.00%	0.00%	13.64%
BC	0.00%	54.35%	10.87%	19.57%	4.35%	0.00%	10.87%
MB	0.00%	72.58%	0.00%	15.32%	0.81%	4.03%	7.26%
ON	0.00%	68.44%	2.67%	21.33%	0.89%	0.89%	5.78%
QC	34.95%	24.27%	0.00%	35.92%	0.00%	0.97%	3.88%
SK	0.00%	78.48%	1.27%	9.28%	1.69%	3.80%	5.49%
Grand Total	3.68%	69.15%	1.74%	15.32%	0.92%	2.96%	6.23%

Table 22. Farmers' Least Favoured Party							
Province	BQ	CPC	Greens	LPC	NDP	PPC	Others
AB	0.00%	1.35%	27.03%	40.09%	25.68%	5.86%	0.00%
Atlantic Canada	0.00%	13.64%	40.91%	4.55%	22.73%	18.18%	0.00%
BC	0.00%	23.91%	17.39%	26.09%	13.04%	19.57%	0.00%
MB	0.00%	3.23%	25.00%	39.52%	23.39%	8.06%	0.81%
ON	0.00%	4.44%	23.11%	28.89%	25.78%	17.78%	0.00%
QC	9.71%	20.39%	20.39%	8.74%	9.71%	30.10%	0.97%
SK	0.00%	3.38%	23.21%	46.41%	19.83%	6.75%	0.42%

Grand Total	1.02%	6.13%	24.11%	34.22%	21.65%	12.56%	0.31%
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Q. How much confidence do you have in the following institutions?
(Please select one option for each institution.)

RANDOMIZE

Institution	No confidence at all 1	2	3	4	A great deal of confidence 5
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (Ministry of Agriculture)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Canadian Food Inspection Agency	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Farm Credit Canada	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Canadian Grain Commission (if grain producer)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dairy Commission of Canada (if dairy farmer)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pest Management Regulatory Agency	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environment and Climate Change Canada	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transport Canada	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provincial Ministry of Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Table 23					
Organization	1 – No confidence at all	2	3	4	5 – A great deal of confidence
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (Federal Ministry of Agriculture)	18%	25%	41%	16%	0%
Canadian Food Inspection Agency	9%	22%	34%	28%	7%
Farm Credit Canada	5%	11%	31%	41%	12%
Canadian Grain Commission (if grain producer)	6%	16%	42%	30%	7%
Dairy Commission of Canada (if dairy farmer)	35%	16%	34%	11%	4%
Pest Management Regulatory Agency	15%	20%	49%	12%	3%
Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council	20%	32%	43%	5%	0%
Environment and Climate Change Canada	51%	23%	20%	5%	1%
Transport Canada	12%	33%	41%	12%	1%
Provincial Ministry of Agriculture	9%	15%	36%	34%	6%

Q. Do you feel that agricultural producers in Canada are politically united or divided?

- Very United
- Somewhat United
- Neutral
- Somewhat Divided
- Very Divided

Table 24	
Farmers are United or Divided	% of farmers endorsing the opinion
Very Divided	13%
Somewhat Divided	28%
Neutral	14%
Somewhat United	39%
Very United	6%

Q. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements:

	Strongly Disagree 1	Disagree 2	Neutral 3	Agree 4	Strongly Agree 5
I am optimistic that my child will succeed me in carrying on the family business.	?	?	?	?	?
I have no issues acquiring the financing I need to sustain and grow my farming operations.	?	?	?	?	?
I am satisfied with the current crop insurance and disaster relief programs available to farmers.	?	?	?	?	?
Federal Policies encourage newcomers to enter into and expand their farming ventures	?	?	?	?	?
Federal Policies encourage successors to continue the family farming and agribusiness ventures	?	?	?	?	?
Canadian federal policies enhance or support the competitiveness of my farm operations	?	?	?	?	?
Canadian agricultural producers can compete effectively with producers from other countries	?	?	?	?	?
The federal government needs to focus on agricultural data governance frameworks	?	?	?	?	?

Table 25	
I am optimistic that my child will succeed me in carrying on the family business.	% of farmers endorsing the opinion
Strongly Agree - 5	11%
Agree - 4	32%
Neutral - 3	25%
Disagree - 2	20%
Strongly Disagree - 1	11%
Grand Total	100%

Table 26	
I have no issues acquiring the financing I need to sustain and grow my farming operations.	% of farmers endorsing the opinion
Strongly Agree - 5	19%
Agree - 4	49%
Neutral - 3	21%
Disagree - 2	6%
Strongly Disagree - 1	5%
Grand Total	100%

Table 27	
I am satisfied with the current crop insurance and disaster relief programs available to farmers.	% of farmers endorsing the opinion
Strongly Agree - 5	5%
Agree - 4	30%
Neutral - 3	30%
Disagree - 2	24%
Strongly Disagree - 1	11%
Grand Total	100%

Table 28	
Canadian agricultural producers can compete effectively with producers from other countries	% of farmers endorsing the opinion
Strongly Agree - 5	5%
Agree - 4	23%
Neutral - 3	23%
Disagree - 2	29%
Strongly Disagree - 1	20%
Grand Total	100%

Table 29	
The federal government needs to focus on agricultural data governance frameworks	% of farmers endorsing the opinion
Strongly Agree - 5	4%
Agree - 4	28%
Neutral - 3	50%
Disagree - 2	13%
Strongly Disagree - 1	6%
Grand Total	100%