

LEGUEE FARMS NEWSLETTER



Spring 2025

OUR WEBSITE

Check out our website to find information on our farm, from our vision and mission, to Jake's blog, to a variety of photos of the farm. You can also find the numerous agriculture industry projects Jake & Sarah have helped with.

www.legueefarms.com



A WORLD IN CHAOS

Tariffs and geopolitics dominate headlines

“May you live in interesting times.”

This old statement isn't meant to be a token of good wishes – this is a subtle, special curse. It's not known where it originated, but it speaks to times like this: times of chaos, of upheaval, of drastic change. We certainly are living in interesting times.

The tariffs repeatedly threatened against us by our closest neighbour and friend, the United States, have dominated the news cycle. There is perhaps no more significant act of destruction that could be taken to the Canadian economy. Just the threat of it has been enough to drop our dollar, throw our governments into chaos, and create extreme and damaging uncertainty to businesses on both sides of the border.

So far, we've escaped the broad 25% tariffs that were threatened as far back as November. Whether that will continue is anyone's guess. What's at stake? A relationship worth \$400 billion a year – and by far our most important agricultural market.

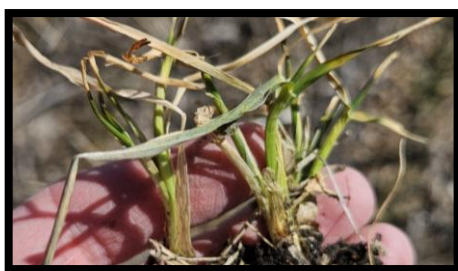
But that isn't the only country to take Canada to task. Our second largest trading partner, China, knew how to hit us where it hurt. As a retaliation of the government's decision to levy 100% tariffs against Chinese made electric vehicles, canola oil and meal and yellow peas (among other things) are now subject to a 100% tariff going into China.

The impact of this was immediate and severe.

Canola dropped over two dollars a bushel within a few days. Yellow peas went to no bid or dropped four to five dollars a bushel. Since then, things have stabilized, but the impact is undeniable.

Developing a crop plan in this environment is no easy task. This uncertainty makes developing plans at all a serious challenge.

One of the hardest things about farming is just how little control we have. One of the greatest things about farming is that once the air drills hit the field, all politics and uncertainty can fade into the background. There is no more important job than getting the crop in – and getting it done right.



ARE COSTS FINALLY COMING DOWN?

Since the pandemic, costs have escalated dramatically.

Farm machinery prices, when measured in bushels of wheat or canola required to buy them, are at an all-time high. The rapid escalation, and lack of any serious correction in them, is simply stunning – and unsustainable.

Let's do some quick math. In 2015, to purchase a new combine cost about 70-80,000 bushels of wheat. Several years later, in 2021-22, this actually improved to about 60,000 bushels. Today, it takes about *150,000 bushels of wheat* to purchase a combine. We are at an affordability level of not much more than half of a decade ago.

Fertilizer isn't great either. A tonne of phosphorus fertilizer (MAP 11-52-0) costs about 150 bushels of wheat. In 2018, that same tonne only cost about 90 bushels of wheat.

We could go through many examples showing the same thing: grain prices are not much different than they were in 2020, but all of our costs have dramatically risen. Machinery, fertilizer, parts, labour, land rent, you name it, it's up. This is creating a profitability crisis agriculture hasn't seen in decades.

There are some cracks showing in the cost of machinery. But the international trading chaos could disrupt the cost reductions farmers dearly need.

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SEEDING IS COMING

Even though winter has been long and spring slow to come, it looks like it's here at last. The winter wheat is already showing signs of life. Before we know it, seeds will be going in the ground, weeds will be growing, and trees will be blooming. Despite all the craziness going on in the news, spring is truly a wonderful time – and putting the crop in is an experience that reminds us every year of why we do what we do.

BEYOND THE FARM

SaskWheat Commission in the News

As seen in Global News on March 27, 2025 (<https://tinyurl.com/3u6cr8dm>):

SaskWheat Board Chair Jake Leguee said a government who engages directly with the ag industry will go a long way.

“We want a federal government that puts farmers first, that recognizes the immense value of this industry across Canada as one of the economic drivers of this country, and not forgotten about like it so often is.” said Leguee.