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Canadian farmers' strategies adapting to droughts, floods



FIGHTING THE CLIMATE

Adaptation practices – which tend to be costly and require cutting-edge technologies – have enabled many farmers to ride out a drought that began in 2020. PHOTOS BY ED WHITE/REUTERS

Ed White REUTERS

WAWANESA, Manitoba – When farmer Simon Ellis first drove his combine into his 2025 crop, he expected “catastrophic failure,” after a season of flooding followed by a long drought.

But instead of shriveled kernels, plump seeds of wheat, oats and soybeans poured into his combine.

Ellis, 38, a fourth-generation farmer in Wawanesa, Manitoba, credits investments in pricey systems including minimum and zero-till farming which help protect soil; tile drainage, an underground system to prevent flooding; slow-release fertilizer pellets, which are more effective; and advice from a professional agronomist on weedkillers.

“We are constantly making little tweaks,” he said. “That’s how we’re going to be able to keep fighting the changing climate.”

Across much of western Canada, farmers like Ellis have been turning out strikingly better crops despite hotter and drier conditions – far above what farmers in the region could have expected in better conditions years ago, according to Canadian government data, thanks in part to widespread embrace of climate adaptation strategies.

While greater yields in Canada and elsewhere are depressing global prices for grains, they are keeping many farmers in business.

Record harvests despite drought

Adaptation practices – which tend to be costly and require cutting-edge technologies – have enabled many farmers to ride out a

See FARMERS, Page 3A



Komie Hossini of Bayer examines test plots of camelina, a drought-resistant oilseed, at his company's research farm near Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada, on July 16, 2025.

Polls: Strike on Venezuela splits U.S.

GOP hawks cheer as Democrats decry raid

Phillip M. Bailey
USA TODAY

President Donald Trump’s strike on Venezuela has evenly split the country: Republican hawks are cheering the Jan. 3 raid that dragged President Nicolás Maduro to New York to face criminal drug charges, while Democrats question whether constitutional rules and international laws were broken.

“We saw a president that had a backbone that stood up and did something that other presidents in the past wouldn’t even dream of doing,” Sen. Markwayne Mullin, R-Oklahoma, said in a Jan. 5 video. “We showed the might and the ability of the United States to go into your backyard and

See VENEZUELA, Page 4A

Experts weigh in on ICE use of force

Christopher Cann
USA TODAY

The Jan. 7 fatal shooting of a woman in Minneapolis by an Immigration and Customs Enforcement agent has spurred questions around the use of force by federal agents, especially as the Trump administration expands its deportation efforts.

Video circulating online shows multiple law enforcement officers approaching Renee Nicole Good’s SUV, which was stopped in the middle of a street, where demonstrators had gathered that morning to protest heightened immigration enforcement.

Footage shows one officer

See ICE, Page 4A



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