

# Crises in Canadian Farming

**Droughts and Floods across Canada have resulted in devastating losses for many Canadian farmers**



***A barley crop destroyed by the drought in Western Canada.***

For some farmers in Canada, 2021 has been an extremely difficult year. The Prairie Provinces have experienced a severe and long-lasting drought over the summer, which affected approximately **93% of the agricultural land in Western Canada.**

Every year, livestock farmers grow hay on their land to feed their animals through the Winter and following year. The drought made it impossible for many farmers to grow any hay whatsoever, resulting in a hay deficit of almost four million tonnes.

This has placed many farmers in an impossible situation. Farmers have been forced to sell their animals simply because they have no means to feed them. As herds of cattle take years to build up, this drought has the potential to have long-lasting impacts on food production in Canada, especially for cattle.

That is why the Canadian Federation of Agriculture launched the Hay West 2021 initiative in September. Hay West ships hay from farmers in Ontario, Quebec and the Atlantic provinces out to drought-stricken farmers in the West. Farmers in Eastern and Central Canada were lucky to have a bountiful year in terms of hay crops, and have shown a great deal of support and solidarity by shipping that hay out West.



To-date, CFA has helped to ship over 5.5 million pounds of hay to farmers in need. While the amount of hay to be shipped will not be able to address the entire hay deficit, these shipments have helped many farmers feed approximately 16,750 cattle. We are so grateful to every farmer who has supplied hay, as well as the organizations who have contributed to the program, which include:

- \$50,000 from Farm Credit Canada
- \$50,000 from the Ontario Federation of Agriculture
- \$125,000 from CN Rail, with a total potential commitment of \$250,000

CFA continues to seek funding from the government and corporations to help cover the shipping costs of hay. To learn more about the initiative and keep up-to-date, [visit the CFA website.](#)

## BC Flooding



*Flood waters cover entire fields in the Fraser Valley*

Recent flooding events in the Fraser Valley in British Columbia have had catastrophic impacts for farmers in those areas. The Fraser Valley is an agriculture-intensive zone due to its extremely fertile soil. The flood has forced farmers to abandon their farms, and in many cases, their animals.

This is a heart-breaking situation, and we're sure many have seen the pictures of farmers desperately trying to save their animals from the water. Adding onto this, rail infrastructure and roadways have been destroyed or damaged by the flood, making it extremely difficult to bring feed in to the province from other areas.



This situation is an ongoing crisis in BC, with two large consecutive storms following the initial flooding event and causing further damage. While the impacts are still being assessed, but there is little doubt that for many farmers this has been an absolutely devastating event, both financially and for their mental health.

If you are interested in donating funds to farmers and ranchers affected by the floods, the [BC Agricultural Council has created a donation page on their website here.](#)