

AGRICULTURE ROUNDUP - ZENTNER ADVISES ON TRADE WITH CHINA

Agriculture Roundup for Tuesday Feb.11, 2020

Today is the fourth annual Canada Agriculture Day. The theme is Forks Up For Canadian Agriculture.

Events include school students in Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver listening to stories and getting to know from farmers about the advantages of Canadian-made products.

Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Marie-Claude Bibeau will be marking the day in Ottawa, where she will provide remarks at the national event.

Agriculture and agri-food accounts for one in eight jobs in Canada.

The agriculture minister said one option for farmers facing high costs from the carbon tax for grain drying is to improve the business risk programs.

Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan released a report showing the carbon tax will cost farmers \$8,000 to \$10,000 this year.

Bibeau welcomed the report after asking for more details on the costs of the carbon tax.

She did not provide a time frame for when a decision would be made but said it is a top priority.

New figures show the Manitoba economy took a big hit last year when China banned Canadian canola and pork products.

Federal statistics show Manitoba's exports to China plummeted by 42 per cent in 2019.

The province sold the Chinese \$531 million worth of goods which was down from \$1.2 billion dollars in 2018.

Gustavo Zentner, head of a trade consultancy in Winnipeg, said he's not surprised by the embargo's effects, but he wasn't expecting such a large drop.

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