

# SASKATCHEWAN **Farmers' Voice**

WINTER 2022 EDITION

**FARMING**  
on Cowessess First Nation

**HOW TO BUILD**  
Public Trust in Agriculture

**LEROY, SASKATCHEWAN:**  
100 Years of Growing Together

**SASKATCHEWAN**  
Farm Animals



SCAN ME

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Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan



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### UNSOLVED CASE

On October 8th, 2021, Spiritwood Conservation Officers received a call through the TIPP Line regarding the unlawful dumping of migratory birds near Sunset View Beach, Turtle Lake, SK. Upon investigation, officers determined that a total of 152 birds were dumped, with 140 of those being left to waste. Included were 65 white geese, 41 cackling geese, 22 white-fronted geese, 5 Canada geese and 7 ducks. It is believed the birds were dumped between October 7th, 2021 around 5:30pm and October 8th, 2021 around 9:30am.



Visit **[www.sasktip.com](http://www.sasktip.com)** for all of the latest cases.

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**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

**Cover Artwork:** Michael Bell

The next issue of *Saskatchewan Farmers' Voice* will arrive in your farm mailbox in June 2022. 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](http://apas.ca/farmersvoice).

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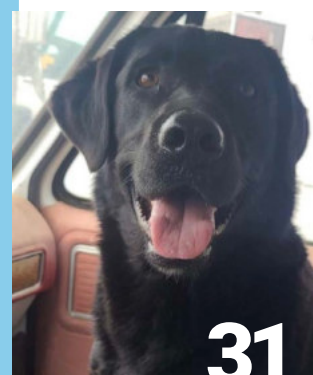
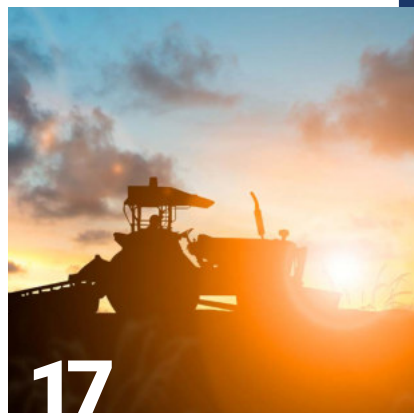
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# Introducing Our New President

PHOTO BY MICHAEL BELL

Ian Boxall was elected President of APAS at the APAS General Meeting on January 18, 2022. He farms with his family near Tisdale, SK. and is the Reeve for the RM of Connaught #457.

I want to start my first President's message by saying thank you and congratulations to the past President of APAS Todd Lewis for his six-year term. It's been an incredible run and I'm glad I was able to be a part of it from the Vice-President's chair. Thank you for continuing to be a positive mentor and role model for everyone at APAS.

In 2021, farmers were hit with the worst drought seen in years. While many producers appreciate the amount of snow Saskatchewan has received in the last few months, more precipitation is still needed to help the soil moisture recover from such a harsh drought, especially in the southwest where the snow hardly covers grass in between the highway lanes.

Producers were protected by programs like Crop Insurance, and governments recognized the impact of the drought

and stepped up with Agri-Recovery for our cattle producers.

The pandemic and the drought have made clear that our current Business Risk Management programs need improvement, and those discussions are underway between the Federal and Provincial Governments. Farmers and ranchers need more predictable and timely disaster programming to make sure we can make the decisions we need to protect our businesses.

Farmers are also struggling with high prices for inputs and a lack of available fertilizer and inputs for the upcoming crop year. Supply chain issues are impacting the availability of essential machinery, and parts for the upcoming crop year. We understand that the Federal government will be undertaking a review of Competition policies, and APAS will be

getting involved in calling for more tools to monitor and correct uncompetitive behaviour.

As consumer food prices rise, there is an increasing disconnect between the prices that producers receive and the price at the cash register. It's important to note farmers are impacted by these increases too when it's time to buy groceries at the store.

At the same time, weather events and logistical issues have been impacting some of our shipments to export positions. Given the small size of our crop due to drought, there are concerns that issues with delivery to port could develop with more volume to move next year. APAS will be carefully monitoring transportation issues in 2022.

Despite these challenges, farmers remain



“ In 2022, APAS is looking forward to getting back together in person and rolling up our sleeves to represent our members. ”

– Ian Boxall, New APAS President

optimistic for the spring seeding season. There are high commodity prices for farmers to take advantage of. There is certainly going to be an interest in locking in prices with a grain contract.

Contracts are important for both buyers and sellers. After 2021, it's good to avoid uncertainty about the terms and conditions, and it is always a good idea to get legal advice when in doubt.

APAS will be working closely with other agricultural groups in 2022 on a project to identify ways that grain contracts could be improved.

Some of the great work APAS is doing includes the ongoing Next Policy Framework Task Force. The APAS NPF Task Force has been heavily involved in discussing options for the next 5 year federal and provincial suite of farm

program. Our Task Force released a discussion paper in February, laying out some possible directions to present to governments as they develop their next federal agriculture policy agreement takes shape on April 1, 2023. The APAS submission for NPF includes Business Risk Management, AgriStability, research investment, trade, and market development programs, and increasing agricultural exports to international markets.

APAS is also looking forward in 2022 to getting back together in person and rolling up our sleeves to represent our members.

I look forward to being President of APAS for the next year and represent some of the greatest producers in the world for the rest of 2022.



## Want to kick it to kochia? Fight foxtail barley?

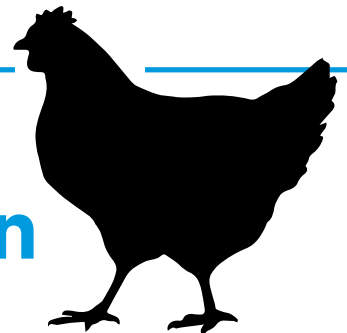
Ducks Unlimited Canada's **Marginal Areas Program** (MAP) offers an alternative management strategy to tackle these problem areas and more in your grain field. **Contact us to find out how MAP can help you Make Every Acre Count.**

1-866-252-DUCK | [du\\_regina@ducks.ca](mailto:du_regina@ducks.ca)

[ag.ducks.ca](http://ag.ducks.ca)



## Find the Chicken



Chickens are an essential part of the agricultural industry in Saskatchewan by providing meat and eggs for consumers. Even though they are easy to spot on a farm, there is one chicken in this magazine that's hiding.

We have hidden a chicken among the pages of Saskatchewan Farmers' Voice for you to find.

The chicken on this page is an example of the chicken you are looking for among the magazine's pages.

If you find the chicken, please visit [apas.ca/find-the-chicken-survey](http://apas.ca/find-the-chicken-survey) to fill out a short survey to be entered in to win.

To be eligible, you must submit your email before May 1, 2022. Out of all eligible contestants, five winners will be selected at random, and each of the five winners will receive a \$50 Mark's gift card.

You will be only contacted if you are one of the five winners of the contest.

Good luck locating the hidden chicken!

# APAS at Work

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL BELL

**F**rom a historic drought, a federal election, and the creation of its Next Policy Framework Task Force, APAS had a busy 2021. Since the last issue of Saskatchewan Farmer's Voice, APAS has held its General Meeting in January, elected a new APAS President and Vice-Presidents, and hosted a 60-minute television special called Connecting Saskatchewan, highlighting the work of the APAS Rural Connectivity Task Force's final report that was released in March 2021.

For more information on APAS policy and advocacy work, visit [apas.ca/policy](https://apas.ca/policy)

## General Meeting in Regina

APAS held its first in-person General Meeting since 2019 on January 17 and 18 at the Queensbury Convention Centre in Regina. An election was held to select a new President after Todd Lewis served in the role for six years. Ian Boxall was elected as the new APAS President, plus Scott Owens and Bill Prybylski were elected as APAS Vice-Presidents. Speakers at the event included federal Minister of Agriculture, Agri-Food and Food Security, Marie-Claude Bibeau, Provincial Agriculture Minister David Marit, and

NDP Agriculture Critic Trent Wotherpoon. The event was well attended by RM Representatives and board members both remotely and in-person. More on the General Meeting is discussed later in this issue of Saskatchewan Farmers' Voice.

## Federal advocacy

Canada elected another Liberal minority in September 2021. That means continued work between APAS and federal Minister of Agriculture, Agri-Food and Food Security, Marie-Claude Bibeau, who remained in her role after the election. Issues at the federal level continue to include the carbon tax, government support of the recom-

mendations from the Rural Connectivity Task Force, and drought relief for farmers.

## Drought stricken province

A historically dry year across the prairies led to poor crop growth and quality this year and created a situation that will take years for producers to recover from. In September, APAS created a grain contracts survey to gather more information on producers' experiences with grain companies, especially those with severe production shortfalls. The first survey results were released in late November





## APAS Next Policy Framework Task Force

The federal government launched its consultation to create the Next Policy Framework (NPF). The NPF is a five-year (2023–2028) investment by federal and provincial governments to strengthen Canada's agricultural sector. Saskatchewan producers want their priorities heard during the NPF consultation, and APAS has created an NPF Task Force on this issue. APAS Vice President Bill Prybylski is the Chair of the Task Force, along with other APAS Directors and Saskatchewan producers. In 2021, APAS made a submission to the federal government with various principles and objectives that APAS would like the federal government to create to follow during the creation of the new agricultural framework.

### Task Force Members

**Chair: BILL PRYBYLSKI**  
RM of Garry #245

**NORM HALL**  
RM of Emerald #277

**SCOTT OWENS**  
RM of Eldon #471

**BRENT FREEDMAN**  
RM of Willow Creek #458

**TREVOR GREEN**  
RM of Moosomin #121

**ANGELA JONES**  
RM of Lakeview #337

“Farmers and ranchers built our essential rural infrastructure over the decades, and we are now at risk of subsidizing other users that want to take advantage of our investment.”

– Todd Lewis, Past APAS President  
on the recent Sask. Growth Coalition proposal.

2021, with 75 percent of respondents saying they were unable to fulfill their grain contracts because of the drought, and producers who were unable to fulfill their contracts were forced to pay administrative fees between \$20,000 and \$300,000. Over 200 people had responded to the survey at the time. To complete the survey visit [apas.ca/graincontracts](https://apas.ca/graincontracts)

## Opposition to Saskatchewan Growth Coalition proposal

APAS has voiced its opposition to the Saskatchewan Growth Coalition proposal that calls for lower rural municipal tax rates for resource and processing industries because agricultural ratepayers would have to make up the difference.

## Rural Connectivity

Work continues to help improve and strengthen rural internet and cellular connectivity in Saskatchewan. APAS was pleased to see SaskTel's announcement in December that stated 24 more rural communities would be receiving iFiNET by the end of 2023. APAS also hosted a 60-minute television program on AccessNow TV called “Connecting Saskatchewan” which discussed connectivity issues in Saskatchewan and why they need to be fixed.

## Connecting Saskatchewan

After working with AccessNow TV, APAS broadcast its Connecting Saskatchewan television show in November. It's a 60-minute program that examines why internet and cellular connectivity is still so bad in rural Saskatchewan, plus solutions for fixing it.

You can watch the broadcast at <https://bit.ly/31nJtPZ>.





# Plan for your farm's financial future with farm estate planning

We believe farm estate planning is an essential part of your farming operation. You've dedicated your life to the success of your farm, so it just makes sense to make proper plans for the orderly transfer of your farm assets to the next generation, in a fair and tax-efficient way.

## Fair vs. equal

In farming, fair doesn't always mean equal distribution of the farm property among heirs. An equal division of assets may leave the farm unviable, yet it's still important to treat all heirs fairly. In many cases, dividing assets evenly between active and inactive farming heirs can cause tension, such as:

- Heirs may inherit an equal portion of the farm, but not all heirs actively maintain it or are interested in doing so.
- A farming heir may have to rent land from other family members or borrow money to buy them out.
- Some land may be deemed more valuable than others, which makes it difficult to split evenly.

Farming today is a business. The Income Tax Act provides options to minimize taxation for farmers who want to pass their farm down to the next generation. Your Co-operators Financial Advisor will work with your legal and accounting advisors to prepare a farm estate plan that will protect your farm and your family. Farm estate planning objectives include:

- keeping the farm intact
- securing a comfortable retirement
- passing your operation on to your heirs
- minimizing taxes, estate fees and transfer costs
- a farm plan that fits all generations.

## How can life insurance fit within your farm estate plan?

Life insurance can play a helpful role in farm succession planning. It can be a cost- and tax-effective way to divide an estate fairly among heirs. While farming heirs take over the farm and inherit the farm assets, non-farming heirs receive the benefit of the life insurance policy.

### **We offer everything you need to protect what matters.**

Secure your retirement and the future of your life's hard work by contacting your local Co-operators Financial Advisor and asking about farm estate planning.

**Investments. Insurance. Advice.**





# Converting Biomass Into a Welcome Revenue Stream

By Bill Armstrong

Employing its proprietary technology to convert wheat straw into market pulp, Red Leaf Pulp Limited aims to establish the first non-wood fibre pulp plant in Canada, delivering its product with a lower environmental impact than conventional wood pulp production.

**M**aking market pulp from wheat straw and other crop residues is not new, but the Kelowna-based company has developed a proprietary technology that is more efficient, sustainable and scalable than existing processes. The company's technology drew interest from Sustainable Development Technology Canada, which provided a \$3.8 million grant to help the company improve and commercialize its proprietary processes.

Red Leaf Pulp was established in 2019 as an offshoot of Allnorth Consulting, an engineering firm with extensive experience in the pulp and paper sector. The company plans to break ground for its first plant near Regina in the summer of 2022, with completion and commissioning in the summer or fall of 2024. It will produce approximately 182,000 tonnes of market pulp annually, which will be shipped to customers who will use it to manufacture paper, packaging materials, tissues, towels, and containers for the food services industry. All of these products will later be compostable.

## Good News for Farmers

The initiative is good news for farmers within a 120 kilometre radius of the proposed plant, offering an additional revenue source from biomass, a by-product of harvesting activity. Besides locating in the heart of a cereal crop production region, Red Leaf Pulp CEO Martin Pudlas says it chose to situate its first plant on the west side of Regina because its road and rail connections are second to none. He sees the potential to have seven or eight plants located across the Prairies and the northern US plains states over the coming decade.

"We need to find new sources of fibre, because the global demand for pulp continues to increase," said Pudlas. "When we see the wheat straw fibre that is available from an existing industry, we think there is tremendous potential to generate additional value in putting this into low-carbon biomaterials, as well as low carbon-intensity fuels."

## The Production Process

While the production process is similar to that used with wood, less energy and other inputs are required to extract fibre from cereal crop straw. Wood is also 50 per cent moisture, while straw is about eight to 15 per cent, making the transportation and production of straw much more efficient. Canadian forestry operations require extensive infrastructure dedicated to harvesting and operate on a 70 to 90-year cycle, whereas cereal crop straw is produced annually.

"Our process uses half the energy and less water to separate fibres than a conventional wood pulp mill," said Joe Hinz, the company's director of fibre procurement. "There is also a 50 per cent reduction in fossil fuels per acre when farmers don't need to harrow or chop and spread excess straw. Since the fibre is easier to extract than from wood, chemical use is significantly less. There will also not be the smell associated with a traditional wood pulp mill. The market pulp that we will produce is of better quality, lower cost and environmentally sustainable compared to eucalyptus pulp that is being imported."

Hinz estimated that about 120 farmers will be required to supply wheat straw to the plant, representing less than 15 per cent of the wheat and durum acres within a 120 kilometre radius of Regina. The number of farmers participating will depend on the straw yield per acre, and the amount of acres that growers wish to have baled. Red Leaf Pulp will provide an advance payment as a guarantee that the straw will be baled soon after it is harvested, minimizing disruptions to other field operations.

Interested farmers will need to disengage the choppers on their combines and windrow the straw, which will then be baled into large square bales and stacked beside the fields or transported to one of a half-dozen planned satellite sites for later shipment to the plant.

"Aside from an additional revenue stream from a market that historically has not been subject to any export tariffs, there are additional opportunities for farmers to custom bale and haul," said Hinz.

## Why Square Bales?

Hinz says the company looked at designing the plant to accept round and square bales, but chose to focus on square bales. The company found that square bales were more efficient in picking up shorter straw from rotary combines, and more efficient for handling and hauling on flat decks. Red Leaf was also surprised by the amount of custom baling capacity available in the Regina area, and the number of operators interested in working with the company. It appears there will be adequate capacity for custom baling on a timely basis for those growers who do not have, or do not want to invest in baling and hauling equipment, Hinz said.

The plant represents a \$350 million investment in the local community, creating 250 jobs during construction and 110 full-time jobs on completion.

**If you are interested in supplying wheat straw biomass for Red Leaf's operations, please go to [www.redleafpulp.com/producers](http://www.redleafpulp.com/producers) to complete the short survey form.**

**For more information contact Joe Hinz at 306 231-8621 or email [jhinz@redleafpulp.com](mailto:jhinz@redleafpulp.com).**



 **Red Leaf Pulp**  
redleafpulp.com

# APAS Resolutions

## Oil and Gas Subcommittee

### Saskatchewan Liability Rating Program for Energy Companies

Lobby the Saskatchewan Ministry of Energy and Resources to change the Licensee Liability Rating (LLR) Program so that outstanding landowner lease payments and municipal tax arrears are used as criteria to rate energy companies' financial position.

### Implementation of Updated Surface Rights Act

Renew efforts to have the Saskatchewan Ministry of Energy and Resources conclude their review of the Saskatchewan Surface Rights Compensation and Acquisitions Act by implementing the draft legislation that was written in 2014 but not enacted.

### Third-Party Infrastructure Remaining on Land After Decommissioning

Lobby the provincial government to make operating companies responsible for the removal of decommissioned third-party infrastructure and to subsequently release right of way caveats/easements on agricultural land.

### Oil and Gas Company Arrears

Lobby the Province of Saskatchewan in support of the RMs and landowners seeking legislative changes to hold oil and gas companies responsible for the municipal taxes they owe.

## Livestock

### Remote Sensing in Forage Insurance Programming

Request that Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC) adopt a program similar to Alberta's "Satellite Yield Insurance Program" to improve the accuracy of forage production yield appraisal through the use of remote sensing and other satellite-based technology.

### New and Small Producer Access to Provincial Agricultural Programming

Lobby the provincial government to lower the minimum farm income thresholds access Farm Stewardship and Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure programming from \$50,000 to \$25,000

### FRWIP Coverage Cost for Permanent Wiring

Lobby the provincial government to include permanent wiring from existing power sources to service water infrastructure as a coverable cost under FRWIP funding when deemed more economical or practical than alternative power sources such as solar.

### Pregnancy Evaluation on Livestock by Trained Personnel

Advocate for changes to the veterinary regulations to allow trained personnel to undertake pregnancy evaluations of livestock without a licensed veterinarian present

### Expansion of SCIC Weather Stations

Lobby Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation to install additional weather stations throughout the province to more accurately represent rainfall amounts for the calculation of benefits under the Forage Rainfall Insurance Program

## Water Management

### Motion of Support for Quill Lakes 5 Acre Plan

Support the member RMs that are part of the Quill Lakes "5 Acre Plan" for water management.

### Water Infrastructure Funding

Advocate for enhancements to federal and provincial water infrastructure and water supply programming, including:

1. Infrastructure programs which mandate consideration and recognition of financial, organizational, and technical challenges faced by rural and remote communities,
2. A review of program design by both levels of government to identify solutions to the challenges in accessing public funding by rural communities and agricultural producers,
3. The adoption of the principle that programs providing public funding for infrastructure should provide benefits to all citizens in the region, urban and rural, and that proponents demonstrate the consideration of regional water needs.
4. The adoption of the principle that connections to publicly funded water infrastructure projects be accessible to neighbouring communities at a reasonable cost.
5. That Federal and provincial governments develop programs to assist rural and remote communities with the ability to build local capacity in planning, developing, and implementing water projects to meet local needs and enhance future resilience.

### Water Dam Construction for Agricultural Uses

Lobby all levels of government to provide support for the construction of new dams in creeks, ravines and other waterways to increase water reservoirs available for irrigation, livestock water supply, and other agricultural uses.





## Land & Environment

### Omission of Zero-Tillage Protocols from Allowable Carbon Offsets Credits

Express extreme disappointment with provincial and federal governments regarding the decision to disallow zero-tillage offset protocols for Prairie producers because of the 40% adoption rate. Continue to advocate for the recognition of producer achievements in sequestering carbon through sustainable farming practices.

### Saskatchewan Grain Bag Recycling Program

Work with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment to explore potential changes to grain bag recycling program to better support the needs of new entrants in the market for agricultural plastics and recycling.

## Finance & Rural Issues

### Saskatchewan Growth Coalition Tax Proposals

Call on the provincial government to reject the "Saskatchewan Growth Coalition" request to cap RM's "Effective Mill Rate" (EMR) limit to 0.75-2.0 from the current EMR 1-9 limit.

Work with the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) and Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA) to raise awareness about the "Saskatchewan Growth Coalition" platform and the impact their proposed tax changes would have on municipal revenue and property taxes for producers and residents.

### Saskatchewan Farmers Advocate Office

Lobby the Provincial Government to create a "Farmers Advocate Office" (FAO) similar to the FAO that exists in Alberta, to provide better access to services and resources in areas like dispute resolution, Farm Implements Act and Regulations, nuisance complaints and landowner surface rights.

## Grains & Oilseeds

### CGC Statutory Declarations

Advocate the Canadian Grain Commission to require licensed elevator companies to separate "Statutory Variety Declarations" from commercial declarations that are specific to individual companies.

### Crop Insurance Yield Cushioning

Lobby Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC) to change its yield cushioning policy to cap yields at 70% of long-term average yields in disaster are automatically capped at 70% of long-term average.

### Early Release of SCIC "What-if" Scenarios

Request Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC) to publicise predicted prices and "what-if scenarios" in the middle of December for the 2022 and future program years.

### Cash Advance Repayment on Interest-Free Portion

Advocate for changes to the Advance Payment Program to ensure that repayments are evenly split between the interest free and interest-bearing portions of the loans.

### SCIC Crop Establishment Policy

Lobby Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation for policy changes to provide producers the choice between an establishment claim and full yield coverage when crops do not grow or fail to establish due to insurable losses.

### Funding for Breeding Programs

Protect the viability of public crop breeding programs for the 2023 "Next Policy Framework" by lobbying Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada for Agriscience Clusters that continue to provide funding for all crop breeding activities necessary to bring a new variety to market, including the reinstatement of a 70:30 (government-producer) cost share arrangement for smaller acre crops that cannot afford to meet lower funding ratios.

## Economics & Trade

### Farmer Share of the Food Dollar

Work with the Canadian Federation of Agriculture and other farm organizations to conduct research and promote awareness about the percentage of food costs that costs that go to primary production.

### Promoting Competition in Agricultural Markets

Take advantage of the recent elevation of competition policy discourse and work to advocate for farmer interests in key markets and areas of concern, such as rising input costs, rail freight costing review, price spreads in retail beef market, and the right to access software for equipment repair.

### Trade and Market Development Programs

Work with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada to ensure federal trade and market development programs meet the needs of smaller acre crops and niche commodities through program changes that provide:

- Better support for domestic market development and promotion
- Financial assistance to help sectors resolve emerging non-tariff trade restrictions
- Flexible funding agreements for smaller commodity associations that are unable to meet existing cost-shared funding requirements



# 'It's pride': Farming on Cowessess First Nation

How an agricultural venture turned into the revival of farming on a Saskatchewan First Nation

WRITTEN BY CALLY NICHOLL | PHOTOS BY MICHAEL BELL

**B**lack Angus cattle roam the land on Cowessess First Nation. These cattle came to this piece of land in the fall of 2007. A herd that started as 25 cows and one bull has grown to more than 130 head and will continue to increase with each calving season.

This herd belongs to 4C Farms Ltd., whose name originated from "Cowessess Community Cattle Company." But this growing herd of cattle means more to Cowessess First Nation than just a future in agriculture.

"It's pride," Chief of Cowessess First Nation, Cadmus Delorme said. "It's to know that our Nation has created something that our ancestors envisioned when they signed the treaty. It's also food sovereignty to make sure that we, as a First Nation and community have our own food source if the world were to pause, or something was to happen. It's also a job opportunity for our next generation to prepare them for the long-term sustainable growth agriculture offers."

## It takes a somebody

On December 13, 2021, the staff of 4C Farms, along with the help of some community members and the 4C team are pregnancy-checking the herd.







Ranch Manager Terry Lerat cannot help but express his excitement about the results. Of 133 cows, 131 are pregnant, and a few late calvers. "It's a good day," Lerat said.

Lerat has always lived on Cowessess and grew up farming with his father.

"I grew up milking a cow before breakfast, and after school there were chores," Lerat said. "It was a good life."

Lerat is happy to pass on the skills and lifestyle of farming to his son and now his grandson.

"We all learned how to work from mom and dad who were hard workers," Lerat said. "If you're given the reins to do what you love, that's all you want to do. Farming is a lifestyle, and it's just a really good way to raise kids. To give them that work experience of looking after cattle, chickens, and pigs. Give them responsibility. And then they become responsible people themselves. That's how I grew up. I had my chores to do after school. And if I didn't do it, I had to answer to someone."

Lerat has a small farm but has spent most of his career working for other farmers near Cowessess. But he always wanted his First Nation to venture into the

agricultural sector. Lerat is one of very few folks at Cowessess who actively farm. Lerat said his family was the last farming family on Cowessess First Nation for many years. In 2007, he felt he knew how Cowessess could start its own farming operation.

"I made a deal with the Chief and Council to give me enough money to buy 25 cows and one bull because I wanted to build this up to 300 cows for the community," Lerat said. Once the herd of 26 was established, Terry left 4C Farms for some years to work on a pure-bred cattle farm near Cowessess. Terry said that pure-bred farm gave him the knowledge he would need to manage 4C Farms in the future. He also learned the value of genetics.

"It just opened up a world of different knowledge and the opportunities of raising good quality cattle over quantity," Lerat said.

**“ I was exploring all kinds of different opportunities to get more added value out of our land. I kept hearing, ‘you guys should farm your own land.’ ”**

– Terry Lerat, Ranch Manager, 4C Farms

## Making a plan

Cowessess First Nation's original reserve sits on 28,000 acres of land on the south side of Crooked Lake, including 17,000 acres of suitable agricultural land. In the 1990's, after settling its Treaty Land Entitlement claim in 1996, the First Nation purchased 110,000 acres of land in southern Saskatchewan. The land is spread out from Preeceville to Regina and down to the Wood Mountain area. Most of the land is rented to non-Indigenous farmers through short-term permits. Lerat said after speaking to successful producers in Saskatchewan, he kept getting the same advice.

"I was exploring all kinds of different opportunities for Cowessess to get added value from our land," Lerat said. "I kept hearing, 'you guys should farm your own

## Timeline of 4C Farms

**1996**

Cowessess settles the \$46 million Treaty Land Entitlement Claim with the federal government

**1996-2008**

Cowessess buys 57,000 acres of land in southern Saskatchewan

**1996-today**

Cowessess purchases 76,000 acres of land and puts that land into reserve status. 20,000 acres waits to be converted into reserve status.

**2007**

Chief and Council purchase 25 cows and one bull

**2018-2019**

Cowessess seeds 700 acres of grain

**2021**

Cowessess seeds 4500 acres of grain

land. That's where you will reap the most benefits."

Cowessess Chief and Council as a leadership group also believe farming has huge potential. While there is considerable risk in farming, there is an upside reward beyond simply collecting rent from the permits. Council invested in a grain farm business plan and engaged with their Director of Economic Development to map out a plan and assemble the resources needed to embark on a large-scale farming operation. In 2021, 4C Farms was fortunate to attract funding from the Indigenous Agriculture Food Systems Initiative through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. This was really the kick-start that 4C Farms needed to invest in

some equipment and get the financing necessary for crop production.

### 4C Farms

"It's about getting the best return on our lands," Delorme said. "As a First Nation, we want to make sure that we utilize our land for our opportunities."

In 2018 and 2019, Cowessess decided to break some pasture lands and start grain farming on the north side of the Qu'Appelle Valley in the RM of Grayson. It is rocky, bushy land, better suited to the cattle operation. After a couple of tough years grain farming that land in the RM of Grayson, 4C Farms set its sights on better land south of the Qu'Appelle Valley

on the original home reserve. In 2020, 4C Farms seeded 1,350 acres, and in 2021 expanded the operation to 4,500 acres.

As permits with neighboring non-Indigenous farmers expired, 4C Farms started using those lands internally. The Chief and Council made it a priority for 4C Farms to farm the Nation's best lands on the home reserve. In the short term, all the profit from 4C Farms' cattle and grain operations are re-invested back into the business to purchase more equipment and grow the farm. Down the road, the goal for 4C Farms is to be able to generate enough economic return from farming their own land to reinvest back into community programs and other underfunded areas.



Chief Cadmus Delorme, Sirayne Perkins, Bobby Delorme, Terry Lerat, Ken Lavallee, Tanya Delorme, Jessica Nixon, Malcolm Delorme





“As a First Nation, we want to be a part of the growth in this province and this country.”

– Chief Cadmus Delorme

## Voices at the table

At the 2021 Canadian Western Agribition 2021 show, Chief Delorme presented at the Indigenous Agricultural Summit. His presentation focused on 4C Farms, its growth, and Indigenous voices being part of Saskatchewan's agricultural future.

“As a First Nation, we want to be a part of the growth in this province and this country,” Delorme said. “We understand we have some disadvantages, but we inherited this. We’re asking for our leadership to be a part of the policy change tables, to be a part of the economic planning tables, so that when Saskatchewan is being marketed out in the world, that it’s not just Saskatchewan, its Indigenous people and Saskatchewan, that are going to be a part of the growth in the future.”

## Looking ahead

4C Farms has a hybrid team consisting of two full-time employees who are Cowessess citizens: Terry Lerat, who focuses on the cattle side of the operation as the Ranch Manager, plus a full-time Ranch Hand. They focus on the cattle side in the winter and support the grain side of the operation in the spring and fall.

4C Farms calls on community members to help on a casual basis throughout the year for things like vaccination days, sorting days, building fences, seeding and harvest as needed. 4C Farms relies on contracted resources as well. Jessica Nixon, the Director of Economic Development for Cowessess First Nation, has a strong agricultural background and operates a mixed cattle and grain farm with her husband.

The team is diverse, but everyone learns something from one another. Significant mentorship needs to happen from the seasoned veterans like Lerat down to the next generation to ensure the success of 4C Farms. Lerat says he sees himself as a mentor to the younger employees and hopes to instill knowledge of agriculture that was lost over the last century.

“We’re a generation away from the last generation who lost their farming abilities,” Lerat said. “There was no farming left on the reserve.... We’re behind the eight ball here, and we’ve got to work hard to catch up.”

Lerat adds “4C will farm the same 4,500 acres in 2022 because we had much success with it and want to work out the kinks.”

“Once we fine-tune our operation, we hope to expand our grain acres in 2023. As for the cattle side of the operation, we will grow slowly within our means.”

## 4C Farms Employees

- Terry Lerat, Ranch Manager
- Sirayne Perkins, Ranch/ Grain Hand
- Allen Friesen, Casual Ranch Hand
- Ken Lavallee, Casual Ranch Hand
- Reid Piller, Grain Manager
- Jessica Nixon, Project Director

Jessica oversees the business and financial management of 4C Farms and lends a hand on processing days at the ranch. Reid Piller, a young neighboring farmer is contracted to support 4C Farms with managing the grain side of the operation. This includes using his equipment on a contract basis for seeding, spraying, and harvest, in addition to providing his agronomy expertise.



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# Building Public Trust in Agriculture



The amount of information available to the public today is overwhelming to many consumers. A wealth of knowledge is available to anyone at the click of a button or the turn of a page, so how do agriculture advocates ensure that information about food production and agriculture is accurate and assures consumers that our food is safe and produced in a sustainable way?

## Why is industry transparency important in agriculture?

Consumer perceptions of agricultural operations can vary widely, some see a small, family farm operation while others conjure up an image of industrialized feedlots and heavy emitting machinery. The reality of the agriculture industry can fit somewhere in between – modern producers using 21<sup>st</sup> century technologies and practices to ensure efficiency and productivity, all while continuing to be stewards of the land they farm.

The agriculture industry is continuously changing, and many Canadians have little understanding about how food is produced in 2022. Consumers, food processors and retailers are demanding increased transparency about agricultural production practices. And agriculture has responded by ramping up advocacy and education efforts to ensure consumers understand and trust those producing their food.

Food processors and grocery stores are beginning to often provide social and corporate responsibility reports to consumers as a marketing tool to demonstrate the sustainability of their brand. Greater pressure is being put on producers to comply with production standards set by industry.

Producers across Saskatchewan have tools at their disposal to demonstrate to the public that they operate in a responsible way. Programs such as Verified Beef Production Plus (VBP+) and the Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) are examples of programs that aim to provide transparency to the public. VBP+ offers training and certification for cattle producers to prove their operations meet high standards for animal care, food safety and environmental stewardship. While on a broader scale, EFPs offer guidance regarding best management practices on the farm such as identifying environmental risks and creating a management plan to mitigate them.

Programs such as these validate production methods that most producers are already using and help to communicate

those practices to the public in clear ways. Producers have always been open about their production practices, the role that producers can play in righting misconceptions about the industry is more important than ever.

## Consumer concerns and how agriculture can help address them

Recently Canadians have pinpointed the cost of food and keeping healthy food affordable as two of their top concerns. Opinion research conducted by the Canadian Centre for Food Integrity (CCFI) suggests that Canadian consumers are overwhelmed by the amount of information available to them. Furthermore, consumers don't know which resources are trustworthy for gaining accurate information about agriculture.

CCFI also provided a closer look at who and where consumers look to for

information about the agriculture and agri-food industry. Regarding food safety and providing information about food production, consumers indicated that the people they trust the most for information are farmers. For information about food safety and nutrition, consumers put scientists and academic researchers at the top of the list, followed by farmers and grocery stores.

Where consumers get their information from is just as important as who they listen to. Canadian consumers consistently listed google searches and websites as their first resource when looking for information about agriculture and food production. The internet is one of the quickest ways to gather information, but it also makes it easier to stumble upon inaccurate information.

If people are most likely to trust farmers, scientists, and academics when it comes to information about food production – producers need to make sure the public has a connection to those sources. As agriculture advocates, making sure the information you are sharing reaches the most influential platforms can have a

big impact. Public trust research across Canada shows that visiting a working agricultural operation has an impact on a person's perception of agriculture, and public trust initiatives operated by different groups can help to get people interacting with agriculture in positive ways.


## Putting in the effort – advocacy in Saskatchewan

Many organizations have identified the disconnect between farm to table throughout the province and have been working to provide more information to people in Saskatchewan about the agriculture and agri-food sector. Realizing the importance of connecting all in the province to the industry that produces their food, organizations such as Farm and Food Care Saskatchewan, Ag in the Classroom Saskatchewan, and 4-H Saskatchewan, provide resources and information to the public.

Farm and Food Care offers resources and connection opportunities for businesses,

governments, and individuals to learn about food production, while Ag in the Classroom focuses on providing education through Saskatchewan elementary schools. Both organizations offer various resources for those who are interested in learning more about agriculture, both independently and through workshops. Organizations such as these provide valuable information for those new to agriculture, as well as those actively involved in it. Their work bridges the gap and connects everyone in the agriculture and agri-food chain, helping to create more awareness of the agriculture industry as a whole.

The Government of Saskatchewan also places focus on encouraging public trust in the agriculture sector. Since 2013, the provincial government has launched their annual Public Trust Survey to find out what Saskatchewan consumers know about agriculture, what they need to know more about, and how their perceptions of the industry change year over year. 2021 results showed that overall, Saskatchewan residents have a positive perception of agriculture – with 89% of respondents strongly agreeing that they see agriculture in a positive way. Saskatchewan residents appear to have a more positive view of the agriculture industry than compared to a national level, with Saskatchewan agriculture scoring higher across all categories.



“ If people are most likely to trust farmers, scientists, and academics when it comes to information about food production - producers need to make sure the public has a connection to those sources. ”





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# Grain Contracts

BY RYAN MCNALLY AND BRENT KOBES

“We developed this survey to get more information about producers’ individual experiences with the grain companies, so we can develop ideas around improving provisions in future contracts. It’s in the mutual interest of both producers and grain companies to develop a more workable system.”

– Todd Lewis, Past APAS President

For Saskatchewan producers, 2021 will be remembered as one of the worst droughts for many years. Throughout the year APAS called on both the federal and provincial governments and businesses in the agriculture sector to support farmers during difficult growing conditions.

In June, APAS called on the province to increase AgriStability compensation. In August, the provincial and the federal governments reached a deal to increase the interim benefit payment percentage to 75%. That same month, APAS also welcomed the news of \$100 million in federal dollars toward the AgriRecovery program to help ranchers and farmers facing extraordinary expenses and loss of breeding herds because of the drought.

Starting in July, APAS started getting calls from members concerned that they would not be able to meet their grain contracts due to major production and quality shortfalls. Over the course of the summer, as prices rose dramatically, the cost of making up those shortfalls increased as well.







“ This drought has resulted in unprecedented losses for producers in Saskatchewan. It’s going to take years for some farms to financially recover from this year, but also to build up their breeding herd that had to be sold because of lack of feed. Any additional money going to help this struggling sector is appreciated. ”

– Todd Lewis

In September, APAS issued a news release urging the Western Grain Elevator Association and its members to work with farmers by eliminating administration fees and reducing penalties for the 2021-22 season in response to the drought conditions. Later that month, APAS started an online survey to gain information from producers about their experiences with grain contracts during the drought year.

The first results of the survey were released in late November, and 75% of the more than 200 respondents saying they were unable to fulfill their grain contracts because of the drought. Producers also indicated the administrative fees to fulfill their contracts ranged between \$20,000 to \$300,000. Interest on unpaid contracts was as high as 19%. Other issues producers raised include the lack of transparency in calculating buyout and administrative fees and wide disparities in settlement costs between different companies.

Twenty-five per cent of respondents said they had trouble contacting the

**75% of the more than 200 respondents were unable to fulfill their grain contracts because of the drought.**

grain buyers to resolve issues arising from production shortfalls. Many producers indicated they would not be working with the same grain company in the future, and some even indicated they wouldn’t sign a contract again.

To further support producers managing their contracts APAS hosted a panel of legal experts at our 2022 General Meeting. Three lawyers discussed key legal concepts found in contracts and what producers would best be able to manage and protect themselves in circumstances if they were to occur. Some concept included force majeure, frustration, and Act of God.

In 2022, APAS will be working with other producer organizations to research grain contract provisions and work towards improvements for buyers and sellers.

APAS is still accepting input on contracts from producers. Those interested in taking part in the survey can visit [apas.ca/graincontracts](https://apas.ca/graincontracts).

APAS continues to advise Saskatchewan producers to seek legal advice if needed. If anyone is experiencing significant stress, reach out to the Farm Stress Line at 1-800-667-4442 or [help@farmstressline.ca](mailto:help@farmstressline.ca).

# Associate Members



- Alternative Land Use Services
- Canadian Farmers with Disabilities Registry
- Canadian Foodgrains Bank
- Chicken Farmers of Saskatchewan
- Community Pasture Patrons Association of Saskatchewan
- Delta Waterfowl
- Farm Management Canada
- Hudson Bay Route Association
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- Red Coat Road and Rail
- Saskatchewan Association of Agricultural Societies and Exhibitions
- Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds
- Saskatchewan Beekeepers Association
- Saskatchewan Broiler Hatching Egg Producers
- Saskatchewan Bison Association
- Saskatchewan Cervid Alliance
- Saskatchewan Conservation Development Association
- Saskatchewan Economic Development Association
- Saskatchewan Egg Producers
- Saskatchewan Farm Stewardship Association
- Saskatchewan Irrigation Projects Association
- SaskMilk
- Saskatchewan Oat Development Commission
- SaskOrganics
- Sask Pork
- Saskatchewan Sheep Development Board
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\*Please note, for certain APAS member rewards, you require your APAS membership card or a special discount card, which is available from the RM office of participating APAS RMs. For more information, visit [apas.ca/membership-and-benefits/my-rewards](http://apas.ca/membership-and-benefits/my-rewards)





# CONNECTING SASKATCHEWAN

**Local broadcast examines the differences between rural and urban connectivity**



“One of the key focuses for improving connectivity isn’t just having access to internet, it’s having access to affordable internet.”

– Jeremy Welter, Chair,  
Rural Connectivity Task Force

In November 2021, APAS and AccessNow TV collaborated to release *Connecting Saskatchewan*, a broadcast that highlights the need for improving cellular service and high-speed internet in rural Saskatchewan.

The show aired on November 29, 2021 and has since been viewed by hundreds of people throughout the province.

*Connecting Saskatchewan* focused on APAS’s Rural Connectivity Task Force (RCTF) which was established to explore the reasons why many areas of rural

Saskatchewan have poor cellular service and no high-speed internet. The broadcast also outlined various solutions to improve rural connectivity.

The Task Force was established in September 2020 and spent months researching this issue and meeting with industry experts and service providers to gather more information. The Task Force was led by Chair Jeremy Welter, alongside Task Force members Ian Boxall, Bev Pirio, Bill Prybylski, and Paige Stewart.

APAS released a final report in March 2021



## Where to watch *Connecting Saskatchewan*:

- AccessNow TV App
- AccessNow TV Video on Demand
- APAS YouTube page





Bill Prybylski

“Producers spend long hours working alone, and we work in areas where there is limited or no cell phone service, and we ask our employees and ourselves to work in those conditions. Yet, God forbid if anything ever happened, and you couldn’t make that phone call when you need the help. It’s a huge concern.”

– Ian Boxall, Rural Connectivity Task Force Member

with 43 recommendations to improve connectivity in rural Saskatchewan. This report has been widely shared with service providers and government officials.

*Connecting Saskatchewan* was hosted by Curtis Hemming, APAS Assistant General Manager, and Cally Nicholl, APAS Communications Manager. APAS Policy Researcher Brent Kobes, who worked extensively with the Task Force, provided an overview of the 43 recommendations. Curtis and Cally interviewed Task Force members Jeremy Welter and Ian Boxall about the importance of connectivity on their farms and what they learned from being part of the Task Force. Jeremy and Ian also shared personal stories about the lack of connectivity in their parts of

the province and expressed their frustrations about service providers and governments not doing more to connect all of rural Saskatchewan.

Bill Prybylski and Paige Stewart were also interviewed about the specific connectivity challenges they face on their farms daily and how it impacts their productivity and personal lives.

The goal of *Connecting Saskatchewan* was to provide Saskatchewan residents and government officials with more information about the barriers preventing people in rural Saskatchewan from using their cell phones and going online, plus present solutions to these problems that service providers and governments can implement.

“People need to remember that rural Saskatchewan is a huge economic driver in this province, and it’s time that all levels of government made the required changes to policies so that rural Saskatchewan and Canada have the internet we need and deserve.”

– Ian Boxall, Rural Connectivity Task Force Member

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# LeRoy, Saskatchewan: 100 Years of Growing Together

How agriculture plays a critical role in one Saskatchewan small town

BY CALLY NICHOLL

**L**ocated along highway 761, the town of LeRoy doesn't get much traffic passing through. It's about an hour and a half drive from Saskatoon, two hours from Regina, and 20 minutes from Humboldt. But the tight-knit community thrives on hard work and working together.

"I think it's just part of the community," resident of LeRoy, Donavon Block said. "It's just a cooperative community. People look after what they want to see survive."

That community spirit was well-demonstrated when the town's hockey arena burned down in 2013. Within three and a half years, the community raised \$5.6 million to rebuild the arena.

"It really goes to show the strength and resilience of a small community, such as ours," Mayor of LeRoy, Kurt Schreiner said.

"LeRoy has a very strong volunteer spirit, and you can always find people to help for a good cause. There is something to be said for small towns achieving big dreams."

**“It really goes to show the strength and resilience of a small community, such as ours. LeRoy has a very strong volunteer spirit, and you can always find people to help for a good cause. There is something to be said for small towns achieving big dreams.”**

– Kurt Schreiner, Mayor of LeRoy

## The Town of LeRoy

The first known settlement around LeRoy was by Salteaux Indian Chief Yellow Quill and his band in the 1800s. In the 1860s, after Federal Indian Treaties were negotiated for the area, the land was settled by European settlers of English, Scotch, Irish and Scandinavian descent.

The town gets its name from John LeRoy, a man whose family was one of the first to settle in the area and died in World War I.

LeRoy was officially incorporated as a village in 1922 and became a town in 1963.

Today, around 500 people live in the community, which has many amenities, including two restaurants, a school, and a growing number of retail stores. Many people in the community enjoy the LeRoy Leisureland Regional Park, a short drive from the town centre.

The community is also awaiting the opening of the BHP Jansen potash mine, which is expected to be fully operational by 2027. BHP and its employees are already





active members of the community, having donated \$1 million towards the new arena. The new mine will create jobs for LeRoy and grow the town.

But along with basic amenities, the community of LeRoy has a diverse and growing agricultural sector that captures the agricultural opportunities in the area and provides employment for many residents.

“ I think it’s just part of the community. It’s just a cooperative community. People look after what they want to see survive. ”

– Donavon Block







“LeRoy has a very strong volunteer spirit, and you can always find people to help for a good cause. There is something to be said for small towns achieving big dreams.”

– Kurt Schreiner

## A growing agricultural community

The McGrath family has farmed in the LeRoy area for generations. The family owns three farm operations: Sinnett Pork Farm Ltd., Leroy Feeds, and a family grain farm of 22,000 acres.

Sinnett Pork Farm Ltd. opened in 1997 and is a farrow to finish hog barn and always has between 30,000-35,000 pigs on feed at any given time. The operation doubled its size in 2006.

Leroy Feeds was a spin-off business for the hog farm and opened in 2009. The mill ensured the hog farm had feed for the pigs and now produces over 125,000 tonnes of feed each year. The mill supports many local farmers by buying their grain.

Jay McGrath said he's involved in all

three operations, but he's the lead on the hog farm and feed mill. The grain farm is a family operation between Jay and extended family members. Jay said he's fortunate to work so closely with his family and grow their businesses.

“We've always found a way to keep things together,” Jay said.

Between the Sinnett Pork Farm and Leroy Feeds, the McGrath family employs around 50 people. There are many long-term employees of the two businesses, and since 2006, several employees of the two operations are from the Philippines, resulting in a huge spin-off effect for LeRoy.

“The school went from being on the chopping block because there weren't enough kids, to really thriving,” Jay said. “Our school has been really good on numbers, and a lot of it is because we have a very big Filipino community that works for

us. We try to bring people over that have one, two or three kids, and that helps the school out.”

Jay has two grown sons who live in LeRoy and work in the family businesses. His family is like many others, and he credits the agricultural sector for having provided opportunities for people to stay.

“Everyone seems to grow up being proud of where they are from, and there's got to be something here to stay, and agriculture has always provided all kinds of opportunities,” Jay said.

Jay said the McGrath family farming operations are just one part of LeRoy's business community. He said every business owner and every employee has a role to play, and their efforts are all essential to the progress of LeRoy.

“We have two different garages in town, and there's two restaurants,” Jay said.



"Those people are crucial too. We still need people to do these things. There's a lot of other small business owners in town, and everybody seems to have their niche, and that's what it's all about. It all comes together."

A sentiment Mayor Schreiner also agrees with. Having a strong agricultural community has allowed other local businesses in LeRoy to thrive.

"The opportunity for townsfolk to buy local, literally farm to fork, is so much greater when that field or that barn is just out the back door or maybe a couple miles away," Schreiner said. "The rural community is a strong support for our local businesses and fundraising initiatives, creating a strong relationship between urban and rural neighbours."

in LeRoy. Donavon and Pearl continue to farm with their son Cody and his wife, Kim. The four of them have a grain farm and a cow-calf operation.

Block has always been an active community member, having served as a board member for many organizations. He's served as a board member for the Co-op, the Credit Union, minor hockey, the curling club, his church, and the elder board. Block is currently an APAS board member.

"Most of the things I've been interested in were for my family or agriculture," Block said. "I have a passion for agriculture."

Block is still devastated over the men's senior hockey team not hitting the ice for the 2021-22 season. But he's optimistic about the community's future with the BHP mine eventually opening. He also

said immigration is bringing lots of young families to the area.

"With the mine opening, there's going to be a lot of spin-off businesses. You're going to have an influx of young people coming to the community. I think there's a good chance there could be a senior team again."

He said as LeRoy marks its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2022, a lot is happening in the community now, and a lot more is to come.

"LeRoy was 450 people for a long time, and now it's close to 550," Block said. "It's definitely growing. And LeRoy's got a lot of things going for it. It's a very good community."

## Generations of farming

Similar to Jay's family, Donavon Block was born in LeRoy at the hospital and said he's never wanted to live anywhere else. He grew up farming alongside his parents and raised three children with his wife Pearl in the area. Two of their children still live

“Everyone seems to grow up being proud of where they are from, and there's got to be something here to stay, and agriculture has always provided all kinds of opportunities.”

— Jay McGrath



# Youth Leadership and Mentorship Program

PHOTO BY MICHAEL BELL

Since it was established in 2014, the APAS Youth Leadership and Mentorship Program has helped young people between the ages of 18 and 40 gain insight into agricultural policy, develop leadership skills and connect with other young producers. Several YLMP participants have gone on to have leadership roles in the agriculture industry, including APAS President Ian Boxall, and several APAS Board members.

"Getting young people involved in agricultural policy is a huge benefit to all producers," Boxall said. "They bring forward issues that affect young and new producers, and also bring a positive outlook as they start their farming careers."

Starting in 2021, the program is being sponsored by Farm Credit Canada

Four mentees make up the 2022 edition of the YLMP presented by FCC.

"The first few months have been quite an eye-opener!" said Madison Englot from the RM of Montmartre #126. "Having the up-close experience with APAS and understanding the bridge they create between the producers and the government is great. Before joining, conversations about 'what needs to be changed or improved' with the government seemed out of reach. Knowing that an organization like APAS is available to our farmers in each RM is extremely comforting, producers do have a voice and can make changes happen."

**"We share APAS's passion for making Canadian agriculture better and recognize the importance of mentoring young producers. "Helping each other succeed through networking and mentoring is an integral part of our corporate culture and the way we do business, which makes supporting this program a natural fit."**

– Shannon Weatherall



"I would be lying if I said it wasn't overwhelming at times, but in a good way!" she adds.

For Sarah Leguee – the RM representative for Wellington #97, YLMP presented by FCC is an opportunity to grow as an RM Councilor, and to learn more about being an APAS rep.

"I just started being a RM Councilor just over a year ago, plus APAS rep, plus this, so it's been a lot," Leguee said. "But this group has given me a bit more of an opportunity to kind of dive into the rep position a bit more and see a little bit more of what's going on, so it's been a lot, but it's also been beneficial to see what's going on so far."

When asked why he applied for the YLMP, Glen Munholland – who is an APAS representative for the RM of McKillop #220 – said he sees it as an extremely valuable experience.

"If (you) enjoy visiting with like-minded people at similar stages in life with common goals, then apply for the program," Munholland said. "You won't regret it."

APAS representative for the RM of Hazel Dell #335 Brett Spray said it's something that has shown a real benefit already.

"Getting to know the Directors and the other mentees on a personal level, like not just the meetings, but just the normal banter and chitchat after meetings, or having breakfast at the hotel or something as simple as that," Spray said. "It's easy to identify with everybody, and the networking side of it, getting to know people from around the province."

In 2021, FCC became the presenting sponsor of the Youth Leadership and Mentorship Program. Senior Vice-President of Prairie Operations Shannon Weatherall says FCC is proud to become the presenting sponsor of the mentorship program.

All four mentees agreed the trip to the Canadian Federation of Agriculture's Annual General Meeting in March is going to be a rewarding and valuable experience for the group to take part in.

The four mentees will remain in the program until July 2022. At that time, applications will be accepted for the 2022-23 edition of YLMP presented by FCC.



# Farm Animals of Saskatchewan

**F**arm animals 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 girl on your farm that you would like to see featured in the *Saskatchewan Farmers' Voice*, send one or more high-quality photos and a bit of information about your pet to [info@apas.ca](mailto:info@apas.ca).



## Ranger

**Home:** R.M. of Churchbridge #211

**Age:** 1 year

**Breed:** Rough Collie

**Family:** Kathryn Elder and Connor Hunter

**About Ranger:** Ranger came to live with Kathryn Elder and Connor Hunter when he was ten weeks old. The once small pup has grown to fill up their hearts with his goofy smile and friendly personality.

Kathryn describes Ranger to be a gentle soul and a mama's boy. The rough collie usually sleeps outside unless Connor is working the night shift, then Ranger is more than happy to take his spot in bed.

The couple who lives on an acreage wanted a dog to be a guard dog. Kathryn said Ranger is a very bad guard dog because he is always so happy to see anyone who comes to visit. Kathryn and Connor have nearby neighbours with a shop. If Ranger isn't outside when they open the door, they know their neighbours must be at their shop, and Ranger is over there catching up.

Ranger keeps a watchful eye over the cats in the yard but also keeps them on their toes. He wants to ensure they are ready for anything if he isn't around. He prepares them for the unexpected by sneaking up on them.

And as much as both Connor and Kathryn think Ranger favours one of them, Ranger's true best friend is the tomcat in the yard, Tom.

Kathryn and Connor enjoy spending lots of time outside and going on camping trips. Ranger is always happy to adjust to the camping lifestyle, which includes being on a leash. But he is always happy to return home where he can run free and check on his cats.

Ranger is a rough collie, a breed known to work with livestock. One day, the farmer across the road from Kathryn and Connor's yard owed a day's worth of work to Ranger, who herded all his cattle back into the pasture after they broke free. Ranger came home especially proud of himself that day.

It's because of Ranger's big heart and infectious personality which makes him a very good boy.



## Kato

**Home:** RM of Laurier #38

**Age:** 3 years

**Breed:** Black lab mix

**Family:** Casey and Sara Piro

**About Kato:** Kato came into Casey and Sara Piro's life when he was a young

puppy. The black lab mix has since filled their home and hearts with laughter and joy.

Kato is a farm dog who enjoys rides in the semi and tractor. But working on the farm is just his day job. Kato's favourite part of the day is when he gets to fetch! Kato is obsessed with the game, and his family said he cries until someone plays with him, and it's quite heartbreaking to hear. Kato also prefers warmer weather because that means more time outside to fetch.

Along with knowing how to fetch, Kato knows at least 15 other tricks. His grandmother, Bev Piro, describes him as the most intelligent dog she has ever met.

One of Kato's most famous tricks was when he helped his dad Casey propose to his mom Sara. Kato knows a trick that involves putting a treat on the tip of his nose, and then he can flick the treat into his mouth. For the proposal, Casey put the engagement ring on the end of Kato's nose for Sara to find. Kato was an extra good boy who let the ring sit on his nose, and he didn't try to eat it.

Along with being an intelligent dog, Kato is very social and well-behaved.

His grandmother said Kato also makes her dog more active because Kato drags her dog out of the house to play with him whenever he comes over.

Kato, the very playful dog, is a cherished boy.



## Meg

**Home:** RM of South Qu'Appelle #157

**Age:** 7 years

**Breed:** Border Collie

**Family:** The Longs

**About Meg:** At the age of 7, Meg is now embracing her retirement.

Meg and her parents, Gail and Dave Long, have recently sold their farm in the RM of Francis #127 and moved to the community of Qu'Appelle.

The Longs have had Meg since she was four months old, and the Border Collie spent seven years as a working dog on the farm.

Meg was trained by another Border Collie, Amy, who lived to the age of 15

and recently passed away last year. Together, Meg and Amy would help sort and bring in the cattle. Gail said they knew everything a Collie needs to know for working with cattle.

While on the farm, Meg would always greet everyone who came over for a visit. Gail said she was usually a bit quiet at first but always friendly.

Meg enjoyed chasing around the barn cats for fun, but once the cats realized if they didn't run away, that game was over.





## Marley

Home: RM of Laurier #38

Age: 7 years

Breed: Farm cat

Family: Bev and Rich Piro

About Marley:

Marley came into Bev Piro's life when she was just a small kitten. But the once tiny kitten grew into a cat with a big attitude!

Bev said despite Marley being her cat, Marley would much rather spend her time with the men on the farm. But Marley's true affection is for Bev's son Casey. Whenever Casey is at the farm, you can find Marley following him. If Casey is working on equipment, Marley is happy to sit and inspect his work.

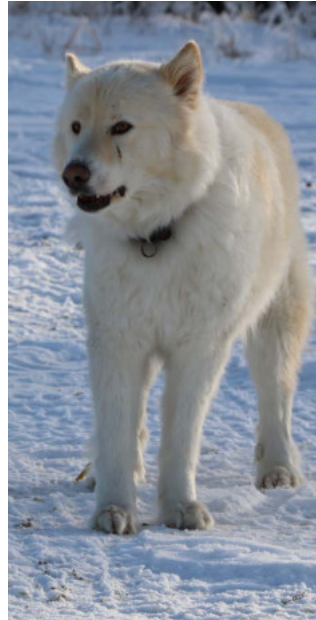
When Casey isn't at the farm, Marley likes to spend her day high in the trees. That way, she can keep a watchful eye on the farm, and it's a way to get away from very playful dogs.

Marley also pulls her weight around the farm. She's an excellent mouser, and if a prairie chicken crosses her path, Marley is all in for the hunt.

Marley used to live inside with Bev and Rich, but the great outdoors were more her style.

Sometimes Marley will sneak inside the house. If she does manage to get inside, Bev just needs to check the bedrooms for a lump under the covers.

So despite Marley's sassy attitude, she's a great farm cat who adds a lot of personality to the Piro farm operation.



## Koda

Home: Cowessess First Nation

Age: 6 years

Breed: Samoyed and yellow lab mix

Family: 4C Farms

About Koda:

Koda is the 4C Farms ranch dog. And just like all members of 4C Farms, he has an important role to play in the agricultural operation.

Koda is in charge of ensuring the cattle stay in the pasture, keeping predators away, and alerting the staff of any new visitors to the farm.

New visitors to the farm don't have to be scared of Koda, but he will for sure let the staff know that someone new is in the yard. Koda is a very friendly dog but a little shy at first. But once he knows he can trust someone, he'll warm right up to them.

Koda enjoys being a working dog. He never bothers the cattle unless they get out of the pasture, then he is sure to remind the cows of who is in charge of the farm.

He also loves all the barn cats. Koda even lets the cats sleep with him, or the cats enjoy his company so much that they let Koda sleep with them.

But even though he spends most of the day outside, Koda is very well behaved in the house.

Koda also loves to show off his tricks in exchange for a treat of any kind, including donuts. He can sit, shake a paw, and stay. The staff at 4C Farms said Koda is a very loyal and obedient dog, and they can't imagine not having him part of the team. Ranch Manager of 4C Farms, Terry Lerat, describes Koda as the dog we all wish we had.

**DISTRICT ONE****Directors: Wanda Reid and Steven Donald**

#1 - Argyle: Brenda Ryckman  
 #2 - Mount Pleasant: Terrance Macfarlane  
 #3 - Enniskillen: Barry Fitzpatrick  
 #33 - Moose Creek: Reed Gibson  
 #37 - Lomond: Ryan McKenzie  
 #63 - Moose Mountain: Jack Wilson  
 #65 - Tecumseh: Thomas Breault  
 #91 - Maryfield: Marty Botterill  
 #93 - Wawken: Blaine Ehr  
 #94 - Hazelwood: Kyle Kish  
 #95 - Golden West: Wanda Reid  
 #96 - Fillmore: Cam Hart  
 #97 - Wellington: Sarah Leguee  
 #121 - Moosomin: Trevor Green  
 #122 - Martin: Steven Donald  
 #123 - Silverwood: Chris MacPherson  
 #124 - Kingsley: Greg Pusch  
 #125 - Chester: Lee Sluser  
 #126 - Montmartre: Cory Stringer  
 #127 - Francis: James Vogt  
 #151 - Rocanville: Herb Park  
 #152 - Spy Hill: Nick Denbrok  
 #153 - Willowdale: Kenneth Aldous  
 #155 - Wolseley: Stan Jeeves  
 #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****Directors: Bev Piro and James Bateman**

#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: Lee Tallon  
 #100 - Elmsthorpe: James Beingessner  
 #101 - Terrell: Chris Hawkins  
 #103 - Sutton: Jonathan Kolish  
 #104 - Gravelbourg: James Bateman  
 #128 - Lajord: Todd Lewis  
 #129 - Bratt's Lake: Gregor Beck  
 #131 - Baildon: Christine Whelan  
 #162 - Caron: Ray McBride  
 #163 - Wheatlands: Kurtis Hicks  
 #191 - Marquis: Glen Steinhauer  
 #193 - Eyebrow: Dean Thiessen  
 #219 - Longlaketon: Scott Hegglin

#220 - McKillop: Glen Munholland  
 #221 - Sarnia: Aaron Bachman  
 #222 - Craik: Trewett Chaplin

**DISTRICT THREE****Directors: Don Connick and Devin Harlick**

#76 - Auvergne: Dale Davidson  
 #79 - Arlington: Kevin Gilbert  
 #106 - Whiska Creek: Wes Kirby  
 #109 - Carmichael: Don Connick  
 #110 - Piapot: Devin Harlick  
 #135 - Lawtonia: Sterling Dayne  
 #136 - Coulee: Greg Targerson  
 #138 - Webb: Bruce Gibson  
 #167 - Saskatchewan Landing: Dan Barber  
 #228 - Lacadena: Glen Collins  
 #257 - Monet: James Myers  
 #261 - Chesterfield: Leah Cooper

**DISTRICT FOUR****Directors: Ian Boxall and Bill Prybylski**

#241 - Calder: Roy Derworiz  
 #244 - Orkney: Randy Trost  
 #245 - Garry: Bill Prybylski  
 #274 - Good Lake: Brian Berns  
 #275 - Insinger: Willy Zuchkan  
 #277 - Emerald: Norman Hall  
 #304 - Buchanan: Myron Kopec  
 #307 - Elfros: Erling Brakefield  
 #308 - Big Quill: Ernest Hall  
 #333 - Clayton: Lorne Ball  
 #334 - Preeceville: Dale Parkin  
 #335 - Hazel Dell: Brett Spray  
 #336 - Sasman: Dale Redman  
 #337 - Lakeview: Angela Jones  
 #338 - Lakeside: Jason Friesen  
 #367 - Ponass Lake: Rick Sunderland  
 #426 - Bjorkdale: Glen Clarke  
 #427 - Tisdale: Darren Ukrainetz  
 #428 - Star City: Shawn Mooney  
 #456 - Arborfield: Robert Reavie  
 #457 - Connaught: Ian Boxall  
 #458 - Willow Creek: Brent Freedman  
 #486 - Moose Range: Ashley Van Meter  
 #487 - Nipawin: Arnold Schellenberg  
 #488 - Torch River: Jerry Kindrat

**DISTRICT FIVE****Director: Donavon Block and Ryan Scragg**

#250 - Last Mountain Valley: Donald Dabrowski  
 #254 - Loreburn: David Vollmer  
 #279 - Mount Hope: Ian McNichol  
 #280 - Wrexford: Julie Marie Mortenson

#281 - Wood Creek: Glen Busse  
 #283 - Rosedale: Lucas Ringdal  
 #284 - Rudy: Jean Harrington  
 #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: Chad Krikau  
 #429 - Flett's Springs: Scott Hermus  
 #430 - Invergordon: Wayne Bacon  
 #459 - Kinistino: Lindsay Dupin  
 #460 - Birch Hills: Ron Miller  
 #461 - Prince Albert: Richard Wilson  
 #490 - Garden River: Ryan Scragg  
 #491 - Buckland: Jason Zalewski

**DISTRICT SIX****Director: Scott Owens and Jeremy Welter**

#287 - St. Andrews: Kevin Sinclair  
 #321 - Prairiedale: Tim Richelhoff  
 #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  
 #410 - Round Valley: Taylor Wallace  
 #436 - Douglas: Nick Partyka  
 #438 - Battle River: Jaden Jamieson  
 #440 - Hillsdale: Lawrence Olson  
 #442 - Manitou Lake: Karl Koch  
 #466 - Meeting Lake: Morris Prescesky  
 #467 - Round Hill: Gordon Moore  
 #468 - Meota: Glenn Tait  
 #470 - Paynton: Adam Bugg  
 #471 - Eldon: Scott Owens  
 #472 - Wilton: Devon Walker  
 #499 - Mervin: Chris Neilson  
 #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 \$2022.*



# Is your RM part of APAS?

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

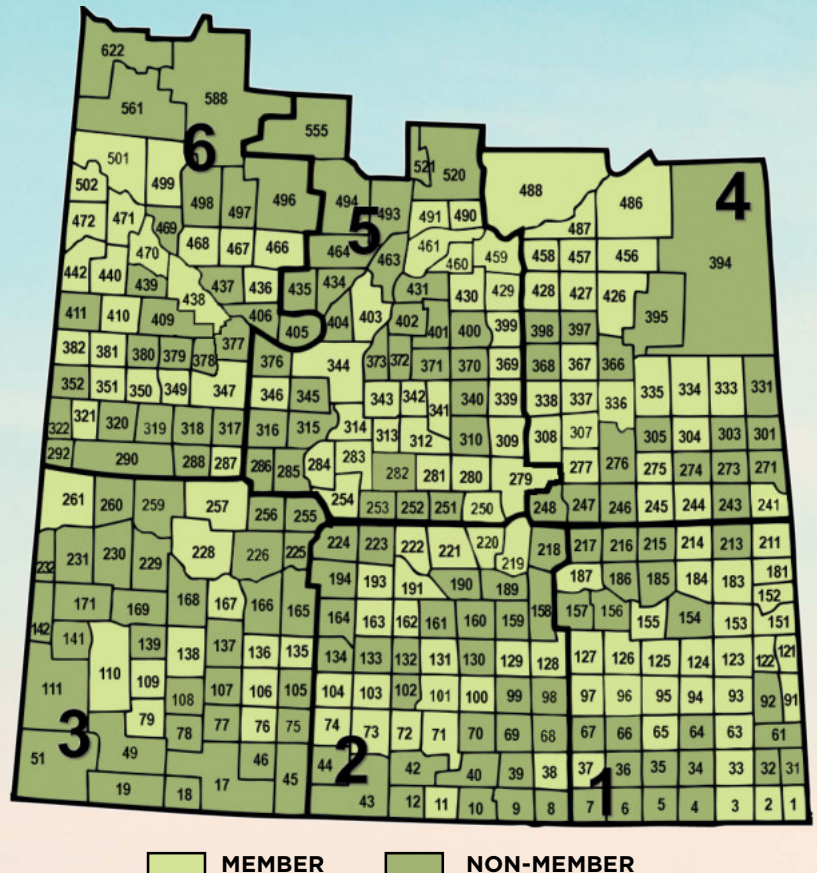
If your RM isn't currently part of APAS, ask your Council to buy a 12-month trial membership for only \$2022.

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

**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 \$2022 for a 12-month trial membership.

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





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