



19 OCTOBER, 2025

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KEY MESSAGE

A fragile sector consensus demands inclusive advocacy: Focus on shared priorities, clear platforms, and consistent engagement to strengthen a unified voice.

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2025 AB FARMER SURVEY: CONFIDENCE IN INSTITUTIONS, THE ELECTORAL PROCESS AND PARTIES

According to the last census, the Canadian farm population (590,710 people) accounted for 1.6% of the total Canadian population. Despite their significance as economic drivers and a source of food security, producers consistently report that farmers' concerns are overlooked while these federal programs are devised.

To portray Alberta farmers' priorities, the Simpson Centre surveyed 222 Alberta farmers (within a national sample of 979) as part of the "[Voices from the Field](#)" project. The findings seek to amplify Alberta producers' perspectives for lawmakers, advocacy organizations, and the public.

Alberta's farming community has high civic engagement. In 2021, 94% of Alberta producers reported voting in the federal elections, edging the national average of 93%. Looking to 2025, 93% say they're very likely to vote, and another 4% somewhat likely, with only 2% unlikely, surpassing the 92% national very likely benchmark. Political discourse is also stronger: 68% frequently discuss politics with peers, nearly 20 points above the national rate of 49%. Please refer to **Figures 1, 2 and 3** (Appendix).

Alberta farmers show a decisive partisan tilt with 84% saying the Conservative Party (CPC) best represents their interests, the highest

CPC support of any province. Other options trail far behind (People's Party 5%). Please refer to **Figure 4**.

On the other hand, the least-preferred choices skew heavily toward the Liberal Party of Canada (LPC) (40%), the Greens (27%), and the NDP (26%). Only 1.35% named CPC the least favoured. Overall, the landscape is overwhelmingly CPC-aligned, with pronounced skepticism toward progressive federal parties. Please refer to **Figure 5** (Appendix).

Given Alberta farmers' high civic engagement and political preferences, trust in institutions varies. Farm Credit Canada leads with 53% high confidence and only 5% no confidence, while the Canadian Grain Commission is viewed favorably (37% high trust, 6% no confidence). By contrast, skepticism is acute toward federal agencies such as Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) (43% low confidence, with no top-trust scores) and, especially, Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) (74% low confidence), reflecting tensions between federal climate policy and Alberta's agricultural priorities. Trust in CFIA and Transport Canada is moderate; the Dairy Commission and Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council (CAHRC) draw the most mistrust after ECCC, and the Provincial Ministry of Agriculture fares better (40% high, 9% no trust), signaling greater alignment with local realities. Please refer to **Figure 6** (Appendix).

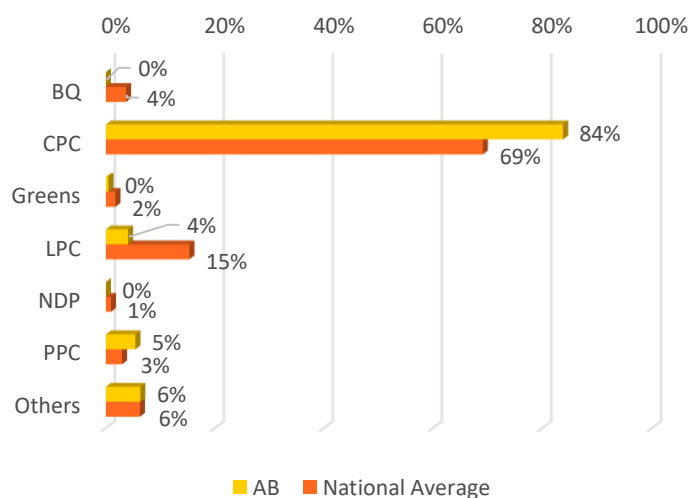
Nearly half of Alberta producers perceive the sector as united (with 39% feeling it is somewhat united), while a comparable share sees division, and 14% are neutral. Overall, this points to a fragile consensus: shared interests exist, but confidence in a strong, unified voice is limited. Please refer to **Figure 7** (Appendix).

Next Steps: Further consideration is needed regarding the localization of federal programs and the implementation of policies with Alberta's Ministry of Agriculture. Future research should examine the trust drivers for the farming community. Further assessments are needed to evaluate agency responsiveness, policy uptake, and alignment. Further research could explore the fragmented nature of the farming community in terms of advocacy efforts.

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 4: Farmers' most favoured party



APPENDIX

Figure 1: Voting record from the 2021 federal election

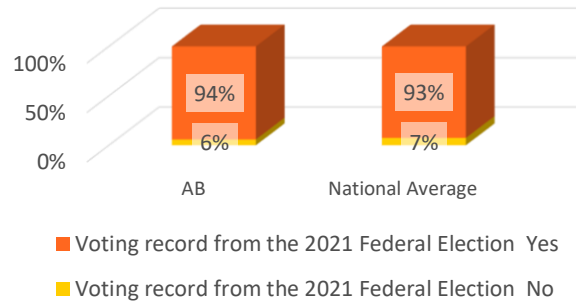


Figure 2: Probability of voting in the 2025 federal elections

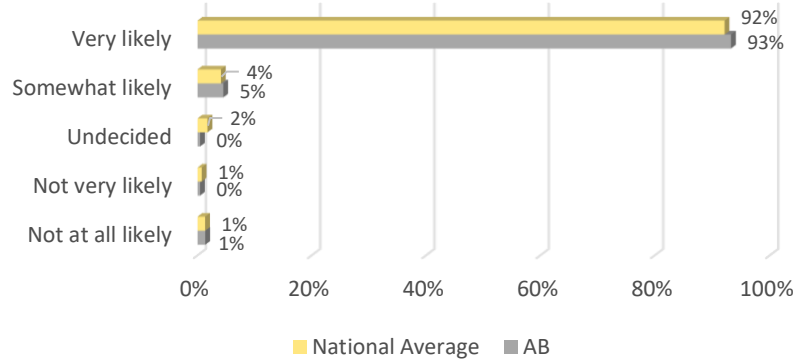


Figure 6: Level of confidence in organizations

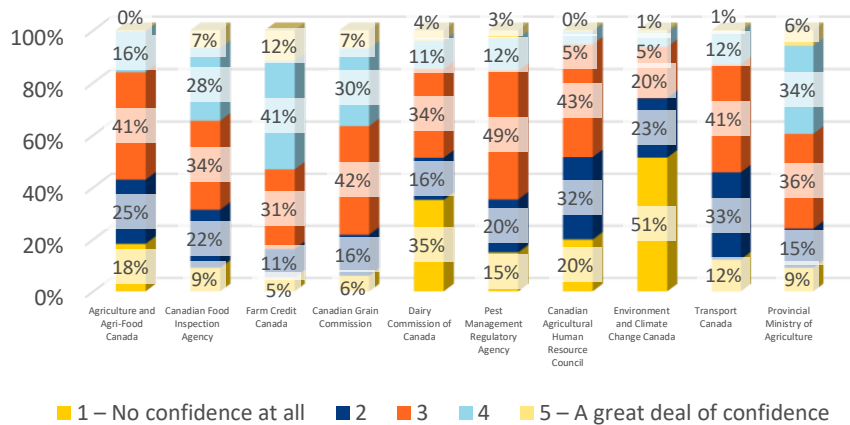


Figure 3: Likelihood of involvement in political discussions

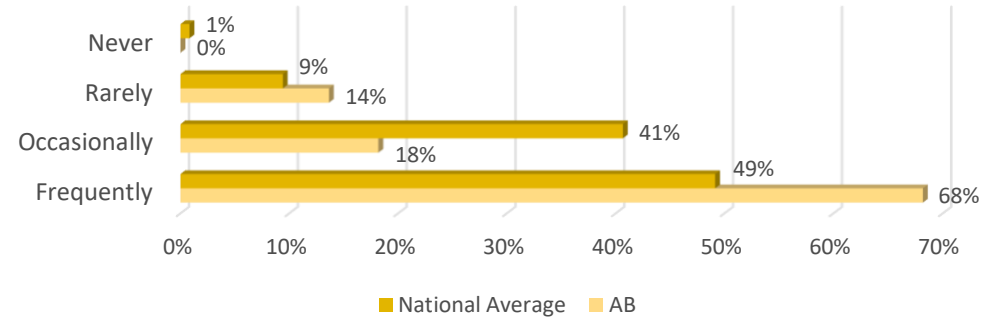


Figure 5: Farmers' least favoured party

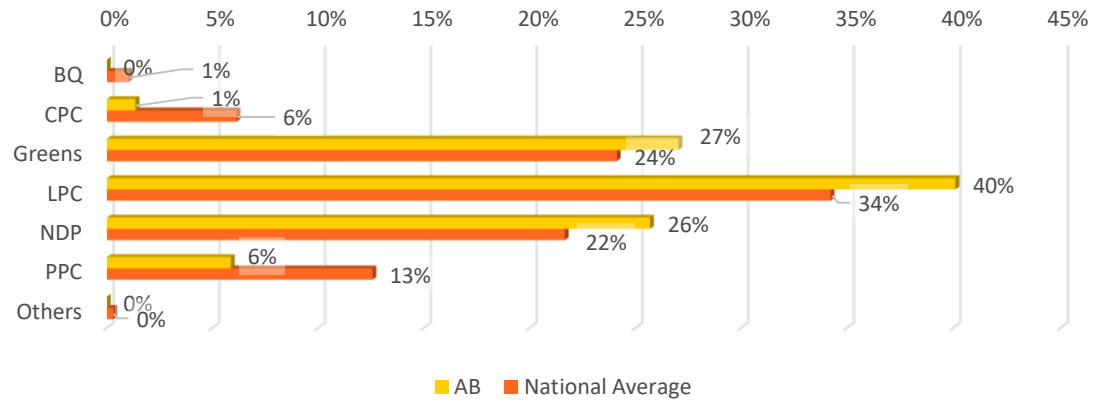


Figure 7: Degree of unity among Alberta farmers

