

# Crop insurance changes to benefit Saskatchewan canola producers

Saskatchewan Crop Insurance initiatives introduced in February by Agriculture Minister Bob Bjornnerud are the result of the Crop Insurance Review, which included direct input from Saskatchewan farmers and producer groups.

Canola growers will be able to take direct advantage of yield trending. Yields will be increased automatically to simulate agronomic advancements – advancements like new crop varieties and improved farm management practices. Four crops are eligible for this initiative – canola, identity-preserved canola, fall rye and winter wheat – because they had significant and positive trends in all areas and land uses across the province. What does this mean for canola growers? This means better coverage, an 11 per cent increase on average.

Producers may also be eligible for the yield cushioning pilot program. Yield cushioning limits the impact on a poor growing season due to insurable causes like drought on an individual's coverage. About 2,000 Saskatchewan producers will be involved in the pilot, which increases poor yields from 2005 to 2007 to 70 per cent of their long-term individual yield. The pilot project will increase producers' yields on average by five per cent.

A new In-Season Pricing Option and the enhanced Variable Price Option will give premium certainty to producers. The in-season option reflects actual market conditions and utilizes a six-month average (September-February) to establish insured prices. The premiums for the Variable and In-Season Price Options will be known in March when contracts are signed. Both the variable and in-

season prices can increase or decrease by a maximum of 50 per cent in relation to the base price for the crop.

Saskatchewan Crop Insurance is also increasing establishment payment levels in its programs and will review these on an annual basis. As an example, for canola crops that fail to establish, producers will receive a benefit of \$45 per acre in 2009, up from \$25 last year.

A long history of proven yields and infrequent claims leads to producers attaining the maximum 50 per cent experience discount. Producers with proven management capabilities will now have a greater chance to retain that discount in successive claim years.

All Saskatchewan producers can submit claims for the Wildlife Damage Compensation Program; you do not need to be a Crop Insurance customer. Damage from wildlife like elk, deer, ducks and geese will now be covered 100 per cent by the provincial and federal governments for claims \$150 and over. Compensation is also available for excreta contamination.

The Government of Saskatchewan has addressed 12 of the 16 recommendations made in the review. To learn about all of the changes to the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance 2009 program, visit [www.saskcropinsurance.com](http://www.saskcropinsurance.com).

Saskatchewan Crop Insurance is improving programs in 2009 and will continue to work with farmers and producer groups in the province. For more information, contact your local Customer Service Office or call 1-888-935-0000.

