



ADVOCACY REPORT

YOUR VOICE FOR CHANGE

Over 50,000 copies of this Advocacy Report are distributed to UFA members and customers, tackling issues important to UFA members and customers such as Fertilizer Emission Reduction Targets, Red Tape Reduction and Innovation in Agriculture.

We encourage you to read on and learn how UFA is advocating with various levels of government.



UFA IS ONE OF CANADA'S **LARGEST & MOST DYNAMIC** AGRICULTURAL CO-OPERATIVES WITH OVER **127,000 MEMBERS.**

As one of Canada's largest agricultural co-operatives with over 127,000 members, UFA provides products, services, and solutions to Western Canadian growers, producers, and commercial customers. Our members guide our decisions and advocating for legislative, regulatory, and funding issues is a top priority. In a changing industry, UFA ensures your interests are part of key government decisions. Through advocacy, partnerships, awareness, and education, we represent our members on crucial agricultural issues now and in the future.





ELIMINATION OF DYED FUEL

UFA remains committed to working with the Alberta government and industry partners to streamline and eliminate burdensome regulations affecting our co-operative and members.

The current dyeing requirements for off-road and farm-use diesel and gasoline are outdated and pose economic, environmental, and competitive challenges. Removing this requirement would significantly reduce costs for UFA and its members. We believe the Alberta Farm Fuel Benefit (AFFB) Program and Tax Exempt Fuel Users (TEFU) standards are stringent enough to prevent misuse, and alternative safeguards should be considered.

Initial meetings with a working group established by the Alberta Department of Finance have begun to explore alternative options. UFA hopes to present these options to the Minister of Finance by spring 2025, with potential implementation in 2026, pending cabinet approval.



CANADA & US RELATIONS

The agricultural trade relationship between Canada and the U.S. is indeed vital for both countries. Disruptions like new tariffs could have significant impacts on farmers, food businesses, and consumers.

Proposed tariffs on agricultural commodities or key inputs like steel and aluminum will heavily impact Western Canadian agriculture, which relies on U.S. exports. The U.S. is Alberta and Saskatchewan's largest market for agricultural products, particularly beef and canola. Tariffs would raise input costs and export prices, reducing profits for Canadian producers. The integrated food supply chains mean consumers on both sides of the border will ultimately pay the price.

UFA is committed to collaborating with government officials and agriculture associations to support Western Canadian agriculture. Whether or not trade tariffs are implemented, the potential impact underscores the need for federal and provincial governments to expedite policy and funding decisions to enhance transportation and storage infrastructure, establish new markets outside the U.S., and improve interprovincial trade.



2025 CANADIAN FEDERAL ELECTION

The 2025 federal election will have a significant impact on the agriculture sector due to the current platforms of each political party. UFA's advocacy efforts are non-partisan, and our co-operative urges all parties to consider these critical items when developing their election platforms related to the agriculture sector, especially as Canada's agricultural sector needs full support to remain economically competitive during this time of political unrest.



Elimination of federal carbon tax

The carbon tax has increased production costs for Canadian farmers, threatening their profitability and sustainability. Higher energy expenses for heating and transportation significantly impact farm profitability, especially for small and mid-size operations.

Western Canadian farmers, who sell to international markets, cannot recoup these increased costs due to competitive pricing. Farmers in countries without a carbon tax, like the U.S., gain a competitive advantage, making it difficult for Canadian farmers to remain competitive. The additional expenses from the carbon tax directly affect Canadian farmers' bottom line, unlike their international counterparts.



Capital investment to economic corridors and trade infrastructure

To limit disruptions in the agriculture supply chain, significant investment is needed to ensure safe, reliable, and efficient infrastructure for production, distribution, sale, and export. With pressures like trade tariffs, rising input costs, weather conditions, and new environmental policies, producers need confidence that governments prioritize their commodities and ensure export capacity. UFA advocates for implementing the National Supply Chain Task Force's recommendations to alleviate these pressures.

Investment in infrastructure also includes improving transportation systems, export terminals, and fast, reliable broadband. Connectivity is essential for innovation in farming practices, reducing costs, improving efficiency, and minimizing the sector's environmental footprint. Producers need connectivity at the farmhouse, farm office, field, and community to enable data-driven agriculture and meet global food security demands.



Reconstruction of the National Sustainability Agricultural Strategy

With the announcement of Canada's National Sustainable Agricultural Strategy, it's crucial that farmers' voices are heard. The current strategy needs significant adjustments to meet producers' needs and improve their global competitiveness. Canadian producers already use some of the most sustainable practices worldwide, which should be promoted internationally.

UFA provides practical policy recommendations based on direct input from farmers and ranchers, not influenced by third-party organizations. Incentives for all operations should be long-term, considering adoption costs, return on investment, and the nature of goods and services provided.



SUPPORTING ON FARM INNOVATION

Government support at provincial and federal levels is crucial for developing and implementing innovative solutions in agriculture to increase productivity. This is essential due to variable weather, labour shortages, and food security needs. On-farm innovation can solve many sector issues and provide a competitive edge.

However, uncertainty and risk hinder innovation adoption. Governments should de-risk adoption by streamlining funding and grants directly to producers and facilitating organizations. Producers need pathways to mitigate technology adoption risks at scale. Government participation, evidence-based solutions, and trusted providers are key.

Improved business risk management (BRM) programs are needed, adaptable to industry changes, and focused on reducing on-farm emissions, drought relief, and increasing profitability.

UFA PODCAST SERIES

Digging in with UFA is a new podcast series featuring conversations that dig deeper into the topics and issues vital to our members. Industry experts, growers, producers, and other AGvocates share unique perspectives on a range of subjects, including the Carbon Tax, Antibiotics and Antimicrobials, Fertilizer Emission Reduction Targets, Animal Health and Welfare, the Cost of Farming, and Water in Agriculture. Each month brings a new episode where we analyze misconceptions and bridge the gap between the agriculture industry and the public by providing a platform for storytelling and thought-provoking discussions.

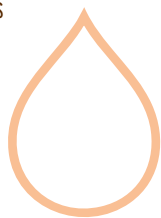
Hosted by Hall of Fame broadcaster, Don Shafer, Digging in With UFA is designed to educate audiences about the challenges and opportunities in agriculture today and, above all, to inspire listeners to delve deeper into the issues that matter most. **Listen today at UFA.com/Podcast**



ALBERTA WATER AVAILABILITY & ENGAGEMENT

Water availability and responsible management are growing concerns in Alberta. Increased funding and policy improvements, including potential amendments to the Water Act, could enhance water availability and optimize management while protecting the aquatic environment.

In 2024, the Government of Alberta began consulting with Albertans and industry stakeholders to address these issues. As a member of the Alberta Irrigation Districts Association (AIDA), UFA aligns its advocacy efforts with Alberta's irrigation districts to ensure agricultural water allocation is protected.



For UFA's full recommendations on improving water availability and efficiency, visit [UFA.com](https://www.ufa.com). The long-term commitment by the Government of Alberta to fund infrastructure projects to increase water storage capacity is crucial for maintaining water security and availability.

