

# Sask. farmers brace for income decline

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*Saskatoon economist Richard Gray says farmers should still break even if they get an average crop. (CBC)*

Agriculture Canada is predicting farm incomes in Saskatchewan will decline by 55 per cent this year over 2009.

Officials say net farm income for 2010 is expected to total \$980 million, compared to \$2.2 billion last year.

Saskatoon economist Richard Gray said the problem is supply and demand in the grain market.

"The world produced two incredibly large crops in a row," he said.

"We went from almost record low stocks just over two years ago to a situation where stocks are back to what people would call large again."

Gray said while the income drop is disappointing, farmers should break even if they get an average crop.

"Some farmers, anyway, are coming off a pretty good year, so this year will be a bit leaner, but it won't be a disaster."

Gord Wilson, who owns a farm west of Saskatoon near Kindersley, is optimistic.

"We've been at this game 35 years out here. I think ... we'll survive."

Wilson said he's hoping to see a few good years so he and other farmers can pay off their bills and save some money.

## Equipment helps speed farming

Agriculture Minister Bob Bjornerud said much depends on the weather, as spring seeding was delayed by snow and rain this year.

"There's very little of the crop in at this point, but boy, that can change in a week out there," he said.

"It's just newer and better equipment than we used to farm with and ... they work long hours out there, but they cover so much more ground. To put a section of land in was a tremendously long process before, where now [with] the size of the equipment, they seem to go over some of that in a day."

Bjornerud said if the weather forces a further delay in seeding, the province will seriously consider extending seeding deadlines for crop insurance.

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**[john deer](#) wrote:** Posted 2010/05/12

at 7:20 PM ETi think i would like to have income insurance , instead of normal years when i make good money last year i could have got income insurance, you know like hail insurance.or this last year was a terrible year for the oilfeild instead of making 220 -250 i made 40 where is the subsidy i have payments, no i spend savings,i would like to cry a river but who listens, and why should they have to.

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**[Planbot](#) wrote:** Posted 2010/05/12

at 6:40 PM ETIf you don't support agriculture don't eat.

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**[GoldenMan](#) wrote:** Posted 2010/05/12

at 6:27 PM ETIf there is a group of people that constantly whine regardless of what is happening in the world; nobody takes away the top prize from farmers. Yes, there is uncertainty in their line of business but they also know that they are safe; they are just managing public opinion and trying to get whatever they can by continuously whining.

The only time they shot themselves in the foot is when they let go Wheat Pool, pioneers build with their sweat. That was one of the results of their greed that is biting them now.

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**AwesomeJoe** wrote: Posted 2010/05/12

at 6:24 PM ETghostrider posted "Plenty of small business people take on huge financial risk to start their businesses. But they don't get subsidies and bailouts every year."

There are so many misrepresentations in your post I hardly know where to begin.

Many small farmers are forced to sell every year. So much for your statement that farmers receive subsidies and bailouts "every year". That's pure BS.

Secondly, when there have been subsidies (I haven't seen a 'bailout' yet) they have largely been used to help level the playing field for Canadian farmers. Unlike many markets, the prices farmers receive for their goods fluctuate wildly from year to year. It is in the government's best interest to ensure Canada has a stable and secure agricultural industry. You may want to know that other countries - most notably the US - heavily subsidizes farmers, which creates imbalance and disadvantage for those countries that can't, or refuse, to subsidize their farmers.

It's easy for you and others to say "let them live or die according to the market" when you plainly don't understand the market forces at play within the agriculture industry. How many small businesses do you know of that depend entirely on the weather? Of those, how many are of critical importance to our food security?

Thirdly, small business DO receive subsidies and bailouts - not just farmers. Again, this smacks of elitism. Is it because farmers aren't your "typical" small businessman, wearing a suit and drinking a latte that you need to single them out?

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**maxmaxxy** wrote: Posted 2010/05/12

at 5:27 PM ETwhat with all the decades of years of chemical fertilizers and chemical sprays being dumped on the crops and ground, it is the chemical companies that are making/contoling markets.

Farmers caught in the middle.

People eating crops from 'mined' soils are getting deceived. The grains not the same as they were 60 or 75 years ago when soils were 'fresh'.

Soils are depleted of trace elements. No wonder people are dropping from cancers.

Big winners===the GMO and chemical/fertilizer/ big agri buisnesses

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