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## AUTHORS

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## KEY MESSAGE

*Federal budget backs  
Alberta's market access  
and investment needs,  
while everyday input and  
tax pressures persist.*[vet.ucalgary.ca/simpsoncentre](http://vet.ucalgary.ca/simpsoncentre)BUDGET 2025 AND ALBERTA  
AGRICULTURE: ALIGNMENT  
AND GAPS

Alberta holds about 32% of Canada's total farm area, and agriculture contributed about \$10.3 billion to GDP in 2023 and employed roughly 83,000 people across farming and processing. In reviewing the newly elected federal government's first [budget](#), we attempted to determine whether it reflects the priorities and concerns of AB farmers. To portray Alberta farmers' priorities, The Simpson Centre surveyed 222 Alberta farmers (within a national sample of 979) as part of our "[Voices from the Field](#)" project. These findings were used to evaluate whether the federal budget empowers AB farmers or falls short of expectations.

Budget 2025 broadly addresses AB farmers' top priorities, but some critical issues remain only partially addressed. Trade and market access are the primary concerns in Alberta (90%), with transportation and infrastructure close behind (43%) (Figure 1). Budget measures such as the \$75 million expansion of AgriMarketing, \$6 billion for transportation infrastructure, strategic response funds, and

strengthening of EDC align with AB farmers' goal to strengthen access to the United States (49% mentioning as top priority market), while also managing volatility in China (27%) and seeking expansion into the EU (13%) (Figure 2, see Appendix). Nonetheless, farmers will still seek more tangible tools for tackling non-tariff barriers, interprovincial trade, and dispute resolution.

There is some alignment with farmers' preferences regarding taxation. Alberta farmers greatly value Accelerated Capital Cost Allowances (71%), capital gains treatment on farm sales (61%), fuel and energy tax exemptions (58%), and reductions in small business and corporate rates (45%) (Figure 3, see Appendix). The Productivity Super-Deduction, accelerated depreciation, and the removal of the capital gains inclusion rate directly address some priorities, encouraging investment and transition planning. However, there is significant potential to improve fuel and energy tax relief.

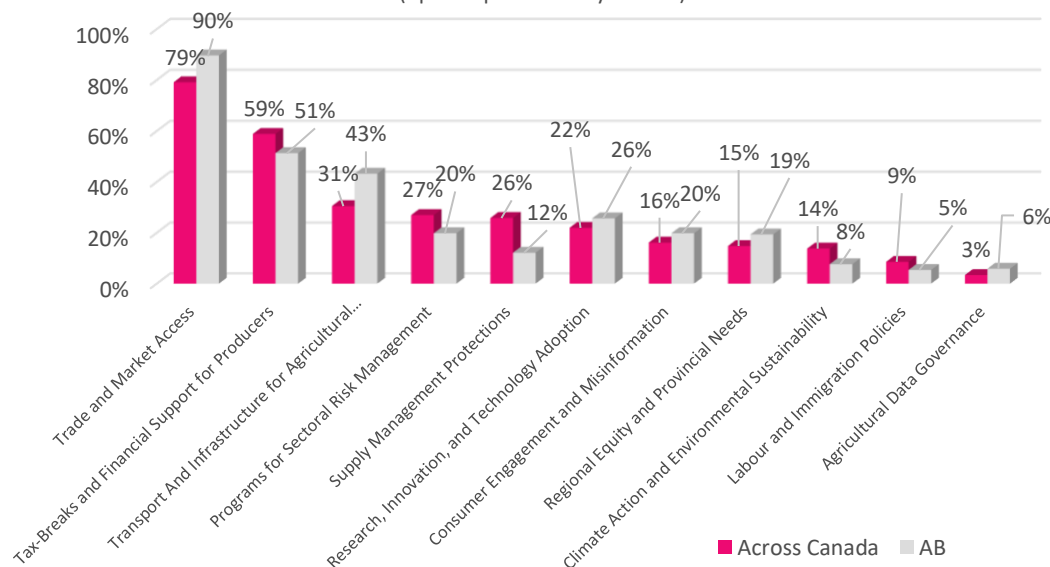
Risk management and competitiveness measures, such as more generous AgriStability initiatives, higher Advance Payments Program (APP) limits, Farm Credit Canada's (FCC's) \$1 billion Trade Disruption Customer Support Program, and biofuels incentives, address Alberta's interest in sectoral risk management (20%). For a province built on canola and livestock, pasture-related feed eligibility and biofuel demand are highly relevant measures. Regarding financing, Alberta producers already show relatively high confidence in Farm Credit Canada (Figure 4, see Appendix). The Sustainable Bond Framework and modernization of the FCC Act align with this trust and with the need for long-term access to financing.

New Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) investments in digital trade systems and market-access, and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's (AAFC's) refocus on core agricultural research, competitiveness, and clean technology could gradually convert today's neutral-to-low confidence in these organizations (Figure 4) into stronger institutional trust among Alberta ag producers.

## EDITORIAL PRACTICES STATEMENT

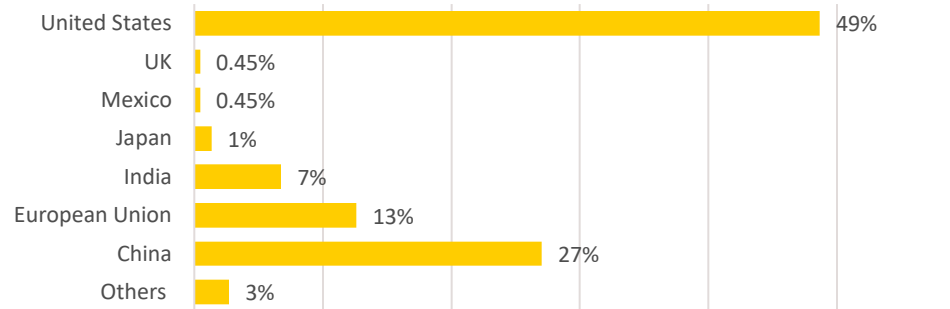
This manuscript is a rapid contribution to the policy conversation that has been open-reviewed by at least one University of Calgary faculty member prior to publication.

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

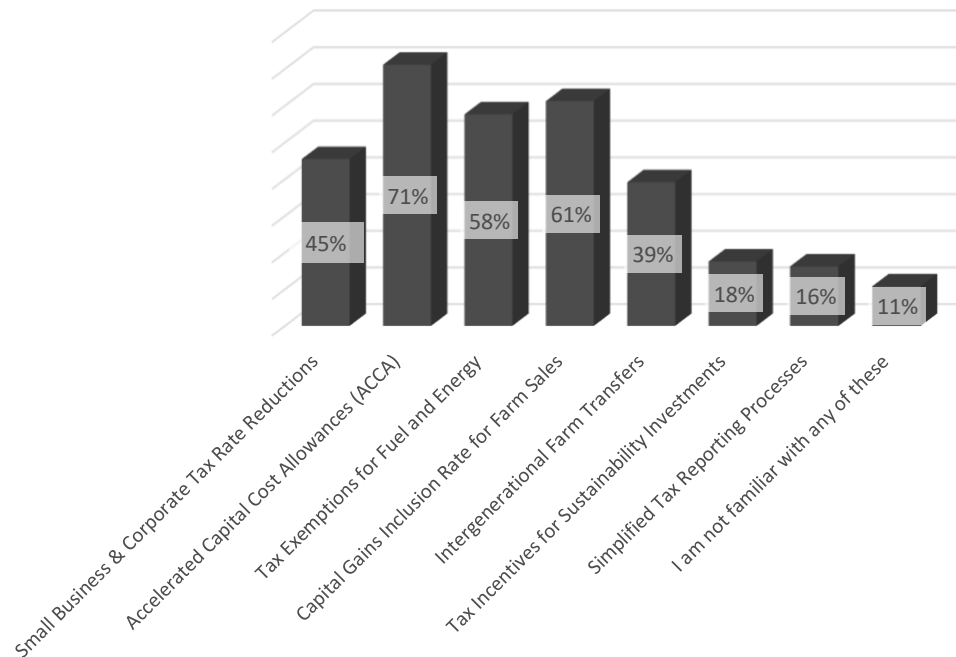


## APPENDIX:

**Figure 2.** Trade partners most preferred by farmers (%) for diplomatic efforts



**Figure 3.** Tax policies % of AB farmers prioritize (as a top 3 preference)



**Figure 4.** Level of confidence in organizations

