



CAAIN + **RCAIA**

connect
create
cultivate

connecter
créer
cultiver

Building on the Past; Looking to the Future

ANNUAL REPORT
2025-2026



Vision

We are Canada's leading agtech network and innovation catalyst.

Mission

CAAIN is the centre of Canadian agtech, investing in data-driven innovation and automation to ensure Canadian agriculture thrives in a connected world.

Values

- Community
- Accountability
- Respect
- Excellence

Board of Directors

- Laura Kilcrease (Chair)
- Micheline Ayoub
- David Bailey
- Stuart Cullum
- Joe Dales
- Bethany Deshpande
- Cornelia Kreplin
- Rory McAlpine
- Patricia McLeod
- Tim Nelson
- Chris Paterson
- Deb Stark
- Fred Wall
- Kallie Wood
- Rickey Yada

Shareholders

- Ian Potter
- Patrick Machacek
- Hubert Lau
- Marco Coppola

Team CAAIN

- Darrell Petras.....CEO
- Tracy Bowers..... Executive Assistant
- Douglas Mills..... Vice-President, External Relations
- Garson Law Program Director
- Patience Palmer..... Program Manager
- Elizabeth Widjaja..... Program Coordinator
- Julie Thibeault Finance Director
- Michelle Coady Finance Officer
- Eric Morin..... Communications & Marketing Director
- Ryan Furtas..... Manager, Business Development
- Preeti Choudhary Accounting Coordinator

As a national organization dedicated to advancing Canadian agricultural technology, CAAIN recognizes that our work spans the traditional territories of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples. We acknowledge that the lands on which we live and work have been cared for and stewarded by Indigenous communities since time immemorial. We are committed to learning from this history and to fostering respectful relationships that support sustainable agriculture and shared prosperity for future generations.

2025-2026 ANNUAL REPORT



Contents

- Message from the Chair 2
- Message from the CEO 4
- Expanded Reach 6
- New Projects in 2025-2026 7
- New Project Spotlight: 4AG 10
- 2025-2026 KPIs 11
- Projects Completed During 2025-2026 12
- 2025-2026 Events Round-Up 16
- CAAIN Program Funding Summary: All Projects 17
- CAAIN Program Funding Summary: Livestock Projects 17
- Cumulative KPIs 2020-2021 to 2025-2026 19
- Agtech Funding Map 19
- Appendix 20



Message from the Chair

“CAAIN will be a major player in the effort to ensure our nation’s farmers and ranchers have access to the best, most innovative technology possible.”

As I sit at my desk and reflect on CAAIN’s achievements—and by that, I mean our entire six-year journey, not merely what we accomplished in 2025-2026—I cannot help but look back at how far we have come in a relatively short period. We have gone from a concept doodled on a napkin to a highly respected supporter of Canadian agricultural technology R&D and commercialisation. As my time leading a truly remarkable Board of Directors draws to a close, I hope you will join me as I stroll down memory lane.

CAAIN’s success is deeply personal to me, as I led the original submission to the Government of Canada. In the six years since we submitted our application to Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED), we have undergone significant change highlighted by extraordinary progress.

We have grown from three employees and a CEO to a team of 10 producing important

results. Our organisational success and reputation for excellence have attracted interest and support from as far away as Great Britain, South and Central America, and South Korea, as well as grabbing the attention of the United Nations and a number of agriculture- and innovation-focused NGOs.

It is fair to say that while the original eight founding partners had high expectations for what CAAIN could accomplish, under the stewardship of our CEO, Darrell Petras, our little engine that could has become a locomotive that keeps picking up speed.

Consider just a few of our KPIs:

- We have supported 50 projects, and counting;
- CAAIN has invested, or committed to investing, \$38.9M+ in those projects;
- The total value of our 50 projects exceeds \$124.6M. In other words, our projects have



attracted \$85.7M in private capital, an average of \$1.71M per innovation; and,

- Our lead funding recipients are scattered across eight provinces, meaning we are truly national in scope and scale.

I feel very much like proud parents watching their child leave the nest to pursue their dreams. And I fully expect my child's next steps to be as impressive as those that saw CAAIN learn to walk!

It has been both pleasure and privilege to lead CAAIN. To all our Board members, past and present, thank you for your massive contributions to our success. To Darrell and his exceptional team, I can wish you nothing less than to continue raising the bar. In the years to come, agricultural technology will be a vital component of Canada's food security and sovereignty. And CAAIN will be a major player in the effort to ensure our nation's farmers and ranchers have access to the

best, most innovative technology possible. Finally, to ISED and our other Government of Canada partners, my deepest gratitude for your belief in us and our mission.

To our stakeholders across the agtech ecosystem, thank you for your support of, and interest in, the Canadian Agri-Food Automation and Intelligence Network.

Laura J. Kilcrease, C.M.A., MBA
Board Chair



Message from the CEO

“CAAIN is thriving, thanks to the support of our Government of Canada sponsors, the hard work and diligence of Team CAAIN, and the belief in us shown by Canada’s agricultural and technology communities.”

The 2025-26 fiscal year marked an important milestone for CAAIN as we celebrated five years of operation. This is a moment to reflect with pride on how far we have come, as evidenced by the facts and figures laid out in this report.

Our growth came in the form of three new, terrific, full-time team members—a Director of Strategic Partnerships, a Finance Officer, and a Program Coordinator. The addition of staff was necessary for two reasons, both of which were cause for celebration.

First, we added nine new projects, thereby taking our total to 50. This alone increased the significant responsibilities of our Finance and Programs teams. Second, thanks to the generous support

of Prairies Economic Development Canada (PrairiesCan), we were able to launch our much-anticipated *Prairies Agtech Validation Program*, a pilot that is especially meaningful because it further connects us directly with agricultural producers and technology companies to validate and demonstrate agtech solutions under real-world conditions—delivering results that producers can trust and adopt.

The good funding news did not stop there, as Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada awarded us \$4.9M to support the development and commercialization of green agtech, allowing us to launch an exciting new funding initiative called the *Clean Agtech Validation and Integration Program*.



The program also builds CAAIN's producer mentorship network, making producers available to innovative companies that may not otherwise have a relationship with the producer community.

CAAIN's strength lies in its network. This year, we looked beyond our borders, collaborating with the UK Agri-Tech Centre on a successful exchange program involving beef researchers and tech companies from the UK and a similar dairy cohort from Canada.

Closer to home, our third annual Fireside Chat welcomed 350 guests for a spirited discussion between the Honourable Kody Blois and Kim McConnell. Additionally, the growing strength of our brand was evident as our online community surpassed the 1,000-member milestone.

CAAIN is thriving, thanks to the support of our Government of Canada sponsors, the hard work and diligence of Team CAAIN, and the belief in us shown by Canada's agricultural and technology communities. As we move through 2026, we do so with the goal of matching—and exceeding—the excellence of the year past.

Thank you for your interest in the Canadian Agri-Food Automation and Intelligence Network.

Darrell Petras, P.Ag.
Chief Executive Officer

CAAIN's Expanded Reach

During 2025-2026, CAAIN was awarded funding by Prairies Economic Development Canada (PrairiesCan) and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC).

The PrairiesCan support allowed CAAIN to launch its *Prairie Agtech Validation Program*, an initiative designed to bring the latest advancements in digital agriculture directly to the farm. This will validate made-in-Canada solutions to the challenges facing our nation's agricultural producers.

CAAIN also received \$4.9M from AAFC to support the development of green agricultural technologies. The resulting *Clean Agtech Validation and Integration Program* will seek to help Canadian SMEs, farmers, and ranchers move clean agricultural technologies to commercialization—speeding the path from prototype to on-farm adoption and delivering measurable environmental benefits alongside productivity gains.



New Projects

In 2025-2026, CAAIN welcomed the following nine projects to our agtech innovation portfolio



AI-Powered Broadacre Farming Drought Severity Index

Project Lead
A.U.G. Signals Ltd.
Toronto, ON

CAAIN Investment
\$594,898

Project Lead: Chuhong Fei

Total Project Value
\$1,902,589

A CAAIN/ISED-funded project whose goal is to develop a crop-specific, phenology-sensitive Drought Severity Index for daily monitoring of crop drought stress at both regional and field-levels.



AI-Enabled Smart Trap System to Enhance Orchard Pest Management

Project Lead
CropVue Technologies
Surrey, BC

CAAIN Investment
\$106,467

Project Lead: Amy Jancewicz

Total Project Value
\$310,183

A CAAIN/ISED-funded project that aims to increase agricultural productivity and sustainability by reducing pesticide use, optimizing pest control efforts, and lowering operational costs for growers.



New Projects continued



AI-Driven Closed-Loop Nutrient Recovery for Quebec Pork Farms: Cutting Fertilizer Costs & Emissions via Smart Manure Transformation and Monitoring

Project Lead

Circulus Agtech Solutions Inc.
Montreal, QC

CAAIN Investment

\$500,000

Total Project Value

\$1,300,000

Project Lead: David Leroux

A CAAIN/ISED-funded project that proposes to deploy and validate a fully modular, on-farm manure treatment system developed by Circulus Agtech. The system integrates biological stabilization, solid-liquid separation, and membrane filtration to convert pig slurry into nitrate-rich biofertilizers, stabilized solids, and reusable clean water.



Digital Marketplace App to Modernize Livestock Feed Procurement

Project Lead

Ox + Plow Ag Inc.
Calgary, AB

CAAIN Investment

\$329,754

Total Project Value

\$989,966

Project Lead: Kevin Frankowski

A CAAIN/ISED-funded project focused on developing a digital platform that enables feed brokers, buyers, and nutritionists to connect seamlessly.





AI-Driven Dairy Cattle Health & Milk Assessment

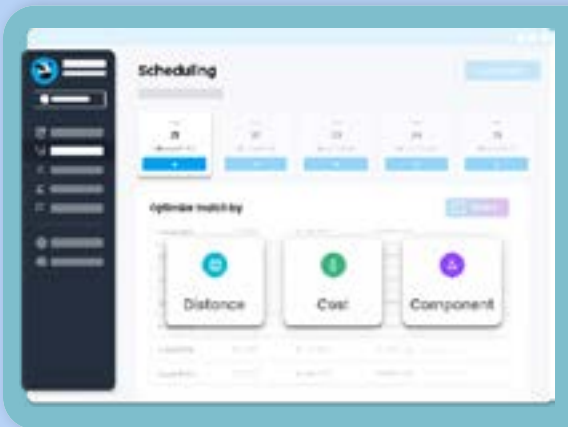
Project Lead
SomaDetect
Tillsonburg, ON

CAAIN Investment
\$145,033

Project Lead: Nicholas Clermont

Total Project Value
\$427,992

A CAAIN/ISED-funded project to advance SomaDetect's technology from Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 6-7 to TRL 8 or greater, enabling full-system demonstration in an operational farm setting.



Moove: AI-Powered Scheduling Automation for Dairy Logistics Optimization

Project Lead
Milk Moovement
Halifax, NS

CAAIN Investment
\$301,644

Project Lead: Jon King

Total Project Value
\$1,164,375

A CAAIN/ISED-funded project that is developing an AI-powered scheduling tool designed to transform raw milk transportation logistics and processor throughput across the dairy supply chain.



Testing and Validation of an AI-Powered Automated Chicken Sorting System Across Canada

Lead Organization
Chick Pick Solutions Inc.
Fredericton, NB

CAAIN Investment
\$274,522

Project Lead: Ryan Whitney

Total Project Value
\$728,365

A CAAIN/ISED-funded project that will develop and validate an AI-powered chick-sorting system that automates one of the last manual processes in poultry hatcheries: sorting day-old chicks by sex.



Digitizing Fomite Contact Tracing to Mitigate Pathogen Spread in Agriculture

Project Lead
Farm Health Guardian
Guelph, ON

CAAIN Investment
\$227,606

Project Lead: Rob Hannam

Total Project Value
\$690,667

A CAAIN/ISED-funded project that will develop improved disease mapping and prediction tools, control zone monitoring, and communications technology for the Canadian poultry sector.

New Project Spotlight

Development of 4AG+ (New Solution) Using Computer Vision, Sensors, and AI to Optimize Yield and Quality, While Reducing CO2 Emissions for Canadian Mushroom Farms



The 4AG (pronounced “forage”) Robotics project aims to revolutionize mushroom farming through an advanced vision-guided robot system for 24/7 harvesting, processing, and packing.

By integrating AI and robotics, the system addresses labour shortages, optimizes yields, and detects diseases. Key innovations include real-time analytics, growth tracking, climate control, and precision harvesting.

This technology enhances productivity, reduces crop loss, and supports sustainable farming, boosting the global competitiveness of Canadian mushroom producers.



Project Lead:
4AG Robotics Inc. | Salmon Arm, BC

CAAIN Investment \$1,554,156
Total Project Value \$4,656,585

2025-2026 KPIs



INNOVATION & RESEARCH

Focus: R&D progress, product development, funding programs

- 62 new/improved products developed
- 26 products commercialized
- \$12,780,850 follow-on investment
- 5 funding competitions launched
- 85 proposals received in response to funding calls
- \$4.9M clean agtech funding from AAFC
- Signed a contribution agreement with PrairiesCan, allowing the launch of the *Prairie Agtech Validation Program*



TALENT DEVELOPMENT

Focus: Job creation and workforce development

- 64 highly skilled FTEs created
- 288 high quality FTEs maintained



NETWORK GROWTH

Focus: Community building and digital reach

- Online community reached 1,000 members
- Redeveloped CAAIN website



COMMUNITY & OUTREACH

Focus: Public engagement, storytelling, visibility

- 21 speaking engagements for CAAIN staff
- 14 earned media stories
- 3 podcast episodes; 1,096 views and downloads
- 2 events hosted



Completed Projects

In 2025-2026 CAAIN successfully wrapped up
10 of our funded projects.



Harvesting Automation: Reducing the Requirement for Highly Skilled Labour During the Harvest of Broad-Acre Cash Crops

Project Lead
MacDon Industries
Winnipeg, MB

CAAIN Contribution
\$3,839,381

Total Project Value
\$9,351,260

A project focused on developing AI-based technology that will make the process of harvesting broad-acre crops more efficient and more profitable.



Feasibility of an Autonomous Solution for Optimized Application of Livestock Manure

Project Lead
Haggerty AgRobotics
Bothwell, ON

CAAIN Contribution
\$508,415

Total Project Value
\$1,511,878

A project to design a commercial autonomous farming system to apply liquid livestock manure in fields and on crops.



Commercialization of IoT and AI for Carcass Cooling to Improve Meat Profitability, Quality and Food Safety

Project Lead
mode40
Steinbach, MB

CAAIN Contribution
\$465,311

Total Project Value
\$1,376,750

A project focused on automating carcass cooling to improve meat quality.



Autonomous Tractor Kit for Enabling Autonomous Farm Implement Operation

Project Lead
Mojow Autonomous Solutions
White City, SK

CAAIN Contribution
\$682,028

Total Project Value
\$2,225,680

A project to develop and test technology enabling truly autonomous farm tool operation.



Completed Projects continued

The Development of the First Reliable In-Field Automated Real-Time Nitrate Sensors for Advanced Nitrogen Management, to Support Data-Driven Decision-Making to Optimize Production and Reduce GHG Emissions

Project Lead

Chrysalabs Inc
Montreal, QC

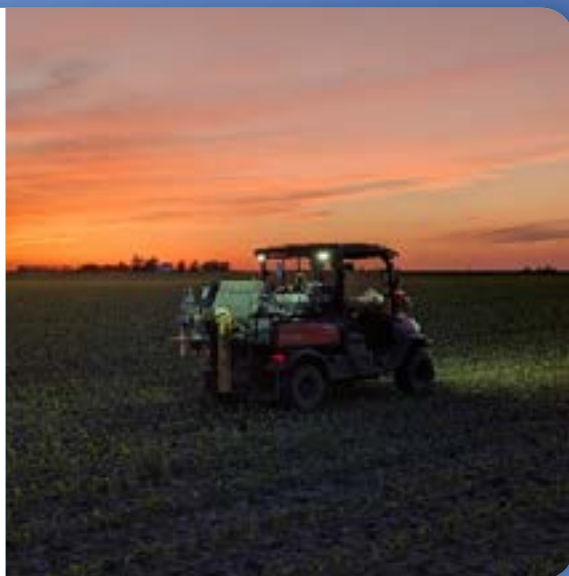
CAAIN Contribution

\$560,070

Total Project Value

\$2,391,302

A project to develop an automated solution for real-time, in-field mapping of nitrate concentrations.



SOIL-HUB: A Data Coordination Centre to Aid Data-Driven Decision-Making for Canada's Crop Farmers

Project Lead

Metabolomics Innovations Inc
Lake Newell Resort, AB

CAAIN Contribution

\$86,667

Total Project Value

\$388,648

A project focused on creating an app providing prairie farmers with access to AI-based predictive modeling.



Field to Glass – The Next Generation of Barley Traceability

Project Lead

Grain Discovery
Picton, ON

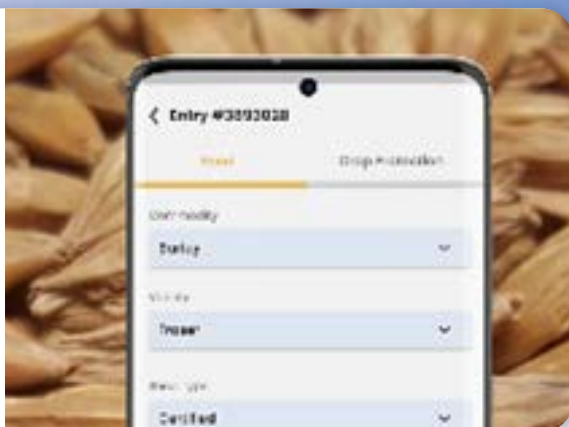
CAAIN Contribution

\$478,888

Total Project Value

\$1,611,524

A project that used blockchain to allow barley and brewing industry stakeholders to differentiate their products.



Prescriptive Beekeeping: Leveraging Artificial Intelligence to Automate the Management of a Beekeeping Operation to Maximize Honeybee Colony Survival Rates and Business Profitability

Project Lead

Nectar Technologies Inc.
Montreal, QC

CAAIN Contribution

\$732,353

Total Project Value

\$2,276,554

A project to develop AI-based automated management of commercial beekeeping operations in a field setting.



Data-Driven Dormant Apple Tree Pruning and Tree Vigour Models to Improve Farm Outcomes

Project Lead

Vivid Machines
Toronto, ON

CAAIN Contribution

\$820,164

Total Project Value

\$2,443,006

A project allowing growers to make data-driven pruning decisions, maximizing yield, quality, and tree health.



Application of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Technologies for Improved Welfare and Productivity in Commercial Sow Barns

Project Lead

Centre de développement
du porc du Québec
Lévis, QC

CAAIN Contribution

\$191,487

Total Project Value

\$635,117

A project focused on applying AI to improve the resilience and sustainability of Canadian sow barns.



2025-2026 Events Round-Up

CAAIN's rapidly growing brand depends on, among other elements, the core function of serving as a connector - fostering collaboration among myriad agtech stakeholders across Canada and, occasionally, internationally. One of the ways CAAIN does this is to host, sponsor, speak at, and/or attend stakeholder gatherings. Among the many events in which Team CAAIN participated, the following three stand out for their format, audience, or focus:

Twin Pastures

In 2025, CAAIN was invited by the UK Agri-Tech Centre (UKATC) to participate in a livestock/dairy exchange program whereby in November 2025, a small cohort of British livestock/dairy professionals would tour commercial and research operations in Alberta and Saskatchewan. A UK leg would see a group of Canadians tour British facilities in early February. The program was so successful that the UKATC has reached out to CAAIN about another project that will build transoceanic relationships between the Canadian and UK agricultural and agtech sectors.

ALL IN AI

In September 2025, CAAIN CEO, Darrell Petras, was invited to serve as a jury member for an AI-Agtech pitch competition at Scale AI's ALL IN artificial intelligence conference in Montreal. The pitch competition and agtech roundtable, supported by Global Affairs Canada and the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization, offered an opportunity to promote the importance of AI in the agriculture sector and to CAAIN's projects.

Fireside Chat

The third annual CAAIN Fireside Chat, held on February 9, 2026, continued to build on the momentum created by the 2024 and 2025 editions. It featured CAAIN's regular host, Kim McConnell, in conversation with The Honourable Kody Blois, one of Prime Minister Carney's two parliamentary secretaries. As good as the first two evenings were, number 3 was extraordinary for various reasons, not the least of which was the rapt attention of an audience of about 350 people. You could literally have heard a pin drop.

For a full listing of sponsored or hosted events and/or speaking engagements, see the appendix.



CAAIN Program Funding Summary: ALL PROJECTS

Program Status	Program Name	# of projects	CAAIN \$	Industry \$	Total Project Value
Completed	2020 Core Partner Competition	9	\$14,327,272	\$15,649,969	\$29,977,241
Completed	2021 Open Competition	7	\$3,051,236	\$4,576,854	\$7,628,090
Completed	2022 Open Competition	6	\$5,597,460	\$8,406,188	\$14,003,648
Active	Beef & Pork Primary Processing Competition	2	\$3,438,962	\$5,158,442	\$8,597,404
Active	2023 Livestock Competition	5	\$2,116,604	\$3,174,906	\$5,291,510
Active	2023 Open Competition	6	\$3,972,665	\$5,958,996	\$9,931,661
Completed	Smart Farm Network Competition	1	\$86,667	\$130,000	\$216,667
Active	2024 Open Competition	5	\$2,287,745	\$3,431,617	\$5,719,362
Active	2025 Broadacre Competition	1	\$594,898	\$892,346	\$1,487,244
Active	2025 Livestock Competition	4	\$1,147,161	\$1,720,742	\$2,867,903
Active	2025 Open Competition	3	\$1,990,377	\$2,985,564	\$4,975,941
Active	2025 Primary Food Processing Competition	1	\$301,644	\$452,466	\$754,110
	Total	50	\$38,912,691	\$52,538,090	\$91,450,781

CAAIN Program Funding Summary: LIVESTOCK PROJECTS

Program Status	Program Name	# of projects	CAAIN \$	Industry \$	Total Project Value
Completed	2020 Core Partner Competition	1	\$1,326,888	\$1,326,889	\$2,653,777
Completed	2021 Open Competition	4	\$935,857	\$1,403,786	\$2,339,643
Completed	2022 Open Competition	1	\$508,415	\$762,622	\$1,271,037
Active	Beef & Pork Primary Processing Competition	2	\$3,438,962	\$5,158,442	\$8,597,404
Active	2023 Livestock Competition	5	\$2,116,604	\$3,174,906	\$5,291,510
Active	2023 Open Competition	3	\$1,819,462	\$2,729,193	\$4,548,655
Completed	Smart Farm Network Competition	0			\$-
Active	2024 Open Competition	0			\$-
Active	2025 Broadacre Competition	0			\$-
Active	2025 Livestock Competition	4	\$1,147,161	\$1,720,742	\$2,867,903
Active	2025 Open Competition	0			\$-
Active	2025 Primary Food Processing Competition	0			\$-
	Total	20	\$11,293,349	\$16,276,580	\$27,569,929

Cumulative KPIs 2020-21 to 2025-26

\$38.9M

committed to:

50 projects

generating \$85.7M
private-sector investment,

and contributing to
two multi-billion-dollar
unicorn transactions,

leading to \$500M+
follow-on economic activity,

and/or supporting the creation of
maintenance of over 500
highly-skilled full-time positions

and numerous international awards and considerable domestic recognition received by CAAIN funding recipients.

Agtech FUNDING MAP



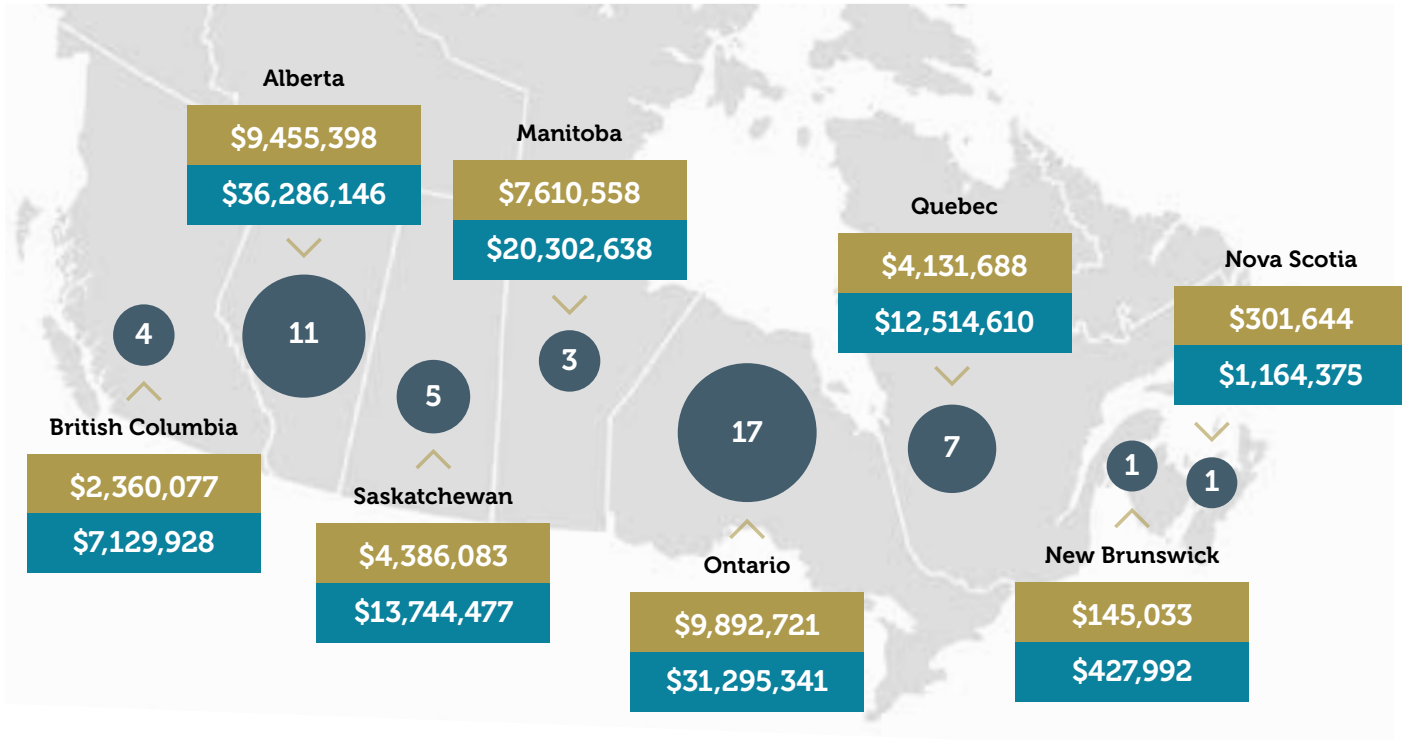
Number of Projects



CAAIN Investment



Total Value



Appendix

Speaking Engagements/Events Hosted or Sponsored

May 2025

Innovate Calgary Ag-Tech Days #4: Strong Agriculture, Strong Canada | Calgary, AB
Simpson Centre's Promoting Digitalization in Crop and Beef Production | Edmonton, AB

June 2025

CSA Agriculture and Agri-Food Strategic Steering Committee | Ottawa, ON
Food and Beverage Canada Skills and Workforce Development: The Building Blocks for a Resilient Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food Sector | Toronto, ON
Inter American Institute on Cooperation on Agriculture | Olds, AB

July 2025

AgRise | Winnipeg, MB July 16
Canadian Federation of Agriculture | Winnipeg, MB
2025 Sponsorship of AgTech Breakfast at Ag in Motion | Langham, SK

August 2025

United Farmers of Alberta Delegates Meeting | Red Deer, AB
Agroknow/HEC Workshop: AI Innovations for Safer Food Supply Chains | Montreal, QC

September 2025

Sponsorship of AgTech Breakfast at Canada's Outdoor Farm Show | Woodstock, ON
Coffee Networking at Canada's Outdoor Farm Showing | Woodstock, ON
Langley Chamber: Foodtech Forum | Langley, BC
ALL IN 2025 | Montreal, QC
Getting Research into Practice (GRIP) Roundtable organized by LRIC | Guelph, ON

October 2025

Canadian Science Policy Conference | Ottawa, ON
Ag Manufacturers of Canada 2025 Expo and Trade Show | St. Catharines, ON
CAAIN Networking Event | Winnipeg, MB
Global Smart Agriculture AI Vision Forum | Seoul, South Korea (remote)

November 2025

Royal Agricultural Winter Fair | Toronto, ON
CMC Microsystems: Canada's Semiconductor Symposium | Vancouver, BC
Canadian Association of Agri-Retailers (CAAR) | Saskatoon, SK
Twin Pastures UK & Canada Livestock Innovation Exchange | Various locations in AB, SK

February 2026

Twin Pastures UK & Canada Livestock Innovation Exchange Return Leg | Various locations in the UK
Northern Ontario Agriculture Conference | Sudbury, ON
CAAIN Fireside Chat & Networking Evening | Ottawa, ON
Canadian Federation of Agriculture AGM | Ottawa, ON





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