

Informational Report. April 24, 2023.

AGRICULTURE MATTERS: PRIMARY PRODUCERS' VOICES ON POLICY IN ALBERTA

Report 2 of The
Alberta Elections
Project

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AGRICULTURE MATTERS: PRIMARY PRODUCERS' VOICES ON POLICY IN ALBERTA

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April 24, 2023.

Shawn Wiskar¹, Amlika Nair¹, William Ngezi¹, Hanan Ishaque¹

1: Simpson Centre, The School of Public Policy, University of Calgary, Calgary, AB, Canada

* Corresponding author: Shawn.wiskar@ucalgary.ca

EDITORIAL PRACTICES AND OBJECTIVES

As a unit within the University of Calgary’s School of Public Policy, the Simpson Centre is committed to academic rigor and neutrality in all its work. Our mission is to provide neutral, evidence-based analysis to assist decision-makers, stakeholders, and members of the public in creating policy that supports a more sustainable agriculture industry.

Written in the context of the 2023 Alberta General Election, this report outlines the approaches of the major political parties to the agriculture sector. In order to provide a timely overview that is responsive to community needs during the election, the analysis presented in this report has not undergone blinded external peer review. The non-partisan intent of the report is to encourage readers to engage with and consider the different agricultural policy stances taken by the province’s various political parties.

INTRODUCTION

On May 29, 2023, Alberta will elect a new provincial government mandated to devise policies that directly impact the agriculture industry. Albertan farmers’ perspectives are often overlooked in election dialogue. The Simpson Centre conducted a study to discuss various policies and priorities of Alberta producers for the agriculture sector and how these priorities might be reflected in the agenda of the New Democratic Party of Alberta (NDP) or the United Conservative Party of Alberta (UCP) after the elections. This report provides an overview of the survey data of primary agriculture producers, reflecting their perspectives on climate change, market access, government spending priorities and trust in the political parties. This report draws on work presented in our previous report *Growing Government: The Role of Political Parties in Shaping Agriculture Policy*¹ (Wiskar, Nair and Ishaque 2023), which provided an historical analysis of agricultural policies, investments and legislation in Alberta from 2015 to the present.

This report provides an analysis of survey responses pertaining to some important themes of particular interest to producers, such as party trust, climate change, government spending, commodity markets and trade, government consultation and technology and research. In general, there are noticeable contrasts between the responses provided by the younger and older age cohorts in this survey. This showcases that even within the small population of primary producers in Alberta, there exist a diverse range of perspectives on different topics relevant to public policy for agriculture sector.

SURVEY DEMOGRAPHICS AND METHODOLOGY

This report is based on a survey conducted by the Simpson Centre from February 13, 2023 to March 13, 2023. The survey was conducted online using Qualtrics, and the sample included Albertan primary producers residing in Alberta who were eligible to vote in the upcoming Alberta 2023 general election. The survey did not include hobby farmers (with income from primary production less than \$10,000). Participants were asked questions about their opinion on five themes: climate change, government spending, trade and market access, trust in political parties, and research and technology.

¹ An earlier version of the report is titled [Report 1: Where Do We Stand?](#)

SURVEY DESIGN:

A total of forty-eight multiple-choice closed-ended questions were used to collect data in four overarching categories:²

- Demographics (age, postal code and producer type)
- Election intention (voting intentions and the importance of agriculture on voting decisions)
- Government and political trust
- Policy areas (climate change, market access and trade, government spending and research and technology)

In the analysis of the survey responses, all responses defined on agreement scale were combined to give an agreement or disagreement percentage. Similarly, all the responses on ‘ranked priorities’ were combined to give a prioritization percentage.

The survey received 2,700 responses from Canada and abroad. Through screening questions and Qualtrics metrics, we filtered out invalid responses from the survey results by eliminating duplicate emails, duplicate IP-addresses, invalid postal codes, surveys completed in less than five minutes, locations outside of Alberta and participants who did not qualify as primary producers. After screening for these criteria, 297 survey responses from ninety-two postal code areas were identified as valid.

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SAMPLE

Key demographic characteristics of the sample analyzed in this study included age, types of commodity producers and location. For a detailed map of our participants’ locations across Alberta, please see Appendix C.

Age

Participants were asked to identify whether they were in the age range of eighteen to twenty-four, twenty-five to thirty-nine, forty to sixty, or sixty-plus. We compared the responses to the 2021 Statistics Canada Farm Census ([Statistics Canada 2022](#)) to determine whether the survey sample was representative. Although we used different age ranges from the census, using an online survey resulted in a higher response rate from the younger demographic, which may not be representative of the population from the census, which has higher representation of older age groups. Therefore, our analysis compares participants’ responses based on age categories. This will provide insight into whether age is an important factor in respondents’ policy priorities.³

³ The eighteen-to-twenty-four 18–24 age group category consisted of only twelve respondents, so they were merged with the 25–39 age group to create a new 18–39 age group.

Table 1: Responses by Age Type, Census Comparison

Survey			2021 Statistics Canada Farm Census		
Age Groups	No. of Respondents	Percentage of the sample	Age Groups	Census Count	Percentage of the census population
18–39	150	51	<35	4,895	9
40–60	98	33	35 to 54	20,005	35
60+	49	16	55+	32,190	56

Types of Commodity Producers

Participants were asked to identify the type of primary production in which they work: beef, grain and oilseed, supply-managed commodity or other. Twenty-five per cent of respondents identified as producing more than one type of commodity. Forty-nine per cent of respondents identified as grain and oilseed producers, 44 per cent as beef producers, and 7 per cent as supply-managed commodity producers.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

This section discusses interesting results and findings from the survey. We have organized the results into four categories that were created by grouping survey questions based on the topic of each question. The four overarching categories are climate, spending, markets/commodities/trade, and technology and research. Other categories from the survey results that are not included here, such as questions about party trust and government consultation, are available in Appendix B. While there were significant findings from these sections, we have chosen to focus only on four that align on the purpose and intent of this report, which is to understand the policy priorities of those working in the agriculture sector.

For each of the four categories discussed here, we consider the key findings that stood out in each section. We determined the most significant findings by colour coding our results and looking for interesting patterns in the results. Responses from 0 per cent to 29 per cent were coded red, responses from 30 to 60 per cent were coded yellow, and responses from 61 to 100 per cent were coded green. From this colour coding, we were able to see if any of the results from each section stood out as unique, and those results are discussed in this report.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Among other agriculture sector issues, climate change is of particular concern to Albertan farmers. For primary producers, climate change is seen as threat to livelihood if not managed in a responsible and affordable way. A poll conducted by Abacus showed that when participants were asked which three issues mattered the most to them most, 16 per cent included climate change (Colletto 2023). Considering the importance of climate change and mitigation measures that may affect farm revenues and long-term sustainability, this survey included nine climate-change-related questions. The following table outlines some of the responses that reflected strong opinions on climate change and preferences for related policy options.

Table 2: Climate Change Survey Question Highlights

CLIMATE			AGE RANGE		
			18-39	40-60	60+
RANKED AGREEMENT	My farm has been positively affected by the federal climate change regulations	Agree	61%	56%	23%
		Disagree	17%	34%	63%
	I would prefer a "made-in-Alberta" climate plan to the current federal targets	Agree	64%	84%	77%
		Disagree	8%	5%	10%
RANKED PRIORITIES	Invest in research for emissions reductions and carbon sequestration.	High	61%	71%	65%
		Low	14%	13%	17%

On the impact of federal climate change regulations, we see a striking difference in opinion between Albertan producers belonging to different age groups. While a majority of the respondents below forty agreed that the federal regulations have positively affected their farms, the farmers over sixty tended to disagree. However, a near consensus exists among producers from all age groups that there should be a ‘made-in-Alberta’ plan to meet the current federal targets. When asked to rank the policy priorities to address climate change, producers from all age groups accorded high priority to investing in research for reducing emissions from the agriculture sector.

Setting climate emissions targets is primarily a federal responsibility, though Alberta does have some responsibilities in climate change mitigation (Wiskar, Nair and Ishaque 2023, 7)⁴. A made-in-Alberta policy might mean that the emission reduction targets and policies to meet these targets should be developed by taking cognizance of the long-term impact on Alberta’s agri-food industry. This aligns with claims made at previous Simpson Centre events where producers in Alberta expressed concerns about the stringency of the targets and high cost of mitigation, which may adversely affect the economic viability of the sector and its competitiveness. The survey responses reflect the producers’ demand to strike a balance between meeting emission reduction targets and maintaining financial viability of agri-businesses and international competitiveness.

GOVERNMENT SPENDING

Unfortunately, it is often the case that producers have limited or no control over climate policy, leaving them with little ability to impact their production costs. In this survey the participants were asked a range of questions about the cost of doing business in Alberta and government spending on incentives for agriculture sector. This included whether it is affordable to start a career as a farmer in Alberta, as well as whether the government ought to prioritize spending for research or tax incentives.

⁴Constitutionally, it is unclear which level of government is responsible for climate policy, such as setting GHG emissions restrictions. Rebecca Kauffman argues that Canada’s 1867 *Constitution Act* did not directly assign provincial or federal jurisdiction in legislating GHG emissions (Kauffman 2023, 3).

Table 3: Spending Survey Question Highlights

SPENDING			AGE RANGE		
			18-39	40-60	60+
RANKED AGREEMENT	It is affordable to start a career as a farmer in Alberta.	Agree	43%	46%	10%
		Disagree	28%	47%	71%
	The Alberta Government provides strong incentives for new farmers to begin their careers.	Agree	52%	51%	21%
		Disagree	23%	33%	50%
RANKED PRIORITIES	Subsidize agriculture input costs.	High	60%	56%	40%
		Low	8%	23%	40%













The survey results reveal notable variations in viewpoints across age groups. The statement “It is affordable to start a career as a farmer in Alberta” elicited strong disagreement from only 9 per cent of eighteen- to thirty-nine-year-olds, 25 per cent of forty- to sixty-year-olds, and 52 per cent of those aged sixty and above. When asked to rank their level of agreement regarding the statement “The Alberta Government provides strong incentives for new farmers to begin their careers,” survey participants expressed a similar sentiment. Specifically, 52 per cent of those aged eighteen to thirty-nine agreed, 51 per cent of those aged forty to sixty agreed, and only 21 per cent of those aged sixty and above agreed.

The survey also yielded interesting insights regarding how participants prioritize policy decisions related to government spending. Specifically, when asked to rank the importance of investing in innovation and technology, agricultural programs at colleges and universities, and incentives to reduce transportation costs, respondents across all age groups generally agreed that these policies should be given high priority. However, when it comes to prioritizing subsidizing agriculture input costs, while a majority of respondents still considered it a high priority, it was ranked lower than the other policies. The respondents from the sixty-plus age group thought it was not affordable to start a career in farming in Alberta, and that there were not enough incentives by the government to new farmers. However, a majority of them did not prioritize input costs subsidies as compared with 60 per cent of the younger respondents, who ranked it as a high priority policy measure.

MARKETS, COMMODITIES AND TRADE

Government policies on markets, commodities and trade have a direct impact on producers’ lives, and issues stemming from these topics are on the minds of Albertans. In our previous report for the Alberta Elections Program, we found that the agricultural responsibilities of trade and supply management are primarily federal responsibilities. However, Alberta does have responsibilities in empowering Marketing Boards and Commissions. Alberta also has programs such as the Alberta Export Expansion Program, which “provides funding to encourage companies to access international markets” (Wiskar, Nair and Ishaque 2023, 3). We asked respondents about how the government should prioritize markets, commodities and trade in the context of agriculture.

Table 4: Spending Survey Question Highlights

MARKETS/COMMODITIES/TRADE			AGE RANGE		
			18-39	40-60	60+
RANKED AGREEMENT	Accessing new markets for commodities is a major concern for agricultural production in Alberta.	Agree	 64%	 88%	 81%
		Disagree	 12%	 3%	 4%
	The Alberta government is good at consulting with farmers about supply chain issues.	Agree	 52%	 48%	 25%
		Disagree	 24%	 35%	 42%

There was general agreement across the board that the government should prioritize investing in additional processing facilities, incentivizing Albertan commodities over imported goods from other markets, ensuring fair returns for commodity producers, developing trade policies that do not disadvantage Albertan producers, and opening up new international trade markets.



















The survey respondents generally agreed accessing new markets for their commodities was a major concern.: 64 per cent of those aged eighteen to thirty-nine, 88 per cent of those forty to sixty and 81 per cent aged sixty and over agreed. Participants were also asked whether Alberta government is good at consulting with farmers about supply-chain issues. While there were not significant differences between responses for the young and middle-age groups, 52 per cent of the respondents aged eighteen to thirty-nine agreed, and 24 per cent disagreed. Of those aged forty to sixty, 48 per cent agreed and 35 per cent disagreed. The sixty-plus age group saw a major swing, with 25 per cent agreeing while 42 per cent disagreed.

Other questions generated interesting differences in responses by commodity group. For 80 per cent of the grain and oilseed producers, accessing new markets for commodities is a major concern, as compared with 67 per cent of the beef and supply managed commodity producers. When asked about whether the Alberta government is good at consulting with farmers about supply chain issues, beef producers were less likely than other producer types to agree, with only 38 per cent agreeing.

TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH

Technology and research are essential to the agricultural sector, as innovation plays a crucial role in improving productivity, efficiency and sustainability (Lim 2022). Agricultural technology encompasses a wide range of innovations, including precision farming, remote sensing, biotechnology and robotics, among others (Environmental Defense Fund 2023). These technologies have the potential to enhance crop yields, reduce resource use, minimize environmental impacts and increase profitability for farmers (Goedde et al. 2020). Research plays a crucial role in providing the necessary scientific knowledge and expertise to develop and improve agricultural technologies. It can also help identify challenges facing the agricultural sector, such as climate change, pests and diseases, and can help develop strategies to mitigate these challenges. In addition, research can help ensure that agricultural practices are sustainable and environmentally friendly, while also meeting the growing demand for food and fibre (The World Bank 2023).

Table 5: Technology and Research Survey Question Highlights

TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH			AGE RANGE		
			18-39	40-60	60+
RANKED AGREEMENT	Canadian agriculture research has benefited my farm	Agree	 68%	 71%	 69%
		Disagree	 14%	 16%	 13%
	Research funding should be prioritized over tax incentives for producers	Agree	 68%	 71%	 46%
		Disagree	 8%	 7%	 27%
Ranked Priorities	Invest in innovation and technology in Alberta	High	 63%	 75%	 79%
		Low	 7%	 7%	 8%

The responses highlight the importance of technology and research in agriculture, as well as the priorities of farmers in Alberta. Most farmers surveyed agreed that Canadian agriculture research has benefited their farm, with agreement rates ranging from 68 to 71 per cent across all age groups. This indicates that the producers realize the importance of research and innovation in improving agricultural practices and efficiency on farms. However, the responses varied significantly with age group when participants were asked if the research funding should be prioritized over tax incentives for producers. While majority of the farmers belonging to age groups below sixty agreed that research funding should be prioritized over tax incentives, fewer than half of those over sixty agreed with this suggestion. This suggests that relatively younger farmers value the long-term benefits of research and innovation over short-term financial incentives while the elderly farmers prefer tax incentives, the benefits of which can be derived in the short run. It is worth noting that the disagreement rates were relatively low, which indicates a broad consensus on prioritizing research funding over tax incentives.

In terms of priorities for government spending, the survey found that a majority of the farmers believe that investing in innovation and technology should be a high priority for the Alberta Government, with agreement rates ranging from 63 to 79 per cent across different age groups. The fact that older farmers had higher agreement rates suggests that they have a greater appreciation for the potential of technology to improve agricultural practices and overcome challenges faced by the industry (Martin 2017).

This survey also asked the respondents if considered tax incentives for adoption of innovative technologies and practices as a priority. A significant percentage of farmers, with agreement rates ranging from 59 to 69 per cent across all three age groups ranked it as a high priority measure. This indicates that farmers recognize the potential benefits of adopting innovative technologies and practices, but require government support to de-risk new technology adoption.

CONCLUSIONS

The survey of Albertan producers and analysis of their responses provides insights into the policy priorities of producers in Alberta. On the topic of climate, we found that across all age groups, producers would prefer a “made-in-Alberta” climate plan to the current federal targets. The survey responses underscore the need to balance emission reduction targets with the financial viability of agri-businesses and international competitiveness, echoing the proposals made by producers.

The results of our survey on markets, commodities and trade suggest that there is significant agreement among respondents that government policies should prioritize fair returns for producers and avoid any measures that may disadvantage them. However, there is less agreement on whether the Alberta government is adequately consulting with farmers about supply-chain issues.

Technology and research are highly valued in the agriculture industry by Alberta farmers; most respondents agreed that Canadian agriculture research has benefited their farms. There is a clear difference in opinion among farmers of different age groups when it comes to prioritizing research funding versus tax incentives, with younger farmers prioritizing research funding for long-term benefits, while older farmers prefer tax incentives for short-term financial gains. A majority of respondents believe that the government should prioritize investing in innovation and technology over offering tax incentives for innovative technologies.

Our analysis of attitudes towards climate policies, technology and research, the economy and government spending revealed several noteworthy trends. The survey results indicated a divide in responses by age group, with those aged sixty and above expressing greater anxiety about the future of Alberta agriculture. This group was significantly more critical of federal climate policies and the impact of climate change on Alberta, and strongly disagreed that it is affordable to start a career as a new farmer. This is an intriguing finding, as individuals in this age group are more likely to be retiring from their careers and are drawing on their personal experiences to inform their perspective.

This report is the second in a series of three reports that make up the Simpson Centre's Alberta Elections Program. The first report, published in March 2023, provided a historical analysis of the agricultural policies of the NDP and UCP. The third and final report, which will be available in May 2023, will offer a comparison and analysis of the election platforms of the NDP and UCP, as well as a ranking of parties' agri-food awareness based on a neutral set of criteria.

The first two reports on the Simpson Centre's Alberta Elections Program are available on our website at <https://www.simpsoncentre.ca>.

APPENDIX A

SURVEY QUESTIONS:

1. Are you an Alberta resident?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
2. What are the first three digits of your postal code?
3. What is your age group?
 - a. 18 to 24
 - b. 25 to 39
 - c. 40 to 60
 - d. 60 plus
4. Do you work in the agriculture sector as a primary producer?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
5. Does income from agriculture make up one of your sources of primary income (\$10,000 or more)?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
6. Please select the category which best describes your employment (select all that apply):
 - a. Grain and oilseed producer
 - b. Beef producer
 - c. Supply-managed commodity producer
 - d. Other
7. Do you plan on voting in the Alberta 2023 general election?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. I am not eligible to vote in Alberta
8. How important are agriculture issues in your decision of who to vote for in the Alberta election?
 - a. Not Important at all
 - b. Slightly Important
 - c. Moderately Important
 - d. Very Important
 - e. Extremely Important
9. In your opinion, how involved should the government be in the agriculture sector?
 - a. High Involvement
 - b. Moderate Involvement
 - c. Low Involvement
 - d. No Involvement at All
 - e. Unsure
10. Please indicate your level of agreement to the following statements:
 - a. Climate change is a major concern for agricultural production in Alberta.
 - i. Strongly Disagree
 - ii. Somewhat Disagree

- iii. Neither agree nor disagree
 - iv. Somewhat agree
 - v. Strongly agree
 - b. My farm has been positively affected by the federal climate change regulations.
 - [i.–v. as above]
 - c. I feel confident in Alberta's ability to quickly address environmental risks such as floods and droughts.
 - [i.–v. as above]
 - d. I feel the Alberta government does a good job at consultation with farmers about environmental issues.
 - [i.–v. as above]
 - e. I would prefer a “made-in Alberta” climate plan to the current federal targets.
 - [i.–v. as above]
11. On a scale of 1 to 5 (5 being a high priority and 1 being a low priority) how should the Alberta Government prioritize the following interventions to address climate change?
- a. Invest in research for emission reductions and carbon sequestration.
 - i. 1
 - ii. 2
 - iii. 3
 - iv. 4
 - v. 5
 - b. Invest in research for emission reductions and carbon sequestration.
 - [i.–v. as above]
 - c. Invest in innovative technologies to reduce emissions.
 - [i.–v. as above]
 - d. Streamlining approvals for emissions reduction practices.
 - [i.–v. as above]
12. Please indicate your agreement to the following statements:
- a. Accessing new markets for commodities is a major concern for agricultural production in Alberta.
 - i. Strongly Disagree
 - ii. Somewhat Disagree
 - iii. Neither agree nor disagree
 - iv. Somewhat agree
 - v. Strongly agree
 - b. I don't receive a fair price for the commodities I sell.
 - [i.–v. as above]
 - c. The government takes my perspective as a producer into account.
 - [i.–v. as above]
 - d. I feel confident in the province's ability to promote and sell Albertan products in national and international markets.
 - [i.–v. as above]
 - e. The Alberta government is good at consulting with farmers about supply-chain issues.
 - [i.–v. as above]

13. On a scale of 1 to 5 (5 being a high priority and 1 being a low priority) how should the Alberta Government prioritize the following interventions to open new markets for Alberta commodities?
- a. Opening up new international trade markets.
 - i. 1
 - ii. 2
 - iii. 3
 - iv. 4
 - v. 5
 - b. Developing trade policies that don't disadvantage Albertan producers.
[i.–v. as above]
 - c. Ensuring fair returns for commodity producers.
[i.–v. as above]
 - d. Incentivizing Albertan commodities over imported goods from other markets.
[i.–v. as above]
 - e. Investing in additional processing facilities.
[i.–v. as above]
14. Please indicate your level of agreement to the following statements:
- a. It is affordable to start a career as a farmer in Alberta.
 - i. Strongly Disagree
 - ii. Somewhat Disagree
 - iii. Neither agree nor disagree
 - iv. Somewhat agree
 - v. Strongly agree
 - b. Technologies that make my farm more efficient are easily accessible.
[i.–v. as above]
 - c. Canadian agriculture research has benefited my farm.
[i.–v. as above]
 - d. The Government of Alberta should subsidize the adoption of best management practices.
[i.–v. as above]
 - e. I feel the Alberta Government should only create tax incentives and/or provide cost subsidies to small and medium farm operations.
[i.–v. as above]
 - f. Research funding should be prioritized over tax incentives for producers.
[i.–v. as above]
15. On a scale of 1 to 5 (5 being a high priority and 1 being a low priority) how should the Alberta Government prioritize government spending for the following interventions?
- a. Invest in innovation and technology in Alberta.
 - i. 1
 - ii. 2
 - iii. 3
 - iv. 4
 - v. 5
 - b. Tax incentives for adoption of innovative technologies and practices.
[i.–v. as above]

- c. Invest in agriculture programs at colleges and universities.
[i.–v. as above]
 - d. Promote farm data collection and sharing.
[i.–v. as above]
 - e. Subsidize agriculture input costs.
[i.–v. as above]
 - f. Create incentives that reduce the costs of transportation.
[i.–v. as above]
16. Please rank your agreement or disagreement with the following statements about the Alberta government:
- a. The Government of Alberta is a strong supporter of farmers.
 - i. Strongly Disagree
 - ii. Somewhat Disagree
 - iii. Neither agree nor disagree
 - iv. Somewhat agree
 - v. Strongly agree
 - b. The Alberta government provides strong incentives for new farmers to begin their careers.
[i.–v. as above]
17. Please rank your agreement or disagreement with the following statements about the parties running in the 2023 Alberta Election:
- a. The UCP has a good understanding of the issues facing farmers.
 - i. Strongly Disagree
 - ii. Somewhat Disagree
 - iii. Neither agree nor disagree
 - iv. Somewhat agree
 - v. Strongly agree
 - b. The Alberta NDP has a good understanding of the issues facing farmers.
[i.–v. as above]
 - c. A party other than the NDP or the UCP has a better understanding of issues facing farmers.
[i.–v. as above]
18. Please rank your agreement or disagreement with the following statements about the parties running in the 2023 Alberta Election:
- a. I trust the UCP to advocate for agriculture policies that help Alberta farmers.
 - i. Strongly Disagree
 - ii. Somewhat Disagree
 - iii. Neither agree nor disagree
 - iv. Somewhat agree
 - v. Strongly agree
 - b. I trust the Alberta NDP to advocate for agriculture policies that help Alberta farmers.
[i.–v. as above]
 - c. I trust a party other than the NDP or the UCP to advocate for policies that help Alberta farmers.
[i.–v. as above]

APPENDIX B

		LEGEND			
		0-29 %			
		30-60 %			
		61-100 %			
CLIMATE		AGREE	AGE RANGE		
			18-39	40-60	60+
Climate change is a major concern for agricultural production in Alberta.	Yes	67%	63%	50%	
	No	15%	25%	38%	
My farm has been positively affected by the federal climate change regulations.	Yes	61%	56%	23%	
	No	17%	34%	63%	
I feel confident in Alberta's ability to quickly address environmental risks such as floods and droughts.	Yes	53%	63%	56%	
	No	21%	22%	27%	
I feel the Alberta government does a good job at consultation with farmers about environmental issues.	Yes	55%	47%	38%	
	No	23%	32%	38%	
I would prefer a "made-in-Alberta" climate plan to the current federal targets.	Yes	64%	84%	77%	
	No	8%	5%	10%	
CLIMATE		PRIORITIES	AGE RANGE		
			18-39	40-60	60+
Invest in research for emission reductions and carbon sequestration.	High	61%	71%	65%	
	Low	14%	13%	17%	
Create carbon tax policies favourable to primary producers.	High	57%	67%	58%	
	Low	18%	13%	19%	
Invest in innovative technologies to reduce emissions.	High	61%	67%	58%	
	Low	13%	11%	15%	
Streamlining approvals for emissions reduction practices.	High	61%	69%	65%	
	Low	13%	7%	15%	
MARKETS/COMMODITIES/TRADE		AGREE	AGE RANGE		
			18-39	40-60	60+
Accessing new markets for commodities is a major concern for agricultural production in Alberta.	Yes	64%	88%	81%	
	No	12%	3%	4%	
I don't receive a fair price for the commodities I sell.	Yes	44%	51%	52%	
	No	21%	21%	15%	
I feel confident in the province's ability to promote and sell Albertan products in national and international markets.	Yes	54%	53%	50%	
	No	25%	0%	25%	
The Alberta government is good at consulting with farmers about supply chain issues.	Yes	52%	48%	25%	
	No	24%	35%	42%	
MARKETS/COMMODITIES/TRADE		PRIORITIES	AGE RANGE		
			18-39	40-60	60+
Opening up new international trade markets.	High	64%	75%	69%	
	Low	11%	6%	6%	
Developing trade policies that don't disadvantage Albertan producers.	High	63%	77%	90%	
	Low	14%	3%	4%	
Ensuring fair returns for commodity producers.	High	72%	71%	75%	
	Low	14%	5%	8%	
Incentivizing Albertan commodities over imported goods from other markets.	High	65%	72%	75%	
	Low	9%	9%	10%	
Investing in additional processing facilities.	High	63%	64%	63%	
	Low	6%	8%	15%	

MARKETS/COMMODITIES/TRADE	AGREE	COMMODITY GROUP		
		Beef producer	Grain and oilseed producer	Supply managed commodity producer
Accessing new markets for commodities is a major concern for agricultural production in Alberta.	Yes	67%	80%	67%
	No	13%	5%	13%
I don't receive a fair price for the commodities I sell.	Yes	57%	49%	53%
	No	18%	22%	20%
I feel confident in the province's ability to promote and sell Albertan products in national and international markets.	Yes	49%	58%	48%
	No	28%	19%	31%
The Alberta government is good at consulting with farmers about supply chain issues.	Yes	38%	52%	51%
	No	37%	27%	25%

MARKETS/COMMODITIES/TRADE	PRIORITIES	COMMODITY GROUP		
		Beef producer	Grain and oilseed producer	Supply managed commodity producer
Opening up new international trade markets.	High	68%	69%	64%
	Low	12%	8%	13%
Developing trade policies that don't disadvantage Albertan producers.	High	75%	73%	64%
	Low	10%	11%	11%
Ensuring fair returns for commodity producers.	High	75%	73%	73%
	Low	7%	9%	16%
Incentivizing Albertan commodities over imported goods from other markets.	High	68%	68%	58%
	Low	11%	11%	8%
Investing in additional processing facilities.	High	67%	64%	58%
	Low	7%	9%	8%

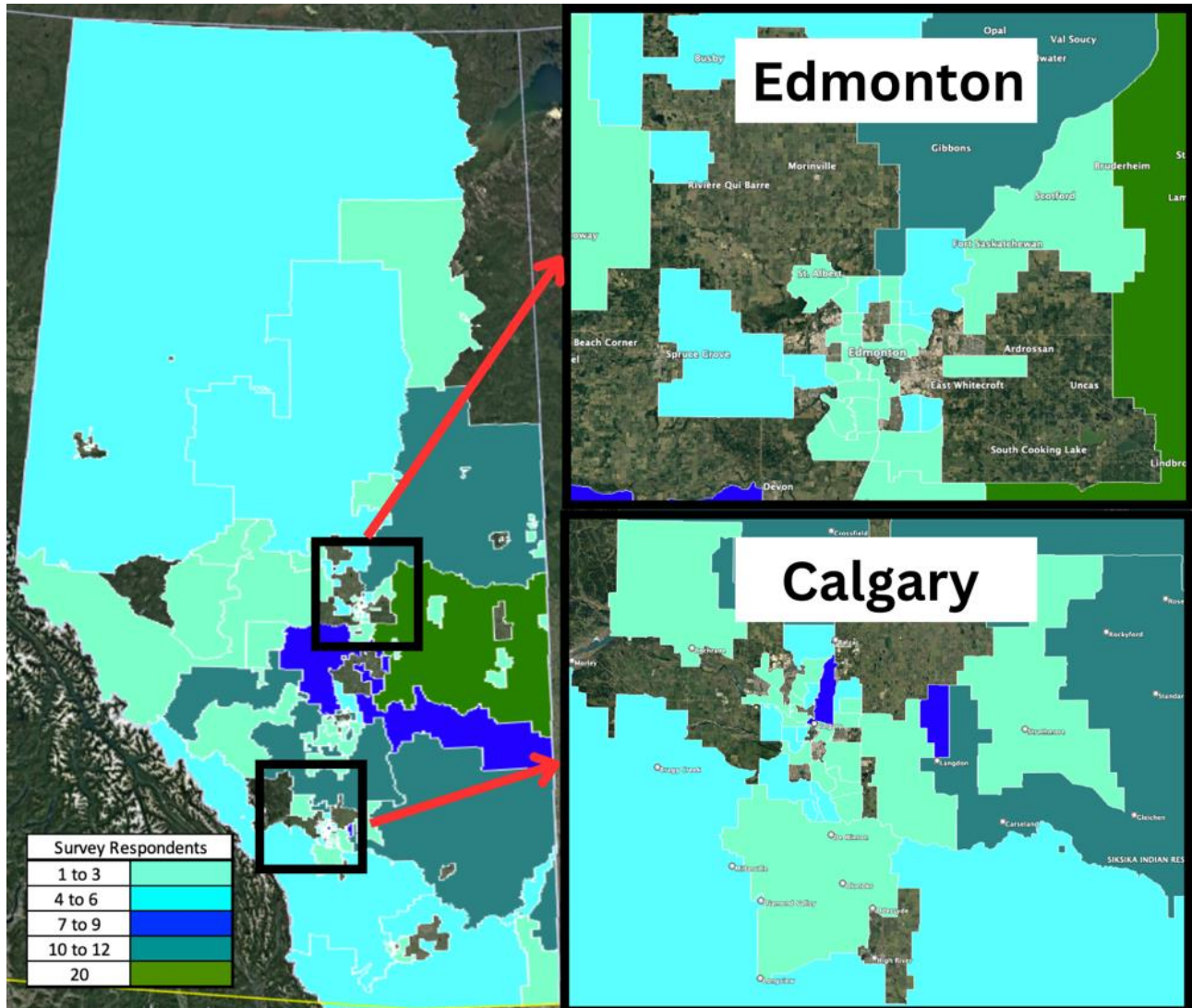
SPENDING	AGREE	AGE RANGE		
		18-39	40-60	60+
It is affordable to start a career as a farmer in Alberta.	Yes	43%	46%	10%
	No	28%	47%	71%
The Government of Alberta should subsidize the adoption of best management practices.	Yes	64%	72%	46%
	No	12%	7%	23%
I feel the Alberta Government should only create tax incentives and/or provide cost subsidies to small and medium farm operations.	Yes	50%	55%	35%
	No	18%	24%	31%
Research funding should be prioritized over tax incentives for producers.	Yes	68%	71%	46%
	No	8%	7%	27%
The Alberta Government provides strong incentives for new farmers to begin their careers.	Yes	52%	51%	21%
	No	23%	33%	50%

SPENDING	PRIORITIES	AGE RANGE		
		18-39	40-60	60+
Invest in innovation and technology in Alberta.	High	63%	75%	79%
	Low	7%	7%	8%
Tax incentives for adoption of innovative technologies and practices.	High	59%	69%	60%
	Low	17%	12%	6%
Invest in agriculture programs at colleges and universities.	High	62%	80%	90%
	Low	11%	5%	2%
Promote farm data collection and sharing.	High	61%	61%	46%
	Low	13%	20%	15%
Subsidize agriculture input costs.	High	60%	56%	40%
	Low	8%	23%	40%
Create incentives that reduce the costs of transportation.	High	68%	67%	62%
	Low	9%	8%	11%
Invest in additional processing facilities.	High	63%	64%	63%
	Low	6%	8%	15%

PARTY TRUST	AGREE	AGE RANGE		
		18-39	40-60	60+
The UCP has a good understanding of the issues facing farmers.	Yes	53%	57%	63%
	No	17%	27%	25%
The Alberta NDP has a good understanding of the issues facing farmers.	Yes	47%	37%	8%
	No	25%	45%	82%
A party other than the NDP or the UCP has a better understanding of the issues facing farmers.	Yes	31%	24%	10%
	No	26%	36%	59%
I trust the UCP to advocate for agriculture policies that help Alberta farmers.	Yes	59%	66%	73%
	No	12%	20%	23%
I trust the NDP to advocate for agriculture policies that help Alberta farmers.	Yes	54%	49%	12%
	No	17%	34%	81%
I trust a party other than the NDP or the UCP to advocate for policies that help Alberta farmers.	Yes	44%	40%	14%
	No	23%	27%	61%
Technology/Research	AGREE	AGE RANGE		
Technologies that make my farm more efficient are easily accessible.	Yes	51%	46%	27%
	No	26%	35%	42%
Canadian agriculture research has benefited my farm.	Yes	68%	71%	69%
	No	14%	16%	13%
Research funding should be prioritized over tax incentives for producers.	Yes	68%	71%	46%
	No	8%	7%	27%
Technology/Research	PRIORITIES	AGE RANGE		
Invest in innovation and technology in Alberta.	High	63%	75%	79%
	Low	7%	7%	8%
Tax incentives for adoption of innovative technologies and practices.	High	59%	69%	60%
	Low	17%	12%	6%
Promote farm data collection and sharing.	High	61%	61%	46%
	Low	13%	20%	15%
Consultation	AGREE	AGE RANGE		
I feel the Alberta government does a good job at consultation with farmers about environmental issues.	Yes	55%	47%	37%
	No	23%	33%	38%
The government takes my perspective as a producer into account.	Yes	61%	59%	38%
	No	14%	24%	40%
The Alberta government is good at consulting with farmers about supply chain issues.	Yes	52%	48%	25%
	No	24%	35%	42%
The Government of Alberta is a strong supporter of farmers.	Yes	63%	78%	69%
	No	9%	8%	25%
Consultation	INVOLVEMENT	AGE RANGE		
In your opinion, how involved should the government be in the agriculture sector?	High	79%	85%	79%
	Low	21%	14%	17%

APPENDIX C

Of the 297 respondents, there were ninety-two distinct postal code areas. The largest number of responses came from Southeast Alberta and the postal codes of T0A (Lac la Biche, Elk Point and Wandering River), T0B (Provost, Innisfree and Lamont), T0J (Drumheller and Oyen), T0M (Nordegg, Sundre and Didsbury) and T4B (Airdrie). The following map is split into forward sortation areas (postal code areas) with darker colours representing more survey respondents from those areas:



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