

SASKATCHEWAN Farmers' Voice

FALL 2020 - 20TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION



**FOUNDING
PRESIDENT**
Terry Hildebrandt
on the creation
of APAS

**Rural Connectivity
TASK FORCE**

**PROVINCIAL
ELECTION**
Priorities for
Agriculture

PLUS:
An APAS Historical Timeline
Farm Dogs of SK

Unlimited data & Smart Wi-Fi.

Only with Access**Rural Internet**



Sign up today and receive **FREE** basic installation!*

myaccess.ca/rural | 1-866-363-2225

This service is only available where technology permits and requires connectivity to an Access fixed-wireless tower. An Access technician will visit your home to locate the best signal and determine availability of services and packages at your location. *\$0 promotional fee for basic installation with 12-month commitment (reg. \$349). If installation requirements go beyond the scope of a basic installation, additional fees may apply. Visit myaccess.ca/rural for more details.



GROWING AGRICULTURE
2020 Saskatchewan Provincial Election Forum

PRESENTED BY:



The provincial election is on October 26. From October 19 to 25, tune in to Growing Agriculture on AccessNow TV and RealAgriculture.com.

Agricultural producers and political candidates will discuss the top issues for Saskatchewan farmers and ranchers. *Hosted by Shaun Haney of RealAgriculture.*

Watch on AccessNow TV

October 19–21 4:30–6:00 pm | 9:30–11:00 pm
October 22–25 7:00–8:30 pm

Watch on RealAgriculture.com

October 19–25

APAS.ca/growingagriculture

SPONSORED BY:



Published three times a year by:
Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan

Address:
3401a Pasqua Street, Regina, SK S4S 7K9

Contact:
info@apas.ca
306-789-7774 / 306-789-7779 (fax)

APAS Online:
www.apas.ca
Twitter: @AgProducersSk
Facebook: @APASask
Instagram: @agproducerssk
LinkedIn: APASask

The next issue of *Saskatchewan Farmers' Voice* will arrive in your farm mailbox in February 2021. Email info@apas.ca if you are not receiving a copy of *Saskatchewan Farmers' Voice* and would like to. Check out our online edition at apas.ca/farmersvoice.

APAS LEADERSHIP 2020

EXECUTIVE

President
Todd Lewis

Vice-Presidents
Ian Boxall | Bill Prybylski

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

District 1
Steven Donald | Wanda Reid

District 2
Terry Anthony | Todd Lewis

District 3
Don Connick | Devin Harlick

District 4
Ian Boxall | Bill Prybylski

District 5
Donavon Block | Mickey Palfy

District 6
Scott Owens | Jeremy Welter

STAFF

General Manager
Duane Haave

Assistant General Manager
Curtis Hemming

Policy Manager
Donovan Howden

Office Manager
Brenda McBride

Geoscience and Environment Researcher
Richard Boulding

**Communications Manager/Editor,
Saskatchewan Farmers' Voice**
Nikko Snyder

Administrative and IT Assistant
Roy Lamontagne

Policy Researcher
Brent Kobes

Summer Policy Researcher
Cassidy Bocek

BENCHMARK STAFF

Managing Partner
Pat Rediger

Graphic Designer
Diana Rapoport

Account Executives
Don Shalley | Karlie McGeough

Contents



Saskatchewan Farmers' Voice • Fall 2020

- 8 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF APAS
- 10 APAS 20TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL:
MESSAGES OF CONGRATULATION FROM APAS VOLUNTEERS
COVER STORY: APAS FOUNDING PRESIDENT TERRY
HILDEBRANDT ON THE BEGINNINGS OF APAS
A TIMELINE OF APAS: 20 YEARS OF SASKATCHEWAN'S
GENERAL FARM ORGANIZATION
- 21 FOUR WAYS TO SET YOURSELF UP FOR BUSINESS SUCCESS
- 22 RURAL CONNECTIVITY TASK FORCE
- 24 GROWING AGRICULTURE: 2020 PROVINCIAL ELECTION
PRIORITIES AND FORUM
- 28 APAS AT WORK
- 32 FARM DOGS OF SASKATCHEWAN
- 34 APAS RMS AND REPRESENTATIVES



A Message from Canada's Minister of Agriculture

Congratulations to the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan on its 20th year! I'm delighted to celebrate this milestone with you. APAS is a grassroots organization that has helped grow Saskatchewan farming into a global powerhouse and this year is a chance to reflect on your many successes.

The tremendous work that APAS does on behalf of farmers in Saskatchewan and beyond will be all the more vital as the world begins to recover from the shock of the COVID-19 pandemic. Saskatchewan has an innovative, sustainable, globally-competitive agriculture sector that is set to shine on the world stage while contributing to Canada's economic recovery, after helping provide Canadians with access to a stable and high-quality food supply during COVID-19. Through significant investments in measures to help producers manage cash-flow pressures, labour shortages and food surpluses through the crisis, our government is working hard to ensure the path is clear for farmers and food processors in Saskatchewan to do what they do best – put their innovative, safe and high-quality products on kitchen tables in Canada and around the globe. The sector is already showing signs of its resilience, posting solid gains in grain and pulse exports and record rail movement, thanks in part to our free trade agreements that cover over 60 per cent of the world's economy, our support of the growing plant protein sector including the Protein Industries Canada Supercluster, and our shared investments in crops and livestock research under the Agriculture Development Fund. The Saskatchewan agri-food industry will be critical in helping us meet our goal of \$75 billion in agriculture and food exports by 2025.

And to shape an inclusive future for the sector, we continue to support more women and young people in leadership roles, and recently launched the first-ever Canadian Agricultural Youth Council, including dynamic young members from Saskatchewan.

The unified voice of your organization has helped build Saskatchewan agriculture into a globally-competitive sector with the strength to lead. I will continue to work closely with Minister Marit and APAS to ensure that our great farmers in Saskatchewan have the tools they need to continue to grow our sector, including strong and responsive business risk management programs.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you for everything you do on behalf of Saskatchewan and Canada. Enjoy your 20th anniversary celebration!

Sincerely,

The Honourable Marie Claude Bibeau, PC, MP



A Message from the Premier

On behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan, I am pleased to congratulate the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS) on your 20th Anniversary.

Since 2000, APAS has given voice to Saskatchewan's farmers and ranchers. Advocating on behalf of agricultural producers to foster a respected, thriving agricultural sector, APAS positively influences agricultural and rural communities.

Saskatchewan's agriculture industry is the foundation of our economy. As the highest per-capita exporter of this nation, our province takes great pride in the agriculture sector's leading role in our trade relationships. We have what the world needs and our producers ensure our ability to provide safe, high-quality products to markets around the globe. Working with our producers, we will continue to support the growth of our agricultural industry and increase our access to new and existing markets.

In these unprecedented and challenging times, Saskatchewan producers are serving us well. The sacrifices you are making to accommodate the different guidelines to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 are very much appreciated.

I wish all Saskatchewan producers a safe and successful season and congratulate APAS again as you celebrate this milestone occasion.

The Honourable Scott Moe, MLA



A Message from the Leader of the Official Opposition

It's my honour to extend congratulations to the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan on your 20 years of hard work as the voice of farmers, farm families, and all those who benefit from agriculture in this province – which means, of course, all of us.

Growing up on a farm southwest of Moose Jaw, and more recently watching my brother Jim farm that same land, I've seen time and time again the pride our farm families take in their work, the stress they're under, and the positive contribution they – you – make to our communities, our province, and our country. We are only as strong as our agricultural roots, and with the risks of climate change, economic uncertainty and a global health emergency, that's more true today than ever.

So to the membership, Board and staff, thank you for serving as the voice of Saskatchewan farmers, heartfelt congratulations on your 20th anniversary, and here's to many more productive growing seasons to come.

Sincerely,

Ryan Meili, MLA



A Message from Saskatchewan's Minister of Agriculture

On behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan, I want to extend my sincere congratulations to the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS) on their 20th anniversary.

For two decades, APAS has served as the collective voice for Saskatchewan producers, advocating on their behalf. Your work has been an important part of ensuring that our industry is ready to take on the challenges of the next 20 years.

From transportation and international trade, to sustainability and energy issues, APAS has ensured that policy makers consider the perspectives of the individuals impacted by their decisions. APAS continues to engage with government to help ensure we create policy and programming that fits the needs of producers. Your organization plays an important role in helping advance issues for Saskatchewan's rural citizens.

Thank you for your 20 years of service to our province. We share the same goal – to create a thriving agricultural sector. I look forward to continuing to work alongside you for many more years to come.

The Honourable Dave Marit, MLA



A Message from the Canadian Federation of Agriculture

I'd like to warmly congratulate APAS on its 20th anniversary. One of the original reasons for the founding of APAS was so that Saskatchewan could have a general farm organization to join CFA and give a unified voice for the issues its farmers faced.

Since then, for these past two decades, CFA and APAS have worked together closely to represent the farmers of Saskatchewan, and bring their issues to provincial and federal governments. APAS is a key and pivotal member in our organization and we are proud to work alongside them, now and in the future.

Congratulations on your 20-year anniversary!

Mary Robinson, CFA President



A Message from the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities

SARM champions the value of rural Saskatchewan and we understand that agriculture is the backbone of our provincial economy.

We are the largest exporter of durum wheat, canola and pulse crops. And the second largest cattle producing province in the country.

Agriculture is a way of life in our province.

The landscape has changed over the course of the last century. And even more so with the COVID-19 pandemic causing concerns with supply chains and getting goods to market.

In times like these we recognize how essential this is in sustaining communities across the province, country, and world.

We'd like to recognize the 20th anniversary of the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan and their commitment to supporting Saskatchewan producers. And we look forward to continuing to work together to advance the agriculture industry.

Ray Orb, SARM President

Interest-bearing portion now at prime less 0.75%

YOU HAVE ENOUGH ON YOUR MIND.

Put it at ease with an Advance Payments Program cash advance.

Get the farm cash flow you **need** and the control you **want** to sell at the best time and the best price.

Our experienced team makes it easy to apply. Call 1-866-745-2256 or visit ccga.ca/cash

50+	\$100K	\$1M
Commodities	Interest-free	Maximum



Agriculture and
Agri-Food Canada

Advance Payments
Program

Agriculture et
Agroalimentaire Canada

Programme de
paiements anticipés

TRANSPORTATION
QUALITY
LABOUR
TRADE
CASH FLOW
WEATHER
MARKETS
TECHNOLOGY
SAFETY



Looking Ahead to the Next 20 Years

APAS celebrates two decades of advocating for Saskatchewan agriculture

BY TODD LEWIS



APAS President Todd Lewis.

In 2020, APAS is celebrating our 20th year. Our organization began to take shape in the fall of 1999, at a time when agriculture was facing a very serious income crisis. Producers were having a hard time getting governments to recognize the impacts of poor growing conditions and low prices caused by international trade wars, and some of them decided to found an organization to promote our industry.

Producers saw the need for an organization to provide a united provincial voice on agricultural policy on behalf of farmers and ranchers. These pioneer members worked hard to build support and APAS was incorporated in July of 2000. Our first General Meeting was held that December with representatives from 80 RMs. Many miles were travelled, many meetings were held, and many days of farm work were taken over by family members as our founders worked to get APAS off the ground.

In this 20th anniversary issue, APAS pays tribute to the men and women who put their hearts and souls into building our organization, and celebrates the hard work and achievements of hundreds of dedicated APAS Representatives since 2000.

Over the years, your voices as Saskatchewan producers have continued

to be heard because of those pioneers, and our current Board and elected Reps continue to set our priorities based on grassroots input from Saskatchewan producers.

Many of our active Reps have brought years of experience on RM councils and in other agricultural organizations to their work with APAS. They have brought their skill sets in practical problem-solving and in finding and proposing solutions, instead of just complaining. This "can do" attitude has made all the difference in our approach with provincial and federal governments. As we head into elections for our APAS Reps this November, I would like to offer our sincere thanks to retiring Reps for their dedicated service.

APAS continues to offer up solutions, and in preparation for the upcoming provincial election we have packaged up proposals for the political parties on ways to build on the successes of Saskatchewan agriculture (see page 24). We will engage with candidates and parties during the campaign and will continue to promote these key issues over the term of the next Legislature.

This year has made it very clear that agriculture is the engine of our provincial economy. While the COVID-19 pandemic has caused a severe financial down-

turn in other sectors, agriculture has held its own during 2020. We have been hard at work and our products continue moving to world markets, generating billions of dollars in economic activity, and supporting one in every eight Canadian jobs. Saskatchewan agriculture is a Canadian success story.

In a time of uncertainty, it is always good to look at what is working right. With empty store shelves earlier this spring, the pandemic may have been a wake-up call to urban consumers about how our food supply chain can be impacted by major events. It also demonstrated the resilience of agricultural producers and businesses in ironing out those problems and keeping Canadians supplied with food.

The food industry had major challenges with the shift from restaurants to meals at home, and many adjustments were needed to get things right.

We also saw impressive performance from our transportation industry in both getting our inputs and supplies delivered in time for production season, and in shipping our products to market. Hats off to our railroads and truckers.

As we wrap up harvest and look back at all the challenges, many of our producers are thankful for Canada's crop



Todd Lewis speaks to APAS Representatives.

development and public- and farmer-funded research systems. Despite several difficult growing seasons, we still have managed to pull off crops with yields and quality that would surprise our grandparents.

Governments have laid out ambitious plans for increased production and economic growth, and our system has responded to meet that challenge. As we go forward, we need to make sure we recognize the value of public investment, producer contributions, and the needs of growers in crop and variety development.

Producers have also noted some shortfalls in our infrastructure, and we are highlighting the importance of improvements.

Shortcomings in rural connectivity through cellular and internet coverage are hampering everyday life and our ability to do business in rural Saskatchewan.

We also need improved access to natural gas and three-phase electricity as the scale of farm business expands.

There are demands for our industry to continue its expansion to drive eco-

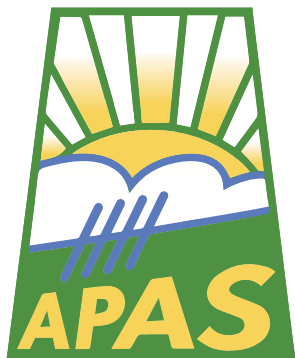
nommic growth. We are happy to do our best, but as producers we need society to accept a share of the increased risk in order to provide the shared benefits that everyone enjoys from that growth. We need to make sure our young and beginning producers have the programs they need to take over and succeed.

The next 20 years will have as many challenges as we've seen since 2000, and I am confident that APAS will continue to represent our sector through good times and bad.

Todd Lewis farms in Gray, SK.

2000

The original APAS logo.



2020

In 2020 APAS celebrates 20 years as Saskatchewan's general farm organization.



Happy Anniversary APAS!

Messages of congratulations from APAS volunteers, past and present, from around Saskatchewan

We're celebrating our 20th anniversary by catching up with some original, longtime, and more recent APAS volunteers to hear how they think APAS has contributed to Saskatchewan agriculture over the last 20 years.

Check out the online edition of *Farmers' Voice* for more interviews and statements from active APAS members.



“

Twenty years seems like a lightning flash. I salute the producers – vegetable, fruit, livestock and grain – as they take on the challenge to efficiently operate in a world based on “what the market will bear” and realize only a fraction of what their labour and investment should generate.

I would like to thank APAS Reps, Directors, Presidents, and staff over the years for their dedication to trying to increase the bottom line of producers. Congratulations to all involved in APAS and to the association. Keep up the good work!

“

– **Mervin Kryzanowski**, founding APAS Director (2000, 2013-2014) and longtime APAS Representative for the RM of Lakeview #337 (2000-2018)

The Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan plays a vital role in building a strong, connected agriculture sector in Saskatchewan that contributes to economic stability and mobility. A strong voice for agriculture is the key to a thriving farming community in a province that holds more than 40 per cent of Canada's cultivated farmland.

APAS is a democratically elected organization working for the people it serves, with Representatives from around the province having strong community ties and intimate local knowledge of issues and the best ways to address issues.

There is currently no other group that works for the producers of Saskatchewan the way that APAS does, and it creates a direct connection from the farm gate to the decision-making infrastructure in our province. In an era of growing needs and shrinking government resources, the people in rural Saskatchewan are often being asked to do more with less. APAS actively advocates to all levels of government to help producers strengthen the sector, which ultimately creates a more resilient economy that is good for everyone.

– **Angela Jones**, APAS Representative for the RM of Lakeview #337 (2018-present)



“

Happy Birthday APAS. Twenty years!

So much has happened in those years, to where today APAS is recognized as the voice for agriculture. It continues to represent farmers well. When we hear of the work being done on our behalf, we can be sure it is thoroughly researched and well presented.

Because APAS works hard at being non-partisan, it can and does meet with governments, no matter the political stripe. This indeed gives credibility, and also leaves doors open to accept resolutions and recommendations coming from the group.

I was proud to be a Representative for my RM and a Board Member for District 3. What a pleasure to work with people in an effort to make farming an occupation of choice.

We in the farming communities have much to thank the founders of APAS for. We can be confident that they do and will continue to have influence with municipal, provincial and federal governments to give farmers the best opportunities possible.

– **Dorothy Weetman**, former APAS Director (2011-2018) and Representative for the RM of Sask Landing #167 (2005-2018)

“

I strongly feel that producer knowledge and producer voices need to be at the largest farm policy table in Saskatchewan. Our agricultural industry has very unique challenges and elected decision-makers and other policy groups need to have a non-partisan voice like APAS to provide advice and consultation on agricultural issues.



I'm proud to be a positive, active advocate at that table, ensuring that our agricultural issues are known and understood as federal and provincial officials create policy that affects producers.

– **Devon Walker**, APAS Representative for the RM of Wilton #472 (2017-present) and participant in the APAS Youth Leadership and Mentorship Program (2020)



“

Congratulations on 20 years of Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan!!

APAS as a large group of farmers are better represented together and united. APAS has a bigger voice in Ottawa helping to redefine programs for the betterment of agriculture.

We are proud to be farmers and ranchers helping farmers and ranchers and their families!!

– **Wanda Reid**, APAS Director (2019 -present) and Representative for the RM of Golden West #95 (2016-present)

“

Farming is changed now from what it used to be. Most of the farms are getting bigger and bigger, so how involved and how much time do [farmers] have to become involved in the policymaking of farm programs?

You need a respected general farm organization that deals with all commodities to lobby to governments and to have the research and policy people behind them to go forward and present ideas.

It's one thing to go to the government and whine and complain. It's another thing to go and say look, this program has a problem and here's what you need to do to fix it. They will listen to you. But if you're there and just whining and complaining you're a broken record. They write you off.

APAS had some struggles in the past. They had some really difficult years. And talking to other organizations they said that is commonplace. You will go through that period of time where you're going to struggle.

We've come through that. We are strong. We're back as strong as we ever were.

– **Arlynn Kurtz**, founding APAS Director (2000-2018), former Vice-President (2011-2014), and longtime Representative for the RM of Fertile Belt #183 (2000-present)





Producers have always desired input into policy decisions that affect their businesses. In the late 1990s there was a void in effective farm policy leadership. Rallies, demonstrations, and many meetings culminated in the formation of the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan.

This organization has become an exciting and dynamic coalition of producer input, group alliances, and countless talented people.

The industry continues to change and the organization with it.

I'm very proud of APAS and all of its accomplishments, and I am very confident of its continued success in representing farmers.

Happy Anniversary APAS!

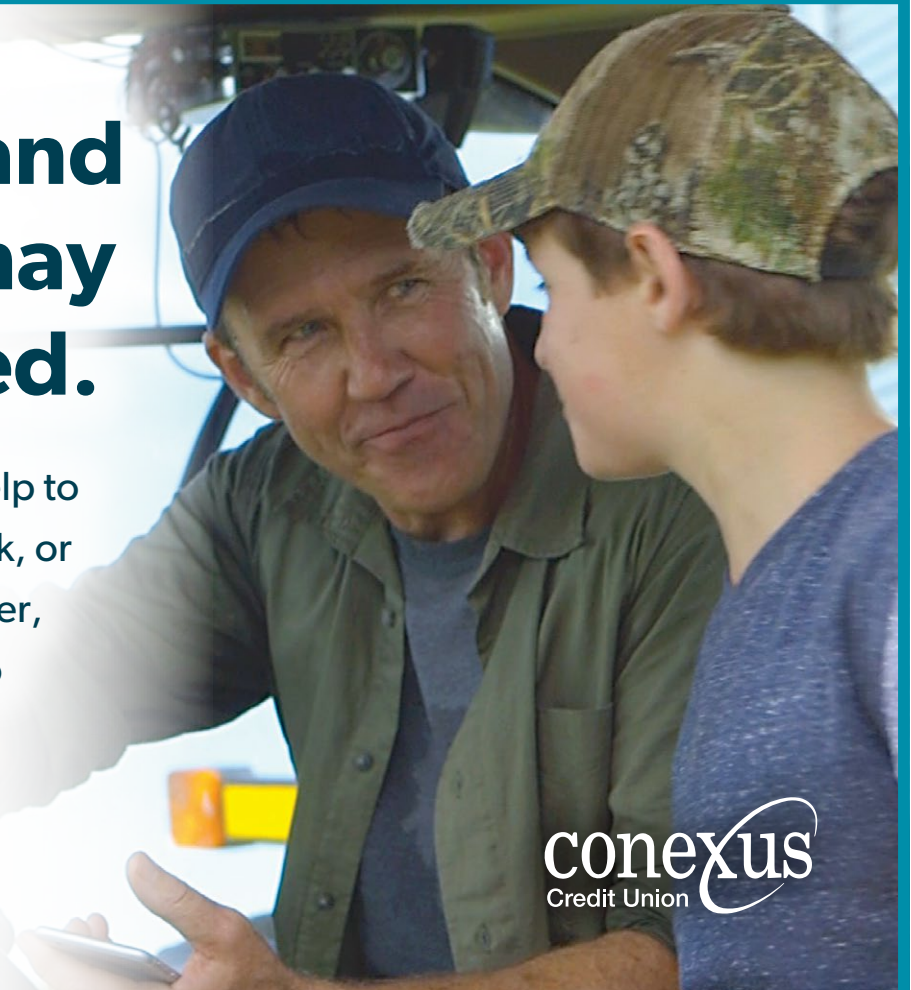
— **Greg Marshall**, former APAS President (2008-2011), Director (2006-2011)
and Representative for the RM of Mount Hope #279 (2005-2011)

We understand your plans may have changed.

Whether you're looking for help to stay on track, get back on track, or find a new direction all together, we're with you. For every step along the way.

1.800.667.7477
conexus.ca

conexus
Credit Union



The Road to APAS

Terry Hildebrandt, founding APAS President, reflects on the journey to unify Saskatchewan's farmers and ranchers

WRITTEN BY DELANEY SEIFERLING | PHOTOS BY MICHAEL BELL

As the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS) marks its 20th anniversary, one of its founding members is proud of how far the organization has come – and the role he played in it.

"It was one of the highlights of my life," says Terry Hildebrandt, the organization's first President.

Terry, who farmed for 40 years in the Langenburg area (and is still active on the farm), was one of the farmers who started to recognize the need for such an organization in the province in the late 1980s.

At the time, the grains and oilseeds sector was hurting and there was no repre-

sentation for Saskatchewan farmers at a national level, Terry says.

This is why, in 1999, he decided to get a group of his neighbours together to discuss the idea of creating a general farm policy organization in the province.

"I invited about seven neighbours to a coffee party at my house," he says. "Some were in beef and grain, some in dairy, but we all agreed on one thing – we needed to form a strong general farm organization."

As it turned out, they weren't the only ones thinking this.

Not long before, a resolution had been passed at a Saskatchewan Association



of Rural Municipalities (SARM) Midterm Convention to form such an organization. After Terry learned of this, he encouraged his RM (RM of Langenburg) to

Terry Hildebrandt takes a break from harvest to reminisce about the beginnings of APAS.





Though no longer farming full time, Terry still helps out the renters of his land (Remus Farms) during harvest.

send out a letter to all RMs to push for the resolution to be pursued.

That's how he first came to know Ivan Ottenbreit, a farmer from Grayson, SK who reached out to Terry after receiving the letter. It was Evans Thordarson, Ivan told Terry, that had penned the SARM resolution.

Evans was a very unique man, Terry says.

A farmer and the Reeve of the RM of Elfros at the time, Evans had also studied at the Sorbonne University in Paris, had a degree in law, had travelled extensively and had experience lobbying the federal government with other farm organizations that existed at the time.

"It was really his knowledge and intelligence that got things going for us at APAS," Terry says. "He was the brains behind it."

After making these connections, Terry worked with Evans, Ivan and others to organize a group of interested parties,

including representatives from the RMs of Elfros, Grayson, Kelvington, Lakeview, Langenburg, McLeod, and Spy Hill.

These "Original Seven," as they came to be known, gathered at a meeting in Langenburg, where they decided to invite all the province's RMs to a meeting in Regina to discuss the need for a policy organization.

The meeting took place during a SARM convention in Regina. Going into the meeting they thought they would have a decent amount of support, but they were surprised by the turnout, Terry remembers.

“There are big differences between production across Canada but when you get to know each other you realize we are all primary producers growing food. Once you zero in on the common ground you can work together to benefit the entire industry.”

"We had it packed to the rafters with people wanting to support this."

At this meeting, with over half of all RMs present, a formal motion was passed to create the organization that would become APAS. An interim board was put together, and they decided on a starting membership rate of 10 cents per acre.

"Before we knew what had happened, we had \$400,000 and we were on our way," says Terry.

Later that year, the organization was incorporated as a non-profit and held its founding convention, where Terry was elected President, and Ivan and Evans were elected Vice-Presidents.

The early days were tough, Terry says, as the founding members spent a lot of time on the road trying to drum up support for, and awareness of the organization.

He remembers attending upwards of 20 ratepayers' meetings the first winter, all across the province.

"I think I put on about 40 pounds that year, with all the roast beef dinners at the meetings. I haven't been able to lose that yet," he laughs.

But their hard work didn't take long to pay off. The organization gained traction and members.

It wasn't long afterwards that they experienced their first big success, when they were able to spearhead changes to the way federal support dollars were allocated across provinces. At the time it was based on the Fredericton Formula, a policy that saw federal funding go to the provinces with the biggest agriculture sales instead of the ones that most needed support.

"We became members of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture and convinced agriculture leaders from Quebec and Ontario – the big leaders at the time – that federal dollars should go to the sectors that were hurting," Terry says.

"At the time it was the grains and oil-seeds sector we said, but next time it could be beef or hogs. How could they argue with that?"

It was an easy sell, Terry says. And with the CFA leaders on board, the group lobbied for, and saw changes made at a federal level.

It was a success and an easily measured win, Terry says, resulting in Saskatchewan receiving \$42 million more (or about \$140,000 per RM) than it would have under the Fredericton Formula the year the announcement was made.

"We got membership fees back after that single policy change to cover membership for RMs for a lot of years."

But beyond the financial success, the Fredericton Formula was proof that an organization like APAS was sorely needed, Terry says.



Founding APAS President Terry Hildebrandt.

"It was just proof in the pudding that once you have a voice at the table you can make a major difference. There are big differences between production across Canada but when you get to know each other you realize we are all primary producers growing food. Once you zero in on the common ground you can work together to benefit the entire industry."

During Terry's tenure in the following years he saw many other victories for the organization, but one he is most proud of is uniting the once heavily divided agriculture industry.

"We were all splintered before and APAS pulled it together," he says.

"One of the major benefits of our organization was that we acted as a general umbrella organization that unified groups on issues."

Founding APAS Vice-President Evans Thordarson. Evans passed away in 2004. (Photo: APAS archives)



For example, APAS brought several of Saskatchewan's livestock groups to the table when bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) became a major issue a couple years later, in order to have a unified voice to advocate for livestock producers.

Today, the agricultural landscape looks much different than it did 20 years ago, Terry says, with the ever-increasing size of farms and the difficulty bringing new, young blood to the table. Because of this he appreciates the efforts of the current APAS Board to encourage young farmers to stay involved, through initiatives such as their Youth Leadership and Mentorship Program.

This is especially important as farmers are still plagued today by low prices for commodities and high costs of inputs, as well as a suite of new challenges.

Which means that an organization like APAS is still needed – perhaps more now than ever.

"We will always need a unified voice," Terry says.

Because of this he continues to advise young farmers to get involved. In fact, after Terry left the organization, a young man in his 20s took over as the APAS Representative for the RM of Langenburg, upon Terry's suggestion, and was pleasantly surprised by his experience.

"He has just been overwhelmed with what is done there and he can't say enough about how effective the organization is," Terry says.

Of course, the organization is capable of such things today because of the contributions Terry and his cohorts made two decades ago, not to mention those of the spouses they left at home.

"The husbands and wives were the ones who had to pick up extra responsibilities while we were on the road," Terry says,

adding they spent a lot of time away from home in those early years.

"My youngest son was 13 when we started and just leaving home when I finished," he says.

"I'm not looking for pity or grace – a lot of us did that, and Todd [Lewis] and the other executives are still doing it today."

Terry says that was part of the mentality; helping fellow farmers was just part of the job.

"It took a lot of commitment by lot of people, working on behalf of others," he says.

But there were also takeaways for him personally.

One of the biggest was learning and understanding the agriculture industry from a national perspective.

"The world of agriculture is much different in PEI than it is in Saskatchewan," he says.

He also learned the intricacies of politics and the complex world of lobbying, negotiating and policy making.

"Before my time at APAS I knew none of that," he says.

Finally, he was able to meet people he wouldn't have otherwise crossed paths with.

"The biggest gain I found was the people I met and contacts I made. I made a lot of really good friends that I still am in contact with today."

And as he reflects on the fact that APAS is still making a difference in the lives of Saskatchewan farmers every day, he is happy with his contribution (with true Saskatchewan humility).

"We did some good and I guess you could say I had a bit of a hand in that," he laughs. "I'm pretty proud that the organization is celebrating 20 years."



Partner with the only
lender 100% invested in
Canadian ag and food.

DREAM. GROW. THRIVE. | fcc.ca

GOOD GOVERNANCE MATTERS

An
online
governance
course for
community
leaders.

LEARN
BEST PRACTICES
FOR RUNNING AN
ORGANIZATION

CUSTOMIZE
YOUR OWN
PATHWAY THROUGH
THE COURSE

REWARD
YOURSELF WITH
A BADGE OR
CERTIFICATE OF
COMPLETION

REGISTER NOW

GAIN THE TOOLS YOU NEED TO
MAKE AN IMPACT. LEARN MORE AT
CooperativesFirst.com/Governance

co-operatives first

JOHNSON SHOYAMA
Canadian Centre for the
Study of Co-operatives
REGINA | SASKATCHEWAN

A Timeline of APAS

Twenty years of Saskatchewan's general farm organization

PHOTOS FROM THE APAS ARCHIVES

1935

Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) forms to give Canadian farmers a strong, unified voice

1944

Saskatchewan Federation of Agriculture (SFA) forms; represents SK nationally in the CFA

1984

SFA dissolves following divisive national debate over Crowsnest Pass freight rates

1998

December – Deemed a form of local government and not farmer-controlled, the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) is denied membership in the CFA, leaving Saskatchewan as the only province not represented by a general farm organization at the CFA

1999

March – At the SARM Annual Convention, delegates overwhelmingly support a resolution to establish a general farm organization in Saskatchewan

Fall – SARM delegates pass a motion for the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS) to become the agricultural voice for SARM

2000

February – over 100 Saskatchewan farmers hold a nine-day sit-in at the Legislative building in Regina to demand better supports for agriculture

“ We don’t have the time or resources to put toward agriculture that it deserves. ”

– SARM President Sinclair Harrison
(*Western Producer*, 1999)



APAS founding President Terry Hildebrandt speaks at an early APAS meeting.



First APAS Board of Directors (2000). Top row (L to R): Steven King, Dale Lemcke, Arlynn Kurtz, Phil Lewis, Ivan Ottenbreit (Vice-President), Garfield Lutz, Jim Brown, Terry Hildebrandt (President), Morris Prescesky. Bottom row (L to R): Wilf Snider, Annette Morin, Evans Thordarson (Vice-President), Mervin Kryzanowski, Cecilia Olver, Dave Brown.

2000

Independent of the 1999 SARM resolution, the "Original Seven" RMs (including Elfros, Grayson, Kelvington, Lakeview, Langenburg, McLeod, and Spy Hill) proceed to establish APAS; interim delegates from 144 (of 297) RMs meet

July 17 – APAS is incorporated as a non-profit corporation

December – APAS holds its founding convention, attended by 80 RMs. Terry Hildebrandt is elected President; Evans Thordarson and Ivan Ottenbreit are elected Vice-Presidents.

2001

APAS joins the Canadian Federation of Agriculture

2002

Fall – Thanks to pressure from APAS the Fredericton Formula is revised, resulting in \$149 million in federal government aid going to Saskatchewan agriculture as part of a \$600 million federal transition aid program

2003

May – The first case of BSE is found in a Canadian cow, sparking a crisis that will rock the Canadian cattle industry until 2005

2004

APAS and other farm groups express concern over an application to approve "Roundup Ready Wheat" for use in Western Canada; results in a withdrawal of the application

2006

April – APAS sells \$0.06 loaves of bread at the Legislature to highlight the tiny percentage of food sales that primary producers receive

October – APAS, in coalition with other western farm groups, advocates for the right to vote on the future of the Canadian Wheat Board

2010

June – Study shows Canadian farmers pay \$200 million per year more in freight rates than was considered "fair and reasonable" under previous legislation; APAS participates in "Rail Cost Review Coalition" and calls for full review of railway costs used in the MRE formula

“On as many general issues as we can, we want to keep that connection close to the grassroots people of our organization.”

– Terry Hildebrandt
(*Western Producer*, 2000)



APAS founding members Terry Hildebrandt and Ivan Ottenbreit at the Legislative building in Regina in 2000.



2020 Youth Leadership and Mentorship Program participants in Ottawa with current APAS President Todd Lewis.

2010	Spring/Summer – APAS successfully lobbies for disaster assistance for excess moisture, securing payment of \$30 per unseeded acre through the Canada-Saskatchewan Excess Moisture Program
2011	December – Bill C-18 ends Canadian Wheat Board monopoly, effective August 1, 2012
2012	<p>January – APAS works with partners to launch Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) program to provide financial support to producers for conservation projects</p> <p>July – APAS instrumental in creating the Community Pasture Patron Association of Saskatchewan (CPPAS) to serve as the voice of pasture users following federal decision to end the PFRA Pasture Program</p> <p>October – Significant cuts are made to AgriStability and AgriInvest</p>
2013	Fall 2013/Winter 2014 – Rail service failures result in unprecedented backlog of grain at country elevators and long vessel lineups at ports
2014	December – APAS, Sask Wheat, Sask Barley and Sask Pulse submit “Producer Recommendations on the Future of Canada’s Transportation Act;” show that farmers paid \$322 million in excess freight rates in the 2013/14 crop year above what was considered “fair and reasonable” under previous legislation
2015	<p>APAS establishes the APAS Youth Leadership and Mentorship Program to mentor young Saskatchewan producers; 30 young producers have participated since the program’s creation</p> <p>August – APAS surveys producers and finds support for restriction on farmland ownership; provincial review of farmland ownership legislation results in legislative changes that restrict pension funds and investment trusts from purchasing farmland</p>
2017	<p>July – APAS organizes the Saskatchewan Prairie Carbon Summit to discuss issues related to carbon sequestration, climate change adaptation, and the impact of carbon pricing on the agricultural sector</p> <p>October – APAS works closely with CFA to oppose Finance Canada’s proposed changes to income taxes that would impact farm succession plans; changes are then withdrawn</p>
2018	<p>February/March – APAS, CFA, KAP and AFA work for amendments to Transportation Act; changes are made and enacted in June 2018, when Bill C-49 (Transportation Modernization Act) receives royal assent</p> <p>April – Saskatchewan government proceeds with constitutional legal challenge against the federal carbon tax</p> <p>October – APAS resolution encourages a review of Saskatchewan trespass legislation; resulting amendments require landowner permission prior to entry</p> <p>November – APAS applies for intervenor status in carbon tax legal challenge</p>
2019	<p>January – APAS, KAP and AFA conduct “Producer Survey on Seed Royalties”; survey finds widespread farmer dissatisfaction with proposals to charge additional royalties on farm-saved seed</p> <p>Summer/Fall – APAS surveys rural residents on cell and internet service; finds widespread dissatisfaction</p>
2020	<p>Spring – COVID-19 is declared a pandemic; APAS works with CFA to lobby the federal government for COVID-19 relief for agriculture</p> <p>September – APAS launches Rural Connectivity Task Force to improve rural cellular and internet service</p> <p>October – APAS holds Growing Agriculture: 2020 Saskatchewan Provincial Election Forum in advance of the 2020 provincial election</p>

Four ways to set yourself up for business success

Ask lots of questions, even of yourself, and challenge traditional methods of doing business.

Staying focused on the growth of your agricultural operation – whether you're a primary producer or in the agribusiness and agri-food sector – can help set up your business for success.

And to develop clear goals, you need to define success. Since goals can sometimes conflict – spending more time with family is challenging when growing a business – consider how decisions made today will guide your business and personal life in the future.



1. Network

Getting out of the office, no matter what that office looks like, can help primary producers and agribusiness and agri-food operators stay connected to their industry. Specifically, networking can help you get to know the supply chain better, understand customer needs and gain insight into emerging business trends and opportunities.

Although producer and industry meetings and events may be on hold or moving to virtual due to COVID-19, participate whenever possible. Also, subscriptions to trade media, membership to the local chambers of commerce and business-related organizations, and social media participation can all help build valuable virtual and face-to-face connections and business networks.

2. Stay tech-savvy

Whether it's a new social media platform, an app for a smartphone, a new implement or an inventive processing system, don't be too quick to dismiss the possibilities. Nearly all new technologies have at least the potential to be adapted to make agriculture, agribusiness and agri-food more efficient.

3. Be financially adept

Know the cost of production and cash flow situation on the farm and in the business. Also, be open to trying alternative financial arrangements such as creating joint ventures with others in the supply chain. Experts recommend to always think and rethink plans around buying or leasing, manufacturing space, economic forecasts and their place in farm transition. These all have a bearing on the best path to finance growth.

4. Stay curious

With goals firmly in place and focus directed on moving ahead, remaining curious and open to innovation is what will propel agriculture, agribusiness and agri-food forward. Ask lots of questions, even of yourself, and challenge traditional methods of doing business.

Bottom line

Running a successful agribusiness means staying focused on goals. Consider how decisions made today will help achieve long-term goals. At the same time, use networks to maintain relationships within the supply chain and with customers and insight into emerging trends. Experts add that remaining tech-savvy and always searching for innovations, and maintaining familiarity with the operation's financial situation are also crucial on the road to success.

This article was originally published by FCC, and is reposted with permission of the author and FCC. Visit fcc.ca/knowledge for more ideas, advice and resources.

A New Connectivity Task Force

APAS launches the Rural Connectivity Task Force to improve internet and cellular coverage in rural Saskatchewan

APAS POLICY STAFF



In 2018, the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) identified minimum service standards for internet speeds for Canadians: 50 megabits per second (Mbps) for downloads and 10 Mbps for uploads, which is fast enough to stream online video and access cloud-based software applications.

People in rural Saskatchewan, however, understand just how far we still are from this level of service.

It's for this reason that APAS has launched the Rural Connectivity Task

Force. Over this fall and winter we will be taking a very close look at the barriers to improving connectivity in rural Saskatchewan.

Reliable internet and cellular service are critical for rural communities to support their businesses, students, health services, and overall quality of life.

APAS began working on the issue of connectivity in 2019, when we conducted a survey on rural internet and cell service. At that time we found a high level of disruption to, dissatisfaction with, and lack of investment in rural

Did you know?

The federal government has made \$750 million dollars available for rural internet projects over the next five years to improve internet and cellular coverage in rural and remote Canada. Unfortunately, this is only a small part of the estimated \$8 billion that will be needed to ensure equal access to digital services for all Canadians.



Jeremy Welter,
Task Force Chair



Ian Boxall,
Task Force member



Bev Pirio
Task Force member



Bill Prybylski,
Task Force member



Paige Stewart,
Task Force member

connectivity, with 75 per cent of survey respondents saying they were unhappy with their internet service.

It is undeniable that COVID-19 has made things worse. In May 2020, APAS launched a follow-up survey to see how the pandemic was affecting connectivity in rural Saskatchewan. Since then over 750 people have responded, with more than 80 per cent indicating that their cellular and internet service has become even worse since the pandemic began in March.

When school went online last spring, rural kids struggled to connect, and some families found themselves parked in the school parking lot relying on the school's Wi-Fi to stream their online classwork. Zoom interactions with teachers lagged and crashed, leaving many with unanswered questions and unfinished assignments.

Meanwhile, farm business stalled as online auctions and banking apps crashed, with some farmers ending up at Tim Hortons just to access Wi-Fi to send an email.

Other rural families had difficulty accessing health services, many of which had moved online. And let's not forget that farm families deserve to be able to stream movies, stay connected on social media, and stream music and podcasts during harvest.

Hearing from hundreds of rural Saskatchewan residents has made it clear that more needs to be done – and urgently – on the issue of rural connectivity.

What is Spectrum?

Spectrum is the small slice of radio waves that we use to connect wireless devices. These waves are divided into bands of different sizes that are used to avoid interference and make it possible for your phone to connect to both your Bluetooth-enabled smart watch and the nearest cell phone tower at the same time.

Spectrum is a finite, publicly owned resource that is auctioned off by governments to telecommunications service providers. Unfortunately, if a provider doesn't have the towers to make use of the spectrum, it goes idle and is of no use to the public.

Enter the Rural Connectivity Task Force: their work over the next few months will help APAS better understand and advocate for the solutions that will allow rural residents to access the services folks in Regina and Saskatoon take for granted.

The Task Force is led by agricultural producers from across the province, including Jeremy Welter (Chairperson, RM of Mariposa), Ian Boxall (RM of Connaught), Bev Pirio (RM of Laurier), Bill Prybylski (RM of Garry), and Paige Stewart (RM of Fillmore).

This fall they will meet with industry experts, service providers, academics, and the public to investigate the reasons for Saskatchewan's digital divide and identify the steps needed to ensure equal access going forward.

The Task Force will release a preliminary report in December, which will provide an opportunity for stakeholders and members of the public to provide feedback. A final report will be released in early 2021.

Your feedback throughout this process is extremely important. If you haven't already, please let us know how your connectivity has been affected during COVID-19 by completing our online survey at apas.ca/survey.

To receive updates on the Task Force and provide feedback on their preliminary report, please visit apas.ca/connectivity.

Growing Agriculture

APAS focuses attention on agriculture issues during the provincial election campaign

APAS POLICY STAFF



As the provincial election approaches, APAS has been working hard to raise awareness of top agricultural priorities during the campaign.

It's crucial that candidates from every political party acknowledge the value of Saskatchewan agriculture and understand the key issues facing our agricultural producers.

Growing Agriculture: 2020 Saskatchewan Provincial Election Forum

We want you to hear directly from the candidates about the issues that matter most to Saskatchewan agricultural producers.

That's why we're partnering with the Saskatchewan Farm Stewardship Association, Access Communications, and RealAgriculture.com to host **Growing Agriculture: 2020 Saskatchewan Provincial Election Forum**.

Agricultural producers and political candidates will discuss the top issues for Saskatchewan farmers and ranchers.

The forum will be hosted by Shaun Haney of RealAgriculture, and will be broadcast from October 19 to 25 on AccessNow TV and at RealAgriculture.com.

Watch on AccessNow TV

October 19-21 4:30-6:00 pm and 9:30-11:00 pm
October 22-25 7:00-8:30 pm

Watch on RealAgriculture.com

October 19-25.

APAS Provincial Election Priorities

APAS has worked with our members across Saskatchewan to identify key priorities and areas of investment needed to support and grow Saskatchewan agriculture's contributions to the provincial economy.

We have communicated the following proposals to all provincial parties and are tracking their responses. For more information, visit apas.ca/provincialelection.

Summary of Proposals

Investments in Science & Infrastructure to Grow the Economy

- **Close the digital divide between urban and rural Saskatchewan** by ensuring that all rural residents have access to affordable, secure, reliable, and high-capacity internet and cellphone service.
- **Improve access to natural gas and three-phase power** for agricultural uses through incentives and cost sharing programs.
- **Invest in transportation infrastructure** by ensuring adequate budget for road, highway and bridge maintenance while supporting the viability and expansion of Saskatchewan shortline railways.
- **Ensure Saskatchewan builds on the success of our public model for agricultural research** by continuing to commit public dollars to fund plant breeding, crop development, extension initiatives, and other R&D activities that grow the sector and enhance profitability of producers.

Did you know?

Before COVID-19, 75% of APAS survey respondents said they were unhappy with their rural internet service. When asked again, 80% said their internet and cell phone service is even worse since the pandemic began.



Improving Risk Sharing

- **Improve AgriStability for the remainder of the current federal-provincial agreement** (expires 2023) by making enrolment flexible, enhancing coverage levels, and eliminating the Reference Margin Limit.
- Make plans to **replace or supplement AgriStability** after the current federal-provincial agreement expires in 2023, by setting aside money and making a real plan to develop new margin protection and insurance tools.
- **Modernize crop insurance** through changes to yield coverage calculations and premium-setting methodologies.
- Work with the federal government to **enhance the Western Livestock Price Insurance Program** by permanently sharing the cost of premiums with producers and expanding insurance options to other livestock sectors.

Did you know?

The Reference Margin Limit (RML) is an AgriStability calculation that reduces coverage levels based on producers' expenses from previous years. The RML can be used to limit coverage to less than 50%. A loss of this magnitude would be catastrophic to an individual farm business.

Stewardship and the Environment

- **Recognize environmental goods and services and leverage agriculture's contributions to the fight against climate change** by:
 - Finalizing a "Made-in Saskatchewan" carbon credit/offset framework that rewards Saskatchewan producers for carbon sequestration efforts by 2021.
 - Improving Farm Stewardship and Environmental Farm Plan programs to recognize and enhance the value of environmental practices on farm.
- Increase investment in water management initiatives to **support flood and drought mitigation**, including:
 - Financial support for organized water management through the creation of Conservation and Development Area Authorities (C&Ds) and other local water management boards to improve land use efficiency while reducing risks of downstream flooding.
 - Financial support for organized water management and water retention/distribution projects to mitigate drought risk.

Did you know?

The federal carbon tax could decrease net farm incomes in Saskatchewan by 12% by 2022. Meanwhile, it's estimated that farmers sequester 8.5 megatons of carbon through improved management practices every year, while prairie grasslands are estimated to store 2,000 megatons of carbon.

Resource Development on Farmland

- **Strengthen landowner protections** by conducting a thorough review of the Saskatchewan Surface Rights legislation and the role of the Surface Rights Arbitration Board to identify and address gaps.
- **Develop well clean-up and reclamation programs that encourage responsible development** by ensuring that successful applicants' municipal taxes and landowner lease agreements are in good standing as a precondition of grant approval.

Did you know?

In Alberta, some organizations have urged landowners to cut power and close valves to energy sites with outstanding lease fees. It is estimated that rural municipalities in Alberta are owed \$173 million in unpaid property taxes.

Growing Opportunities

- Apply a beginning farmer "lens" to all agricultural policy decisions, particularly with respect to business risk management programs and recommendations for the next policy framework.
- Work with APAS and other farm organizations to **improve provincial and federal tax incentives to help beginning farmers** access land and farming opportunities.
- Develop training programs and supports to encourage the development of the agricultural labour force.
- **Enhance vital health and education services in rural Saskatchewan.**

Did you know?

Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council (CAHRC) estimates that 41% of the current agricultural workforce will retire by the end of this decade.

SPEAK UP WITH SASKATCHEWAN **Farmers' Voice**

BLANKET COVERAGE

More than 35,000 copies distributed to every farm mailbox in the province

EDITORIAL ENGAGEMENT

Discussion and analysis of key agricultural issues impacting producers

CREDIBILITY

Published on behalf of APAS – a democratically-elected, grassroots, non-partisan, producer-run organization

ADVERTISE NOW TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Contact Benchmark Public Relations at (306) 522-9326 or info@benchmarkpr.ca

www.apas.ca



Help us celebrate the Saskatchewan 4-H Foundation 60th Anniversary

"My daughter was a very shy and scared child. Thanks to 4-H her confidence has sky rocketed. 4-H pushes kids to face their fears by learning to do by doing."

- Brittany Stepp (pictured with her daughter)

Sixty years ago, the Saskatchewan 4-H Foundation was formed with the purpose of supporting the 4-H program across our province. Today, the Foundation remains an integral part of 4-H Saskatchewan, ensuring youth can continue to "Learn To Do By Doing," both now and for many more years to come.

4-H Saskatchewan sends a sincere "Thank You!" to everyone who has shown their support during the last 60 years.

Contact the 4-H Office today to learn more about how we are celebrating this milestone, and be sure to visit the 4-H Saskatchewan website to read more stories like Brittany's and to share your own!

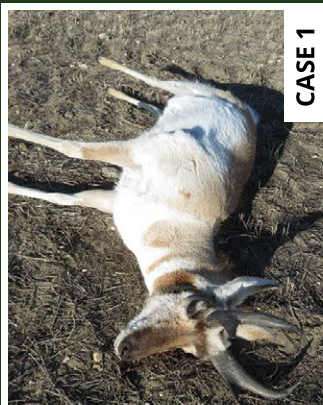
For more information, contact:
Shelby Corey, Development Officer
306-933-7348 | development@4-h.sk.ca
www.4-h.sk.ca



YOU CAN HELP SOLVE THIS CASE AND EARN CASH REWARDS IF THE INFORMATION YOU PROVIDE LEADS TO THE ARREST OR CONVICTION OF THE INDIVIDUAL(S) INVOLVED.

(Calls are not traced or recorded and callers can choose to remain anonymous.)

If you have any information regarding this case or other violations:
Call the Toll-Free Turn In Poachers & Polluters Line **1-800-667-7561**
Call **#5555** from a Sasktel Cellphone (no text messages)
Report online at www.saskatchewan.ca/tipp



CASE 1

A Leader Conservation Officer responded to a mature pronghorn antelope buck that was shot, killed, and left to waste sometime between noon on Saturday, April 25th and 10am Sunday, April 26th. The pronghorn was found 5 miles West, 4 miles South and 400m East of Richmond, SK. There was no pronghorn antelope season on at the time.



CASE 2

On April 28th, 2020, Estevan Conservation Officers investigated a shot and left pregnant cow moose at SW 18-06-05 W2, approximately 12km Northeast of Lampman, SK. The investigation indicated that the moose had likely been shot and wounded on or before Saturday, April 25th, and succumbed to its injuries on Sunday, April 26th. There was no moose season on at the time.

Visit www.sasktip.com for all of the latest cases.

Follow @sasktip



APAS at Work

COVID-19 has changed the way we work this year, but that hasn't stopped APAS from advocating tirelessly on behalf of Saskatchewan's farmers and ranchers to make sure industry and governments are working in your best interests.

Rural Connectivity Task Force

Poor internet and cellular service in rural Saskatchewan communities is a long-standing issue – and one that we are determined to address. Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, we have heard from over 750 rural residents about their connectivity, and the answer is clear: it was bad before, and COVID-19 has only made things worse.



In response, APAS has launched the Rural Connectivity Task Force to tackle the issue. This fall and winter we will be digging deep into the technological and regulatory opportunities and barriers; meeting with service providers and other key stakeholders; and developing concrete recommendations for how to move forward.

“Poor internet and cellular service in rural Saskatchewan communities is a long-standing issue – and one that we’re determined to address.”

The Rural Connectivity Task Force has a deadline because we know this is an urgent issue that needs to be addressed immediately.

For more details on the Task Force and how to stay informed, see page 22 and visit apas.ca/connectivity.

Saskatchewan Provincial Election Priorities

Saskatchewan residents will go to the polls on October 26, 2020 to elect a new provincial government, and APAS wants to ensure that all parties understand the needs of our province's agricultural producers.

APAS Policy Committees – made up of elected representatives from participating APAS RMs – have worked to identify key agricultural priorities leading up to the provincial election. These proposals are grounded in solid research and policy development, and cover issues ranging from telecommunications and natural gas infrastructure, to business risk management programs, to surface rights legislation and beyond.

Our election priorities have been communicated to all the provincial political parties, and we'll be tracking their responses. For more details on the APAS Election Priorities, see page 24. And for updates leading up to the election, visit apas.ca/provincialelection.

Growing Agriculture: 2020 Saskatchewan Provincial Election Forum

In addition to working with APAS members to identify election priorities for the agriculture sector, we also want to create an opportunity for the candidates to speak directly to you! That's why we're partnering with the Saskatchewan Farm Stewardship Association, Access Communications, and RealAgriculture.com to host **Growing Agriculture: 2020 Saskatchewan Provincial Election Forum**.

Producers and representatives from Saskatchewan's registered political parties will discuss the issues that are most important to Saskatchewan farmers and ranchers. Hosted by Shaun Haney of RealAgriculture.com, the forum will be broadcast across the province on AccessNow TV and at RealAgriculture.com.

Watch on AccessNow TV

October 19-21 4:30-6:00 pm and 9:30-11:00 pm
October 22-25 7:00-8:30 pm

Watch on RealAgriculture.com

October 19-25.

Have you met Brent?

Brent Kobes grew up on a farm near Edam (RM of Turtle River #469), and joined APAS as a Policy Intern upon completing his political science degree from the University of Saskatchewan in the spring of 2019. Since then he's become a key part of the APAS policy team and took on a permanent role as Policy Researcher in March 2020.



Brent Kobes, APAS Policy Researcher.

Most recently, Brent's been leading our Rural Connectivity project, which aims to improve cellular and internet service for Saskatchewan's rural residents. (Learn more on page 22.)

But APAS isn't the only organization to benefit from Brent's intelligence, thoughtfulness, and great work ethic. He was recently chosen from over 800 applicants to represent Saskatchewan on the Canadian Agricultural Youth Council, a new group that will provide feedback to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. Brent will work with 24 other young people from across the country that represent a range of subsectors across the agriculture and agri-food industry. We're excited to see what these young people can accomplish together!

Not only that, but Brent was also recently elected to the Senate of his alma mater, the University of Saskatchewan. He'll sit on the governing body as a member at large, joining other alumni, non-profit organizations, and government agencies.

Congratulations, Brent, on both of these recent accomplishments! We're proud and fortunate to have you on the APAS team!

APAS Representative Elections

On November 9, 2020 APAS will hold elections for APAS Representatives from among the ratepayers of our participating RMs.

Elected Representatives work on behalf of members in their RMs to further the work and goals of APAS and guide the direction of the organization.

The APAS Representative elections will take place at the same time as Rural Municipal elections.

Learn more about the APAS Representative elections at apas.ca/election.

APAS Addresses House of Commons Agriculture Committee

In June, APAS had the opportunity to address the House of Commons Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food. APAS President Todd Lewis presented recommendations for changes to business risk management (BRM) programs, including an increase to AgriStability coverage levels and an elimination of the Reference Margin Limit.

"COVID-19 has made it clear that the BRM programs designed to help farmers in a crisis just aren't working," said Mr. Lewis.

APAS has been vocal about the need to reform Canada's BRM programs since 2013, when significant changes were made to AgriStability, the main program designed to provide support to farmers facing income declines. Although farm incomes in Saskatchewan have declined steadily since 2015, fewer than half of eligible producers are currently enrolled in AgriStability.

APAS has identified several key proposals related to BRM leading up to the provincial election in October. For details see page 25.

APAS Anniversary Meetings

Although APAS was forced to postpone our Policy Conference this past March due to COVID-19, more recently we were able to organize a series of smaller in-person events to update APAS Representatives on our work over the first half of 2020.

Over the summer we held small gatherings in each of our six Districts that served as both 20th Anniversary Receptions and Representative meetings. APAS Board and staff reported back to the Reps on the work of APAS, and the Reps had a chance to connect and communicate their concerns and ideas.

Although APAS will not be holding an in-person Annual Meeting in 2020, we are currently in the process of organizing District meetings for this fall.

APAS Reps meet in July 2020.



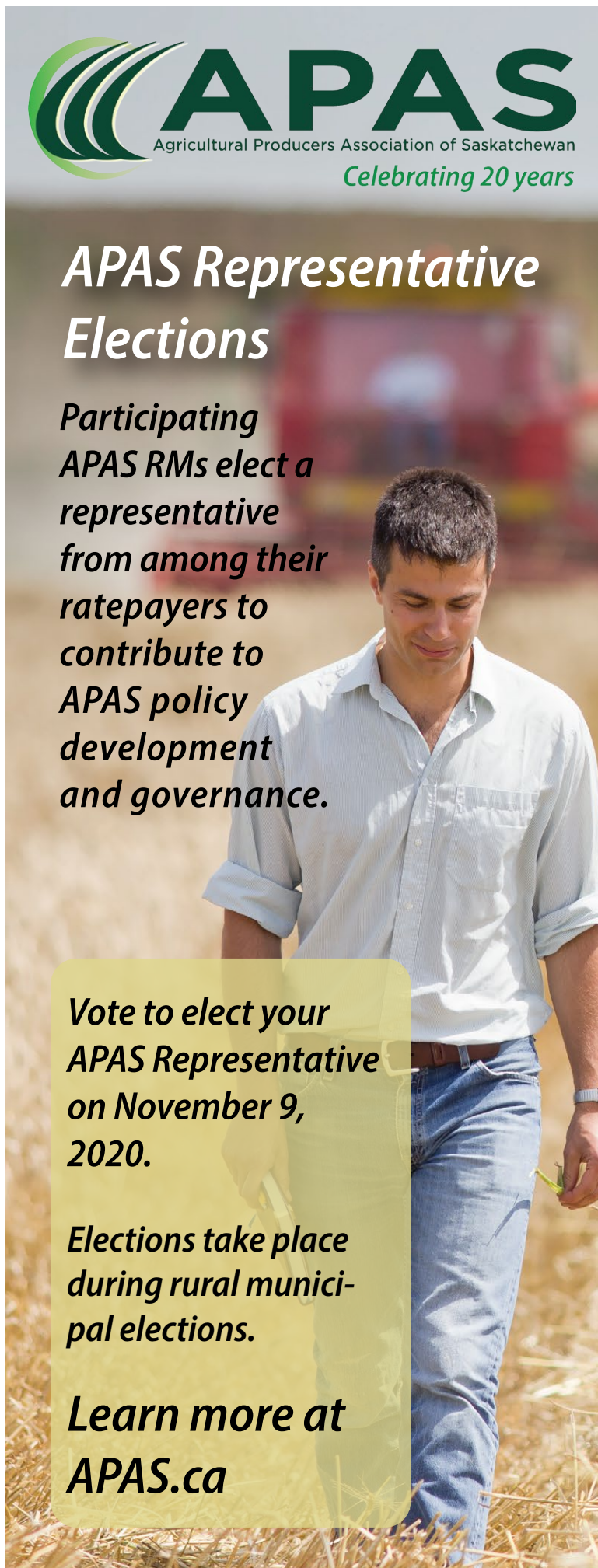
APAS Representative Elections

Participating APAS RMs elect a representative from among their ratepayers to contribute to APAS policy development and governance.

Vote to elect your APAS Representative on November 9, 2020.

Elections take place during rural municipal elections.

Learn more at APAS.ca





Stronger together:

Celebrating milestones and partnerships

This is a significant year for The Co-operators and our valued member, the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS). 2020 marks our 75th anniversary, as well as the 20th anniversary for APAS as the voice of Saskatchewan's farmers and ranchers.

The Co-operators story began in 1945, a time of great economic need, when many families' financial needs were not met. At the time, a group of farmers, Credit Union Leaders and social pioneers banded together to meet those needs – unifying around a common purpose to keep people insured in good times and bad.

The Co-operators is fundamentally different from most insurance companies, as we are governed by co-operative principles that aim to create value for Canadians and their communities. We work with our members and other co-operatives to offer solutions exclusively designed for their unique needs and goals.

While we may have grown to represent communities across Canada, it is our partnership with APAS that allows us to continue to meet these ever-changing needs of the agricultural industry in Saskatchewan. As an active member organization of The Co-operators since

2013, APAS has continued to advocate for you, the member, to ensure that The Co-operators can fulfill its promise of providing Canadians with financial security through good times and bad.

For both The Co-operators and APAS, 2020 is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate and reflect on our milestones, our partnership, and our shared values. It is these shared experiences and support that will enable us to thrive in an environment of change, today and long into the future.

“ We work with our members and other co-operatives to offer solutions exclusively designed for their unique needs and goals. ”



Farm Dogs of Saskatchewan

Dogs are special members of farm families across the province. In every issue we spotlight some of the most beloved farm dogs in Saskatchewan. If you have a Good Boy or Good Girl on your farm that you would like to see featured in *Saskatchewan Farmers' Voice*, send one or more high quality photos and a bit of information about them to info@apas.ca.

Name: Jackson

Age: 14 years

Home Quarter: RM of Prince Albert #461

Breed: Samoyed/Siberian Husky cross

Family: The Barmby-Halcros

About Jackson: Jackson has been a wonderful family dog and protector of the farmyard. He shares the farm with Appaloosa horses and spends his days and nights checking on them. Jackson stays outside day and night. He has a doghouse but prefers to sleep on his mat by the patio door or under a large deck attached to the house.

Jackson is a dog who takes care of unwanted pests that show up in the yard! Yes, garter snakes, gophers, wild rabbits, skunks, porcupines, muskrats. On one occasion he killed an unwanted raccoon and has put another up a wooden beam on the deck! His job now is to train a three-month old German Shepherd puppy (Hank). They are doing fine and the puppy has the best teacher who will be greatly missed whenever that sad day arrives! Hopefully not for a while yet! Love you Jackson!



Name: Snoopy

Home Quarter: RM of Willowdale #153

Age: 4 years

Breed: Great Pyrenees

Family: The Beutlers

About Snoopy: Snoopy spends his days roaming around with Sam's Speckled Park cattle and playing with the cats that have recently joined the farm family. At night he wanders in and around the corrals ensuring there are no predators to harm the cows or calves. Snoopy loves to be the center of attention and doesn't want to miss out on anything, including family hugs! He likes to hop on the golf cart to go for rides around the yard, especially when the grandchildren visit. He also likes to keep Linda company when she goes for walks, tends her garden, or relaxes on the deck. Snoopy is a special dog and a valued companion on the Beutler farm! Snoopy is a very good boy!



Name: Sargent

Nicknames: Sarge, Pupster

Home Quarter: RM of Torch River #488

Age: 3 years

Breed: Purebred German Shepherd

Family: The Watsons

About Sargent: Sargent is a sweet dog. He loves to play fetch and chase cattle. Sargent likes to always be around people and likes to lick you to the death! When you first approach him he looks like a big, scary, tough dog but he's actually a little, soft teddy bear. Sargent has been growing up with bilateral hip dysplasia, which means he has no hip sockets on both sides of his hips. He can't run that good but that doesn't stop him. Sargent is a very strong-willed puppy and a wonderful boy. We love him dearly!

Name: Molly

Home Quarter: RM of Mariposa #350

Age: 7 years

Breed: Great Dane

Family: The Welter-Cibeles

About Molly: As a Great Dane, Molly loves to sleep and is happiest when she gets a solid 18-20 hours of sleep per day. She loves to chase rabbits and deer, though is unsure what to do with them should she ever catch one. She enjoys short games of fetch and will happily return the ball or stick up to five times before she decides to lay down. Firefighter Max loves her and she tolerates him. Good dog, Molly!



Name: Dozer

Age: 8 years

Home Quarter: RM of Argyle #1

Breed: Great Pyrenees

Family: The Johnsons

About Dozer: We welcomed Dozer into our family when he was one and a half years old. He went straight to work protecting his horses, which amazed us as he wasn't raised around them. He barks all night long at the coyotes and deer keeping them away. During the daytime you can find him napping in the yard or on the front porch. Apparently he doesn't do day shift well!

Dozer is a gentle giant who loves to play and snuggle with you. He loves truck rides and being by your side. He lost his leg to cancer last summer but hasn't skipped a beat in his routines! He does get more cookies now of course. We couldn't imagine our farm without our polar bear! Dozer is a very, very good boy.

DISTRICT ONE

- #1 Argyle – Brenda Ryckman
- #2 Mount Pleasant – Terry Macfarlane
- #3 Enniskillen – Barry Fitzpatrick
- #31 Storthoaks – Elissa Henrion
- #33 Moose Creek – Reed Gibson
- #37 Lomond – Ryan McKenzie
- #63 Moose Mountain – Jack Wilson
- #65 Tecumseh – Thomas Breault
- #91 Maryfield – Jeffrey Chambers
- #93 Wawken – Trevor Bravold
- #94 Hazelwood – Kyle Kish
- #95 Golden West – Wanda Reid
- #96 Fillmore – Cam Hart
- #97 Wellington – David Beach
- #121 Moosomin – Marion McBride
- #122 Martin – Steven Donald
- #123 Silverwood – Robert Dodd
- #124 Kingsley – Greg Pusch
- #125 Chester – Lee Sluser
- #126 Montmartre – Cory Stringer
- #127 Francis – James Vogt
- #151 Rocanville – Herb Park
- #152 Spy Hill – Corinne Delmage
- #153 Willowdale – Kenneth Aldous
- #155 Wolseley – Jim Ross
- #156 Indian Head – Lorne Scott
- #181 Langenburg – Mike Mitschke
- #183 Fertile Belt – Arlynn Kurtz
- #184 Grayson – Danny Ottenbreit
- #187 North Qu'Appelle – George MacPherson
- #211 Churchbridge – Cameron Wiebe
- #214 Cana – Janette Reinson

DISTRICT TWO

- #11 Hart Butte – Louis Paradis
- #38 Laurier – Bev Piro
- #71 Excel – Ron Daviduk
- #72 Lake of the Rivers – Chris Bates
- #73 Stonehenge – Vince Topola
- #74 Wood River – Duane Filson
- #98 Scott – Tim Devereaux
- #100 Elmsthorpe – James Beingessner
- #101 Terrell – Chris Hawkins
- #103 Sutton – Richard Nagel
- #104 Gravelbourg – James Bateman
- #128 Lajord – Todd Lewis
- #129 Bratt's Lake – Gregor Beck
- #131 Baildon – Terry Anthony
- #162 Caron – Ray McBride
- #163 Wheatlands – Kurtis Hicks

- #191 Marquis – Glen Steinhauer
- #193 Eyebrow – Dean Thiessen
- #220 McKillop – Glen Munholland
- #221 Sarnia – Carl Erlandson
- #222 Craik – Rodney Obrigewitsch

DISTRICT THREE

- #76 Auvergne – Dale Davidson
- #79 Arlington – Kevin Gilbert
- #109 Carmichael – Don Connick
- #110 Piapot – Devin Harlick
- #135 Lawtonia – Sterling Dayne
- #136 Coulee – Greg Targerson
- #138 Webb – Vacant
- #167 Sask Landing – Dan Barber
- #228 Lacadena – Megz Reynolds
- #257 Monet – James Myers
- #259 Snipe Lake – Glen Collins
- #261 Chesterfield – Leah Cooper

DISTRICT FOUR

- #241 Calder – Roy Derworiz
- #244 Orkney – Randy Trost
- #245 Garry – Bill Prybylski
- #275 Insinger – Willy Zuchkan
- #277 Emerald – Norman Hall
- #304 Buchanan – Don Skoretz
- #307 Elfros – Gwen Burko
- #308 Big Quill – Ernest Hall
- #333 Clayton – Lorne Ball
- #334 Preeceville – Dale Parkin
- #335 Hazel Dell – Jim Ashworth
- #336 Sasman – Dale Redman
- #337 Lakeview – Angela Jones
- #338 Lakeside – Jason Friesen
- #367 Ponass Lake – Rick Sunderland
- #426 Bjorkdale – Glen Clarke
- #427 Tisdale – Ian Alan
- #428 Star City – Shawn Mooney
- #456 Arborfield – Robert Reavie
- #457 Connaught – Ian Boxall
- #458 Willow Creek – Brent Freedman
- #486 Moose Range – Spencer Maxwell
- #487 Nipawin – Brandon Perkins
- #488 Torch River – Jerry Kindrat

DISTRICT FIVE

- #250 Last Mountain Valley – Kelly Holbrook
- #254 Loreburn – David Vollmer
- #279 Mount Hope – Ian McNichol
- #280 Wreford – Melanie Rich
- #281 Wood Creek – Glen Busse
- #282 McCraney – Jacklyn Zdunich

- #284 Rudy – Jan Konst
- #309 Prairie Rose – Garth Burns
- #312 Morris – Jason Johns
- #313 Lost River – Ivan Carpenter
- #314 Dundurn – David Aldred
- #339 Leroy – Donavon Block
- #341 Viscount – Mickey Palfy
- #342 Colonsay – Marvin Lang
- #343 Blucher – Blair Cummins
- #344 Corman Park – Ken Rosaasen
- #346 Perdue – Curtis Lammers
- #369 St. Peter – Paul Ulrich
- #399 Lake Lenore – Mark Schemenauer
- #403 Rosthern – Glenn Braun
- #429 Flett's Springs – Scott Hermus
- #430 Invergordon – Wayne Bacon
- #459 Kinistino – Jacquelynne Mann
- #460 Birch Hills – Cherie Opseth
- #461 Prince Albert – Richard Wilson
- #490 Garden River – Ryan Scragg

DISTRICT SIX

- #287 St. Andrews – Kevin Sinclair
- #292 Milton – James Loken
- #321 Prairiedale – Tim Richelhoff
- #322 Antelope Park – Bill Warrington
- #347 Biggar – Robert Danychuk
- #349 Grandview – Allen Turk
- #350 Mariposa – Jeremy Welter
- #351 Progress – Kim Herbst
- #381 Grass Lake – Bentley Sperle
- #382 Eye Hill – Greg Rissling
- #436 Douglas – Nick Partyka
- #440 Hillsdale – Lawrence Olson
- #442 Manitou Lake – Karl Koch
- #466 Meeting Lake – Morris Prescesky
- #467 Round Hill – Gordon Moore
- #468 Meota – Glenn Tait
- #471 Eldon – Scott Owens
- #472 Wilton – Devon Walker
- #499 Mervin – Tom Brown
- #501 Frenchman Butte – Leonard Larre
- #502 Britannia – Jonas Hoegl

If your RM isn't currently part of APAS, ask your Council to buy a 12-month trial membership for only \$2021.

Better Government Decisions = More Money in Your Pocket

Voting in elections every 4 years
isn't enough – join APAS and help fix
agricultural problems 365 days a year.

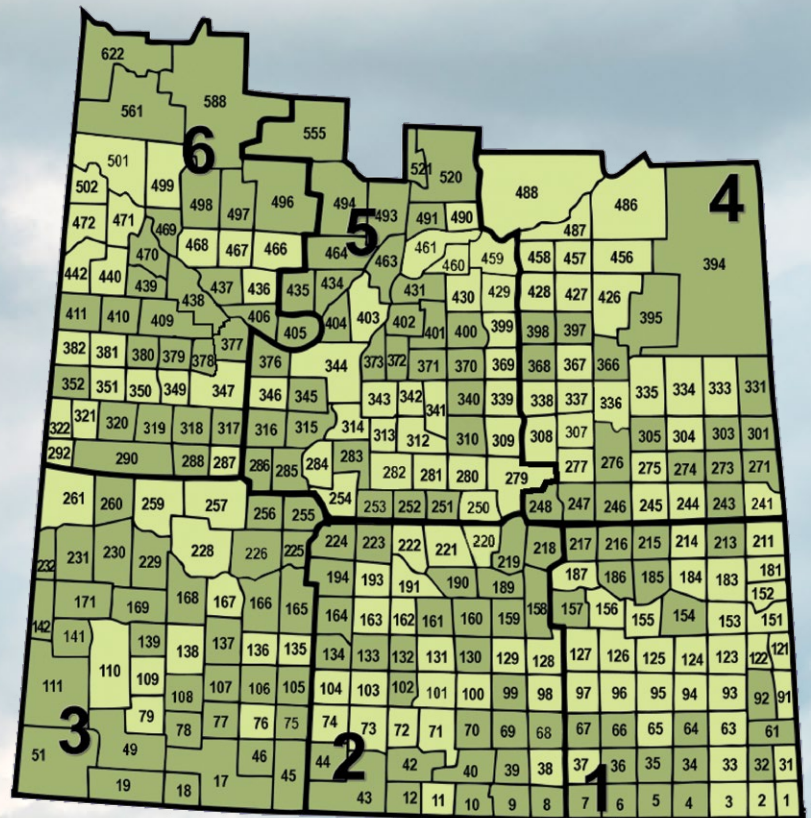
If your RM isn't currently part of APAS,
ask your Council to buy a 12-month
trial membership for only \$2021.

STEP 1: The RM administrator contacts
Curtis Hemming at 306-789-7774 and
schedules an APAS presentation for the
Council.

STEP 2: The Council votes to join APAS
and pays \$2021 for a 12-month trial
membership.

STEP 3: The Council chooses an APAS
Representative to participate in all APAS
activities.

**135 RMs already support APAS – add
your voice by joining today.**



MEMBER NON-MEMBER



**OFF-
ROAD
LIVIN'**

can-am

DEFENDER PRO

**DON'T BREAK
A SWEAT.**



2021 DEFENDER PRO LIMITED

**TAKE A LOAD OFF WITH THE
FIRST LONGBOX SIDE-BY-SIDE
WITH HVAC**

When it comes to heavy tasks, the Can-Am Defender Pro Limited is built to take the weight. Consider it the best farmhand you've ever had. So what's first on the to-do list?

CANAMDEFENDER.CA

© 2020 Bombardier Recreational Products Inc. (BRP). All rights reserved. ®, TM and the BRP logo are trademarks of BRP or its affiliates. In the U.S.A., products are distributed by BRP US Inc. BRP reserves the right, at any time, to discontinue or change specifications, prices, designs, features, models or equipment without incurring obligation. CAN-AM OFF-ROAD VEHICLE: Some models depicted may include optional equipment. For side-by-side vehicles (SxS): Read the BRP side-by-side operator's guide and watch the safety DVD before driving. Fasten lateral net and seat belt at all times. Operator must be at least 16 years old. Passenger must be at least 12 years old and able to hold handgrips and plant feet while seated against the backrest. SxS are for off-road use only; never ride on paved surfaces or public roads. For your safety, the operator and passenger must wear a helmet, eye protection and other protective clothing. Always remember that riding, alcohol and drugs don't mix. Never engage in stunt driving. Avoid excessive speed and be particularly careful on difficult terrain. Always ride responsibly and safely.

