



## SAI PLATFORM ANNUAL EVENT 2026

### Tour Summary: TOUR 3: Integrated Dairy to Sustainable Cropping at Scale

22nd - 24th June 2026



## Summary

### Rayner Dairy Research and Teaching Facility (University of Saskatchewan)

Opened in 2013, the Rayner Dairy Research and Teaching Facility is one of Canada's premier centers for dairy research, education, and technology demonstration. Operating on the university campus, it accommodates approximately 100 lactating cows and features advanced production systems including both traditional parlor and automated robotic milking systems.

Attendees will get a firsthand look at how academia and industry collaborate to shape the future of livestock production. Key research at the facility focuses on data-driven management, animal welfare, precision agriculture, advanced dairy nutrition, and the development of green technologies to lower environmental footprints.

**Website:** [agbio.usask.ca](http://agbio.usask.ca)

### Plumblossom Farms

Plumblossom Farms is operated by Art and Elaine Pruijm, recipients of Canada's Outstanding Young Farmer award. This stop highlights how leading producers are integrating advanced technologies across diversified farming practices from milking systems to herd management, while maintaining a strong focus on genetic improvement and long-term productivity. A BBQ lunch featuring Plumblossom's very own beef will be provided on site.

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## Summary

### Doerksen Farms

Doerksen Farms, is a diversified and highly technified operation with a strong emphasis on diverse pulse production, including beans, lentils, chickpeas, and clover, alongside canola, wheat, hemp, and forages. This stop will highlight practical applications of precision agriculture, including 4R nutrient management, variable rate technology, irrigation strategies, and next-generation air seeding systems. It offers a grounded look at how innovation is being implemented in real time to support productivity, sustainability, and regenerative outcomes.

Chad loves working with soil, seeing it as a living, breathing organism that demands care and attention to sustain his family and grow strong plants. A tablespoon of his soil sustains over 6 billion organisms, working together. With full time agronomists on staff monitoring and measuring every aspect of production, Chad ensures the sustainability of his operation and that land that enables it.

### Black Fox Farm & Distillery

As the final stop for all four paths, Black Fox Farm & Distillery stands as Saskatchewan's premier estate distillery, internationally recognized for crafting luxury Canadian gin and whisky. Founded by fifth-generation farmers and celebrated as recipients of Canada's Outstanding Young Farmers recognition in , Black Fox is built on a profound connection to the soil and a deep respect for agricultural heritage. Operating across 160 acres of pristine prairie, 95% of the ingredients used in their spirits are grown directly on-site.

The distillery leverages Saskatchewan's dramatic climate and temperature fluctuations to rest and age its spirits under open prairie skies, giving them a distinctively bold flavor profile. Beyond world-class flavor, Black Fox is an industry leader in sustainability and environmental stewardship. The operation champions eco-friendly practices by reusing nearly 95% of its process water, composting 100% of spent grains back into their orchards, and prioritizing green energy to minimize its environmental footprint.

**Website:** [blackfoxfarmanddistillery.com](https://blackfoxfarmanddistillery.com)

## Day Itinerary

Arrival and departure times are approximate based on weather, traffic and road conditions. Bus loading time is limited to 15 minutes. Tour stream buses will be leaving Black Fox Distillery at different intervals should anyone want to leave earlier or stay later.

6:30 am - 7:45 am	Breakfast at Delta Hotels Saskatoon Downtown
8:00 am	Load Bus from Delta Hotels Saskatoon Downtown
8:15 am	Depart from Delta Hotels Saskatoon Downtown
8:45 am	Arrive at the University of Saskatchewan: Rayner Dairy Research and Teaching Facility   University of Saskatchewan Crop Development Centre (CDC) & Forage Tour
10:00 am	Depart University of Saskatchewan
10:45 am	Arrive at Doerksen Farms
12:15 pm	Begin loading bus
12:30 pm	Depart Doerksen Farms
12:50 pm	Arrive at Plumblossom Farms & BBQ Lunch
3:00 pm	Begin loading bus
3:15 pm	Depart Plumblossom Farms
4:00 pm	Arrive at Black Fox Farm & Distillery
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Black Fox Farm & Distillery Tour
5:00 pm	Welcome from Black Fox and Networking
6:00 pm	Depart Black Fox Farm & Distillery
6:15 pm	Arrive back at Delta Hotels Saskatoon Downtown