


2025

# Teacher Agriculture Expedition



**Agriculture**   
**in the Classroom**  
Connecting Kids and Agriculture

**SPONSOR REPORT**



## Overview

The 2025 AITC Teacher Agriculture Expedition was held August 12th-14th in the Yorkton area, offering a dynamic three-day, hands-on learning experience. This year's event welcomed twenty-two teachers from across Saskatchewan, representing primary, middle years, and high school classrooms. Over the course of the tour, participants met directly with farmers and industry professionals at their farms and agri-businesses. These visits sparked meaningful discussions, showcased the important role agriculture plays in producing safe, healthy, and affordable food, and highlighted how science, research, and technology contribute to sustainable practices that keep Saskatchewan competitive in global markets. Each stop provided teachers with fresh inspiration, practical resources, and valuable insights to bring agriculture into their classrooms.

Before the Expedition, teachers completed a survey about their knowledge of agriculture. Responses showed a wide range of familiarity: while some teachers had strong ties to rural communities and farming, others – particularly from urban areas – had little background in the industry. A small number of participants identified themselves as from a farming family. Teachers were also asked to share questions and curiosities they hoped to explore during the tour. Their inquiries reflected genuine interest, touching on topics such as:

- What roles do our newcomers/newcomer families play in the industry?
- How is technology supporting agriculture in Saskatchewan?
- What careers are available within this industry for young adults?
- How can we get students to better understand where their food comes from?
- How can we promote sustainable agriculture practices?
- How has agriculture changed over the years?



*"I am very excited for this opportunity. I think incorporating Agriculture into the classroom is very important as a Saskatchewan educator. Though I currently lack the knowledge to do so, I am eager to learn, to share what I learn and to grow as a teacher and knowledge keeper."*





## Day 1

### **TD3L Hull Ranch, Kangro Gardening, Chicken Farmers of Saskatchewan Presentation at the Gallagher Centre**

On the first day of the tour, the Saskatoon and area teachers met at the AITC office for a small breakfast before loading the bus and heading to Regina. After a quick stop to pick up the Regina and area teachers, we headed to Yorkton to meet the rest of the teachers.

Our first stop at TD3L Hull Ranch allowed teachers to learn more about cattle farming. Levi Hull, also a member of Saskatchewan Cattle Association, talked to teachers about his family's operation. The group was able to visit a corn field that Hull's will eventually use for feed, watch a stock dog herd cattle out of and back into their pen, and learn more about processes like preg checking, administering antibiotics, and more.



The next stop was Kangro Gardening, a herbicide and pesticide-free vegetable garden just outside of Yorkton. There, teachers got to tour the greenhouses and see a variety of vegetables, including tomatoes, lettuce, peppers, and more. The group also got to learn about why Kangro is herbicide and pesticide-free and how they limit greenhouse pests without pesticides.



Back in Yorkton, teachers had the opportunity to enjoy a presentation from Chicken Farmers of Saskatchewan. During the presentation, teachers watched a virtual barn tour led by CFOS Board Member, Tiffany Martinka, which featured valuable information including their own family's chicken operation. Then, teachers had the opportunity to participate in an in-person Q&A with chicken farmer and SCIDF Committee Chair Brad Beaver, Communications and Producer Programs Manager Frank Cuevas, and Production Manager/OFFSP & ACP Auditor Nicole Shaw.



Back at the hotel in Yorkton, teachers had the chance to participate in a demo of AITC's From the Ground Up, a simulation game that demonstrates the complexity of farming in Saskatchewan.



## Day 2

### Rocky Mountain Equipment, Fedoruk Seeds, Howland's Honey, SaskMilk Presentation at Rawhides

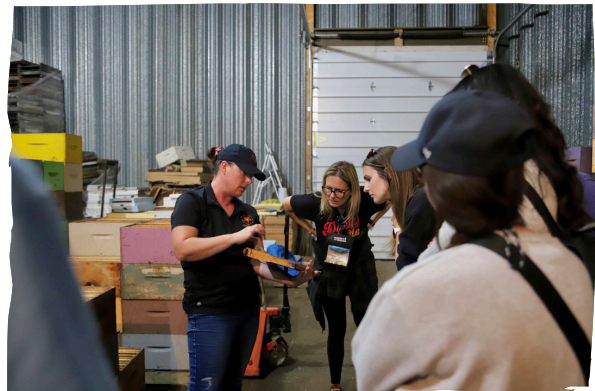
Day two started with a trip to RME's Yorkton location. Sales Manager Kyle Herperger led a presentation detailing the history of RME, along with the services it offers in various locations throughout the province and western Canada. Teachers were then invited to ask questions and learn more about various roles at RME. After the Q&A period, the group got to tour their facility, including their showroom and parts and service departments, and see some state-of-the-art equipment up close!



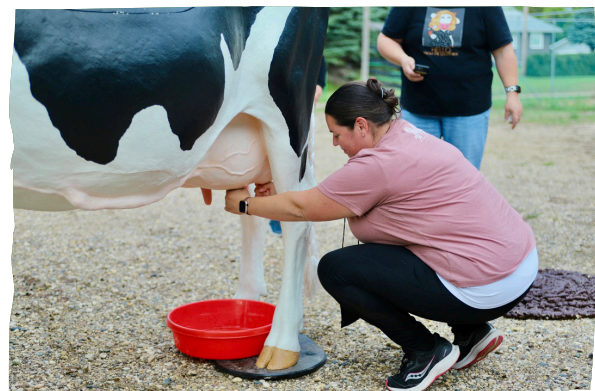
From there, the group headed to Fedoruk Seeds, near Kamsack. Rod and Cathy Fedoruk, along with their son Michael, led an extensive and in-depth tour of their farm. The teachers learned about what it means to grow, process, and sell pedigree seeds and were able to tour the facilities. They were also taken to a test plot to see and learn about different varieties of wheat, canola, peas, and oats. Representatives from Richardson Pioneer in Yorkton were on-site to lead this learning.



Howland's Honey was the next stop. Thanks to Sasha Howland, the group was given a thorough tour of the facility, getting to watch how the honey is brought in from the hives, extracted, packaged, and stored. The teachers also got to learn about the bees themselves, including processes like making honey, laying eggs, picking new queens, and more.



For the final presentation of the day, teachers got to hear from Marketing & Community Engagement Manager Bre Eberle and Field Services Manager Tina Leverton with SaskMilk. With the help of their demo cow, Bre and Tina taught teachers about dairy cows and what it is like to run a dairy operation. They also explained the rules and regulations that govern dairy production in Canada and Saskatchewan. Teachers even got to make their own butter during the presentation!





### Day 3

#### Big Country Bison, TA Foods

To kickstart the final day, teachers met with Derek Shankowsky, a bison farm from Pelly, Saskatchewan. On the side of the road, mere feet away from a pasture with roaming bison, Derek taught the group all about bison farming, including what day-to-day and yearly operations look like, how bison differ from cattle, and how the demand for bison meat has fluctuated over the years.



TA Foods hosted the last tour. The group began at their bulk processing plant for a tour. Then, they headed to the packaging facility and the head office. Here, the teachers were able to better understand the magnitude of a facility like TA Foods and how they turn local ingredients into the products that we see on the shelves at our grocery stores.



### The Food

Throughout the tour, teachers also enjoyed a variety of great meals and Saskatchewan snacks. Each menu showcased ingredients proudly produced in our province, including chicken, oats, pulses, pork, beef, canola, dairy, and bison. These local foods highlighted the diversity of Saskatchewan agriculture while giving participants a true taste of what our farmers provide.

Some snacks that teachers got to try included: Dosch Organic Acres Wheat Crunch (Willow Bunch), Todd's Egg-cellent Protein Puffs (Saskatoon), Three Farmers (Midale/Saskatoon/Yorkton), Canadian Prairie Bison Pemmican (Canwood/Saskatoon), and Cowboy's Caviar (Moose Jaw).



Some foods that teachers enjoyed as part of their suppers included: Lemon and herb crusted chicken, roasted brisket with gravy, grilled pork tenderloin with peppercorn sauce, traditional lentil soup, various salads and potatoes, a selection of rolls and dinner buns, and a variety of local vegetables.





## The Impact

Each year, the goal of the Teacher Agricultural expedition is to give educators from across Saskatchewan a deeper understanding and appreciation of agriculture through meaningful connections with industry professionals. This year's three-day journey spanned over 1400 kilometers and offered teachers the chance to meet with a wide range of experts. At every stop, participants engaged in conversations and hands-on experiences that highlighted our province's innovative, sustainable, and globally recognized agricultural sector. Participants frequently highlighted the variety of operations they visited, the engaging hosts, and the valuable takeaways from each experience.

**"I now have a better understanding about the regulations for food production in Canada. From crops to milk to meat, I feel better and safer about the food I eat. I will continue to choose Canadian-made and grown food products."**

What stood out most was the excitement that the teachers brought back with them. While those from the Yorkton area expressed interest in revisiting the farms and agri-businesses with their classes or inviting the professionals in to speak to the students, even teachers from other areas of the province found it valuable. Many expressed plans to weave agriculture into their teaching by drawing on what they had learned over the three-day expedition. A number of teachers also discussed sharing what they learned with colleagues in their schools. Experiences like this reinforce how vital educators are in sparking curiosity about agriculture and showing students the importance of the industry in Saskatchewan and beyond.

**"I will work to increase student knowledge of products grown in Canada, the nutritional value of whole foods, and how they can play a future role in food security through career exploration."**





## The Outcome

We received nineteen responses from the twenty-two teachers who attended the expedition. All of the teachers who responded to the survey indicated that they left the trip with an increased knowledge and understanding of agriculture and are planning to share what they have learned with at least one other peer/educator. Teachers also provided testimonials that speak directly to the impact the tour had on them as individuals and educators. Many commented that they found it informative and that the information they received was far more extensive than they would have imagined.

The following are just some of the testimonies from the teachers who attended the Expedition:

“I didn’t know all the steps and regulations required by farmers, from getting their seeds, planting, spraying, harvesting and then processed. I didn’t know about all the technology that is available to help farmers and all the advances made.”

“Even though I grew up in small town Saskatchewan, there is so much that I didn’t know about the “behind the scenes” of agriculture. Learning about the new technology that is coming into agriculture was also so eye-opening.”

“TONS of new information. The names of equipment, the levels of management and the job opportunities within the industry, the inner workings of a cattle/bison farm, all of the meticulous rules and regulations that each business has to follow, and so much more.”

“I was able to establish local connections to producers that I am able to easily access for hands on experience and field trips. Being able to experience where the ‘magic’ happens firsthand is undeniably valuable for students.”

“I plan on teaching my home ec students more about food traceability and using more local products and showing them on a map where it was grown/produced.”

The annual AITC Teacher Expedition was another great success. The impact this unique and transformative professional development opportunity has on teachers personally and professionally will be evident for years to come. We want to sincerely thank our various sponsors for contributing to these valuable learning experiences for educators across our province. Thank you!



The Teacher Agriculture Expedition would not be possible without you.

## THANK YOU SPONSORS!

### GOLD



### SILVER

