

SASKATCHEWAN Farmers' Voice

SPRING 2023 EDITION

A WAY OF LIFE:
The Livestock Sector
in Saskatchewan

AGROLOGY:
Understanding the
Role of
Agrologists

**BY FARMERS,
FOR FARMERS:**
The Shaping of the
Ag Industry Through
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**FARM ANIMALS
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Published three times a year by:
Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan

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Cover Artwork: Michael Bell

The next issue of *Saskatchewan Farmers' Voice* will arrive in your farm mailbox as a Special Summer 2023 edition. 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.

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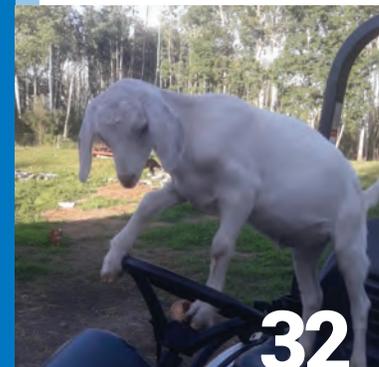
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Saskatchewan Farmers' Voice • SPRING 2023

- 4 A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT
- 5 APAS AT WORK
- 10 COVER STORY: A WAY OF LIFE: THE LIVESTOCK SECTOR IN SASKATCHEWAN
- 15 UNDERSTANDING THE TERM "AGROLOGY"
- 17 BY FARMERS, FOR FARMERS
- 30 DEALING WITH WILDLIFE DAMAGE
- 32 FARM ANIMALS OF SASKATCHEWAN
- 34 APAS MEMBERS & REPRESENTATIVES

Why Did I Get Involved with APAS?

As I enter my second year as APAS president, I've reflected on a question that I've been asked a lot of times over the years - why did I decide to get involved with APAS?

Until recently, I've never given much thought to the question, it challenged me to put it into words, and I think it's important that I share my thoughts with you.

Growing up on the farm, I often heard my dad and family members reflect on farm problems while fixing machinery or at the kitchen table, and this was common across farms and ranches in Saskatchewan. Inevitably, the conversation would end with someone pointing out that if you want to make a difference and change things for the better, you have to get off the farm and engage.

I decided to engage 11 years ago.

I was new to the RM council, and the APAS representative at the time, David

Spencer, came to our meeting to give us an update.

While sitting there listening to David speak about an organization that advocates on behalf of issues that other producers and I were facing trying to make things better, I knew at that moment I needed to be involved.

So, I entered the youth leadership program in its first year. The program allowed me to witness what happens behind the scenes, the work that engages all levels of government on farm issues, and the work that goes into researching and analyzing problems to identify policy solutions that work for farm and ranch families. But the program also taught me leadership skills and how to speak up and be heard - and that's what APAS does best.

Farmers are always there for each other; we shed tears, celebrate, and grow together.

But as farmers and ranchers, we can't be everywhere when managing our operations is what matters most.

APAS is always there for producers, whether helping cattle producers get disaster relief after a spring snowstorm, helping deliver hay to drought-stricken areas, or fighting increasing regulations like the carbon tax. We want our neighbors to be successful, and we know when challenges arise that impact success, we need to step up. That's why I chose to get involved with APAS, and I wanted to step up.

I've chosen to invest some of my time in helping create success for my neighbors and friends across the province who love the industry and want it to be successful. I can just as easily stay on my farm, complain about the problems, and hope someone advocates on my behalf. But success can't be taken for granted. Unfortunately, farmers must continually fight for their future because someone is always working to chip away at our success.

APAS fights daily so farm and ranch families can focus on what they love doing best, raising livestock and crops that the world needs. We have the farmers back, and we're there, in Ottawa or Regina, or the boardroom, when they can't be. Our strength comes from the grassroots - the farmers and ranchers who produce the best food and fibre that the market wants and give a bit of their time to give APAS its roadmap every year. Our relationship with our members is pretty special - we work for them.

The agricultural industry is pretty big, with a lot of competing interests. Many competing interests would love it if farmers stayed on their farms and complained about the problems instead of engaging and standing up for themselves.

IT MATTERS! It matters to producers, big or small; it matters to the industry. It matters to everyone because a successful agriculture sector is not only good for the producers, it's vital to the success of rural communities, our province, and Canada.

And that's why I'm involved with APAS, and I invite others to join and see what APAS does for farm and ranch families.



APAS President Ian Boxall

APAS At Work

OCTOBER

APAS Directors Met With Barlow and Mazier in Ottawa

APAS President Ian Boxall and Vice-President Bill Prybylski were in Ottawa in October for a Canadian Federation of Agriculture Board meeting. While there, Ian and Bill met with John Barlow (federal Conservative Critic for Agriculture) and Dan Mazier (federal Conservative Critic for Economic Development and Connectivity).

APAS Met With Competition Bureau About Fertilizer Pricing

On October 21, APAS staff and Directors met with Competition Bureau Canada to discuss rising fertilizer prices. In addition to doing research and advocacy on rising input costs, APAS recently joined the Canadian Federation of Agriculture's new Cost of Production Committee to ensure Saskatchewan farmers views on this issue are conveyed and understood.

Todd Lewis Presented to House of Commons Agriculture Committee

On October 24, Todd Lewis (APAS Past President) presented to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food. Todd spoke in favour of Bill C-234, An Act to amend the Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act and referenced the importance of a carbon tax exemption for farm fuels.

NOVEMBER

APAS Submission to the Government of Canada on Spectrum Management

On November 18, APAS made a submission to the Government of Canada in response to their "Consultation on Spectrum Outlook 2022 to 2026." This submission is focused on reducing spectrum fees and improving spectrum deployment conditions, which are part of our ongoing advocacy to improve internet and cellular service in rural Saskatchewan.

DECEMBER

APAS Participated in Briefing on Canada's New Indo-Pacific Strategy

On December 3, APAS Vice-President Bill Prybylski joined Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Marie-Claude Bibeau, and stakeholder groups for a briefing about Canada's new Indo-Pacific Strategy. Expanding Canada's presence in the Indo-Pacific region will help Canadian farmers, food processors, and exporters to position Canada as a preferred supplier in key emerging markets.

Successful APAS General Meeting

The APAS General Meeting was held on December 8-9 in Saskatoon. We had presentations on the federal government's fertilizer emissions reduction target, grain contracts, the veterinarian shortage, and rail transportation. 19 resolutions were also passed at the General Meeting by APAS Representatives. A complete list of those resolutions can be found later in this magazine.

JANUARY

APAS Submission to CGC Over In-Country Presence

On January 13, APAS sent a submission to the Canadian Grain Commission (CGC) in response to their consultations on increasing CGC oversight and inspection requirements at primary elevators. APAS strongly supports the current CGC mandate to work in the interests of grain producers and welcomes the CGC's proposal to increase the inspection presence at country terminals.

Tradeshow Booth at Western Canadian Crop Production Show

APAS had a booth at the Western Canadian Crop Production Show in Saskatoon in January, and a lot of producers stopped by to visit with our staff and Directors. Provincial Minister of Agriculture David Marit, Leader of the Official Opposition Carla Beck, Opposition Critic for Agriculture Trent Wotherspoon, and other elected officials also stopped to visit.

APAS Met With Kody Blois

On January 18, APAS staff and Directors met with Kody Blois, Chair of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food. Numerous items were discussed, including ongoing concerns about high input costs, APAS research to show how much money producers actually receive from high grocery store prices, and work APAS is doing to identify options for improving livestock profitability.

APAS Submission and Presentation on Bill C-244

On January 20, APAS made a submission to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Industry and Technology about Bill C-244, an Act to Amend the Copyright Act. In the submission, APAS expressed support for changes to the Copyright Act that will provide farmers and other third-parties with better access to equipment and software for maintaining and repairing farm machinery. On December 5, 2022, APAS President Ian Boxall told the House of Commons Standing Committee on Industry and Technology that APAS supports farmers being able to repair their own equipment. As right to repair legislation gains momentum in Canada, this will be an important issue for APAS in 2023.

FEBRUARY

APAS Letter to Transport Canada on Interswitching

On February 16, APAS sent a letter to the federal Minister of Transport, The Honourable Omar Alghabra, with a request for the government to implement the National Supply Chain Task Force's recommendation to expand interswitching. Regulated interswitching is a policy that has effectively provided captive shippers with more competitive rates and service terms. Interswitching introduces competition into the system by giving shippers alternative service options that otherwise would not exist.

MARCH

APAS Delegation at CFA AGM

APAS staff, Directors, and this year's Youth Leadership and Mentorship Program (YLMP) mentees were in Ottawa in early March for the Canadian Federation of Agriculture's Annual General Meeting. The APAS delegation had meetings with numerous elected officials, plus they

discussed and voted on policy resolutions at the event. APAS had submitted 9 policy resolutions, and all 9 of them were passed by delegates at the AGM.

YLMP Mentees Met New FCC President and CEO

The APAS YLMP mentees met with Justine Hendricks, the new CEO of FCC, while they were at the CFA AGM. They discussed issues including entry barriers, like capital costs, for young farmers wanting to get into farming, and the heightened importance of the environmental footprint of agriculture. FCC is the sponsor of this year's YLMP, so a big thanks to Justine for taking time to meet with the mentees, and for FCC's ongoing sponsorship of the mentorship program.

APAS Delegation Met With Bibeau and Barlow

The APAS delegation to CFA's AGM also met with Marie-Claude Bibeau (federal Minister of Agriculture), and John Barlow (federal Conservative Agriculture Critic) while they were in Ottawa. The APAS delegation also met with the YLMP mentee MP's Randy Hoback and Jeremy Patzer.

Tradeshow Booth at SARM Convention

During the SARM Convention in March, APAS had a booth at their tradeshow. A lot of people stopped by to visit, and we also handed out hundreds of bags of Cheezies, so thanks to everyone who stopped in.

Presentation on Food Inflation to House of Commons Committee

On March 20, APAS President Ian Boxall presented on the topic of food price inflation to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food where he expressed support for the Grocery Code of Conduct and highlighted farm input inflation as a

critical area the Committee should explore. He also noted that APAS is doing research into the portion of grocery store prices that farmers and ranchers actually receive. This work is expected to be completed in May.

APAS Response to Provincial 2023 Budget

On March 22, APAS staff and Directors participated in various briefings before the 2023 provincial Budget was released. They also attended the Budget presentation at the Legislature. Overall, Budget 2023 is a good budget for agriculture, although there are some areas where we hoped to see immediate action to help those livestock producers who are on the verge of selling their herds due to the recent challenges in the industry.

APAS Submission on Surface Rights Regulations Amendments

On March 24, APAS sent comments to the provincial Ministry of Energy and Resources in response to proposed amendments to The Surface Rights Acquisition and Compensation Regulations. APAS welcomes the removal of the \$1,000 limit and commends the proposed \$30,000 maximum included in the regulations. That said, APAS has concerns on delays in the reporting of wellsite changes and information provided to RM Councils, as these delays can prevent RMs from establishing an accurate and fair tax assessment. APAS encourages the Ministry of Environment to address those issues.

APAS Response to Federal 2023 Budget

On March 30, APAS issued a press release expressing cautious optimism on the federal budget. APAS feels the \$100,000 increase in the Advance Payments Program is positive step that will give farmers flexibility, as commodity markets are falling, and inputs were purchased at elevated levels last year. That said, APAS continues to ask for

transparency about what factors are causing price increases and inflation in markets for fertilizer and other key inputs.

APRIL

APAS Livestock Summit

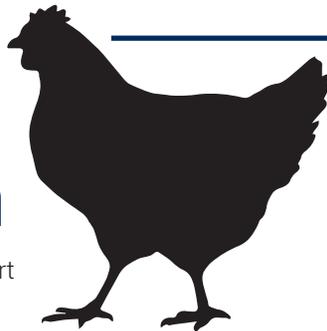
APAS held a Policy Meeting and Livestock Summit on April 4 and 5 at the Saskatoon Inn. Issues currently impacting the livestock sector as well as potential solutions were discussed along with access to capital, demographic, and business risk management were discussed at the Livestock Summit. More on those issues and potential solutions can be found in the livestock article later in this magazine.

It pays to be a member!

Your APAS membership includes more than just a vote at our General Meeting! From deals on Co-operators Insurance, your next vehicle, hotel accommodations, retail deals, and more! Visit our website for more details!



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.

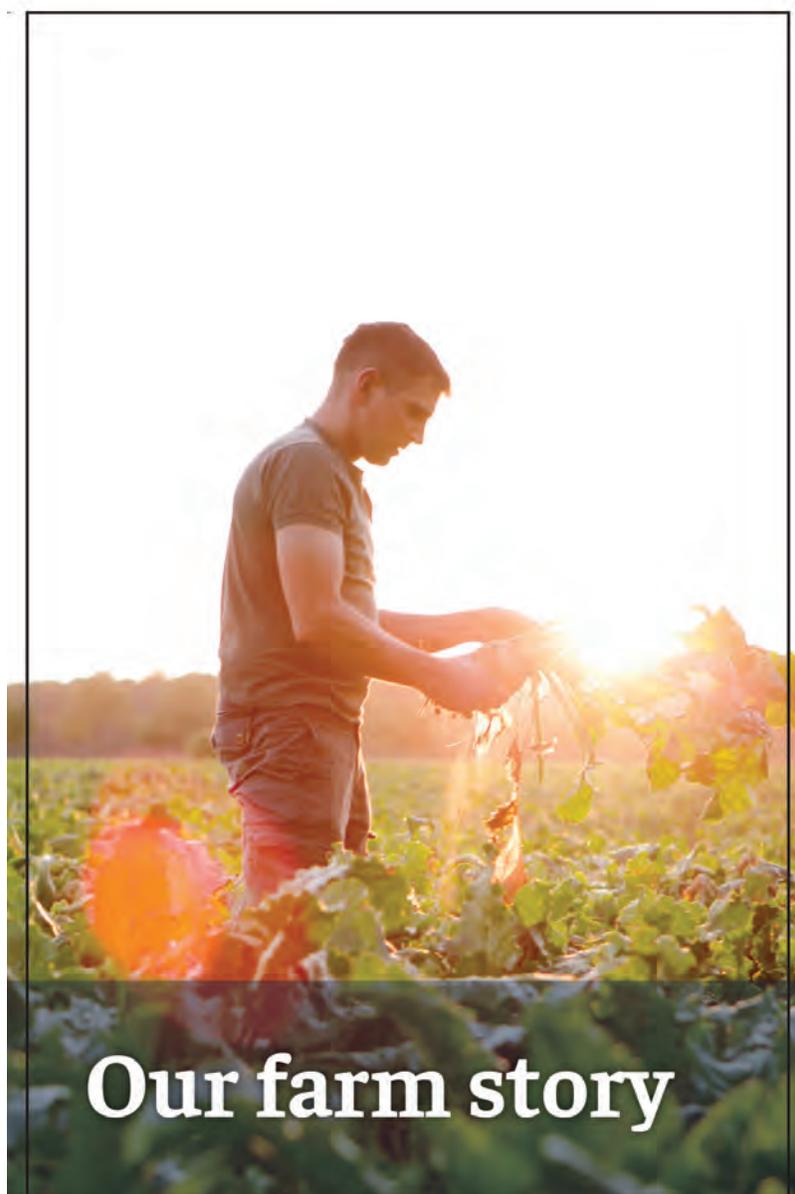
The chicken on this page is an example of the chicken you are looking for among the magazine's pages.

If you find the chicken, please visit apas.ca/find-the-chicken-contest to fill out a short survey to be entered in to win.

To be eligible, you must submit your email before June 1, 2023. 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.

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Good luck locating the hidden chicken!



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How the YLMP Mentees Are Enjoying Their Time in the Program



Farm Credit Canada has sponsored the program since 2021. "The next generation of farmers brings endless possibilities for the industry's future. At FCC, we share the passion for improving Canadian agriculture and recognize the importance of mentoring young producers and providing tools for their success. We're proud to support the Youth Leadership and Mentorship Program that enables young farmers to share their voices, connect with others and advocate for advancements in Canadian agriculture. We look forward to seeing the next generation thrive," said Shannon Weatherall, Senior Vice-President Prairie Operations

The APAS Youth Leadership and Mentorship Program (YLMP), presented by FCC, is in its eighth year.

The mentees, Carlie Bowditch from the RM of Tisdale, Ashley Van Meter from the RM of Moose Range, Eric Martens from the RM of Longlaketon, and Morgan Follensbee from the RM of Newcombe, have gotten to experience a wide variety of activities to help them learn about the world of farm policy and advocacy.

The mentees attended APAS District Meetings in the fall of 2022 to hear from fellow farmers about what issues they face on the farm and why policy changes are needed. APAS resolutions were crafted and brought forward from those District Meetings to the APAS General Meeting in December, which all mentees attended. Some of those passed resolutions made their way to the CFA AGM, where each mentee had a chance to speak to one of the resolutions.

"The program was like a building block program, which I liked, because from the start to the end, starting with a District Meeting, and then a Committee Meeting, and then the provincial General Meeting, and then CFA," Morgan Follensbee said. "Starting from the first thing being a District Meeting, and then building up, was a great way to see how

it all comes together once we got to the CFA."

As mentioned, the mentees also attended the CFA AGM as part of the APAS delegation. Besides the official business of the AGM, there were a lot of networking opportunities with multiple Members of Parliament, Senators, and even the CEO of Farm Credit Canada, Justine Hendricks.

"One of the most memorable experiences was seeing people from across the country come together to improve the industry," Ashley van Meter said. "I was expecting more divisiveness, given our current times, and I was pleasantly surprised."

While the meeting and travel experiences of the YLMP program were great, for Carlie Bowditch, it's the personal connections with her fellow mentees that she feels are highlights from the program.

"These friends will last a lifetime!" Bowditch said. "I know this program is one year, but I have made friends that I am sure I will be calling ten years down the road."

Eric Martens explained why he initially wanted to be in the program and how it benefited him.

"I wanted to take part in this program because I was looking for an avenue to lead me in the direction of governance, government, or policy without having to get a full-time job to find those avenues," Martens said. "This was recommended to me, and it didn't disappoint. It's shown me many different aspects of the policy and the governance needed to help carry the voice of agriculture and impact the changes needed to keep policies in the forefront, including the producer's voice in it."

In late March, the mentees met with FCC senior officials at the FCC corporate office in downtown Regina to discuss various agricultural topics.

"It's important for these mentees to get as much out of the program as possible," APAS President and former YLMP mentee Ian Boxall said. "Young people are the future of our industry, so it's important to get interested young producers involved in the policy side of agriculture."

Applications for the 2023/24 YLMP are now available on the APAS website at apas.ca. The application deadline is July 31, 2023.

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A Way of Life

The livestock sector has long been a part of Saskatchewan's agricultural landscape. But with various issues impacting farm and ranch operations across the country, herds are shrinking. Here is a look at the problems and exploration of possible solutions.

BY RYAN MCNALLY | PHOTOS BY MICHAEL BELL

If you think of a farm in Saskatchewan, there's often livestock in the picture.

For Julie Mortenson, that's always been the case. Growing up on a small commercial ranch in northern Alberta, Julie found her way to Saskatchewan by studying Animal Science at the University of Saskatchewan. She then met her husband and found her home near Nokomis, where there's a herd of 250 commercial cattle and 50 purebred Hereford cattle. Julie is also the APAS Representative for the RM of Wrexford.

"Livestock is very important. It's a complementary operation to our grain farm, and we can reuse many resources that way," Mortenson said. "We also appreciate the livestock, the lifestyle that it affords us, to be able to be out there with the animals every day. It's essential to us that we continue enhancing our genetics on the farm too."

That said, the cattle sector has been faced with a many challenges. Mortenson's farm has dealt with drought, a shortage of feed, and seen a rise in input costs on their farm. There's also a veterinary shortage in the Nokomis area that has been challenging to navigate. Mortenson says she's concerned about the sector.

"I see a lot of people getting out of cattle, the herds are shrinking across western Canada, and that's a huge concern," Mortenson said. "Also, the age of the ranchers out there, I think

that we're seeing fewer young people want to take on the commitments of livestock. We must consider what we can do to encourage young people to remain in the industry."

Mortenson says the cattle herd will continue to shrink across Saskatchewan if things remain the same.

Saskatchewan still has the second-largest cattle herd in Canada, trailing only Alberta. But according to Statistics Canada, since January 2021, Saskatchewan's herd has decreased by approximately 90,000 head, a significant loss to the sector. Some farmers are even converting land better suited for livestock use to cropland due to rising crop prices and land values.

Dr. Scott Wright, the Director of the University of Saskatchewan's Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence (LFCE), says it's no surprise that herd numbers have dropped.

"We see challenges in the industry. Mother Nature has not been helpful in many circumstances; we've seen severe drought conditions across large areas of the province," Wright said. "Certainly, at the LFCE, we felt that same bite. That affects profitability, and it affects opportunity on the environmental goods and services, and the high profitability in other elements of agriculture makes it that much tougher for the cow-calf and the livestock industry that produces that food."

“We need to get people more involved; we need to have a better vet supply; we need to have more disaster assistance for producers out there, ”

Julie Mortenson, APAS Representative, RM of Wrexford #280.

Donavon Block, one of the APAS Directors for District 5 (LeRoy #339), recently left the cattle sector in December 2022 after working with cattle for about 30 years. He explained what went into his family's decision.

"I'm over 60 years old, so I don't have many long-term plans anymore," Block said. My son was farming with me, and he wanted to farm full-time, and he's the numbers guy. We figured out our gross income off of cattle compared to the rest of the operation is 5%. So for 50% of your time, it didn't make sense to make only 5%."

Despite the recent decision to give up his cattle, Block said he's concerned for the livestock industry's future.

"I can't speak about what the huge operations will do, but I just don't see the smaller or medium-sized livestock producer surviving," Block said. "There's land that is close to grain land quality being used for that because there isn't enough money in livestock."

Making Hay

Livestock producer margins are getting slimmer and slimmer. Finding feed for cattle has been the biggest challenge for some producers.

APAS District 3 (Arlington #79) Director Kevin Gilbert runs a feedlot in southwest Saskatchewan. He said feed costs at his farm have more than doubled.

"It's our number one expense," Gilbert noted. "The expense has doubled, and cattle prices sure haven't, and in some parts of this business, it's more than doubled."

That statement was echoed by Dr. Wright, who said feed costs have created budgetary issues for the LFCE.

"From the LFCE's perspective alone, we had seen hay prices more than double last year," Dr. Wright said. "That created huge budget pressures on our ability to finalize research that's been going on for a few years, and I can tell you, some difficult conversations were had with researchers around our ability to balance the cost and efficiency of doing

that work with the fundamental need for those animal replicates and those pen replicates that create that cost."

Some producers, such as Donavon Block and Julie Mortenson, create feed for their cattle, but that feed has a value.

"Last year, we sold over \$50,000 worth of hay," Block said. "If we fed that to cattle and my income was only \$100,000, take away that \$50,000 and all your other expenses; it doesn't leave a lot of margins."

Mortenson adds there are other factors to think of for producers who produce their feed.

"When you think about what your tractor and machinery costs are, that's gone up like crazy, and then the mineral and the salt that we buy for our cattle have gone up as well."

Those input costs continue to be a pressure point and cause some farms to decrease the herd or sell it off. Paired with the rising cost of farmland, it can create a massive hurdle for those looking to get into the livestock industry. Gilbert says there needs to be work done to ensure people with a passion and interest in livestock have access to capital.

"We need to find ways to help (people) get into the industry from the start. For grains and oilseed production, it's different; you can get going and flip things over a lot faster than when you're in a livestock situation where sometimes it's two years to get your first income out of an operation," Gilbert said. "One thing to help with that, too, is getting some programs in place for environmental rewards, so that we can compete with grains and oilseeds (for land and financial sustainability). We have to do a better job of keeping livestock on the land rather than making it unprofitable and getting it turned over into grains and oilseed production."

"I think, realistically, there's always a concern on the profitability side, the ability to economically, environmentally, socially, and from the people side, continue to provide this contribution to the food supply," Dr. Wright adds.

Dr. Wright also believes the livestock sector as a whole is at a crossroads, with the older generation transitioning out of farming and today's young farmer not wanting to continue having livestock on the farm.

"Livestock is a darn tough way to farm, and it's 365 days a year, 24 hours a day," Dr. Wright said. "In addition, the ongoing population increase sees an advantage to the crops we produce here. As a result, the economics have gotten tougher. I think the generational change has seen more interest in non-meat-based products."

Trusting the Process

In agriculture, public trust has often been a heated and complex topic for farmers. It seems no other part of the economy is under the magnifying glass more than the livestock industry when it comes to public trust. The Saskatchewan-raised beef people eat is not only good for them, but also environmentally sound. Public trust issues are being dealt with across the country and beyond. Kevin Gilbert recalled his experience with problems with misconceptions about the livestock sector.

"A few years ago, my kids came home (from school), and we live in a small town; the teachers in our small town – which is a strictly agriculture community – were teaching the kids, and I guess I'll quote them, my son came home and asked me point-blank; 'why are we trying to wreck the environment?'" Gilbert said. "I think that's a huge problem that we have right now when our operation is helping increase the environmental benefits happening in the world."

As Dr. Wright noted earlier, those misconceptions are rooted in a complex situation.

"Public trust is a fundamental concern, both in terms of how our product is seen and the social license to utilize the landscape in the way we do and the sustainability that we do at the forage-animal interface," Dr. Wright said. "One of the outcomes for the Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence is to build some of that glue that brings together the sci-

ence and the systems-based thinking that takes us through from the soil to the plant, through the animal, that whole continuum, and allows us to have science-based conversations."

Julie Mortenson and her farm have worked to be an outreach to the consumer.

"I ran my Classroom Cattle program touching base with students, getting them more involved with beef production in Saskatchewan, and then we donate beef to our rink every year for burgers, and we try to make sure that we're a good citizen in our community," Mortenson said. "Public trust is everything to our industry. We're facing a lot of external pressure, and then we also have a consumer who wants to know that they're feeding their family something healthy and safe for them and don't want anyone to be hurt. We care a lot for our animals, so I hope we can convey to our consumers how much we care for our animals."

Another concern Mortenson has with the livestock industry is Saskatchewan's significant animal veterinary shortage.

"There have been some great changes already taking place, like expanding the number of seats at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM), but I think we need to have more action that will bring vets in here now, and maybe some of that is loosening the requirements for foreign immigrants who come in with a veterinary degree."

In February 2023, the WCVM increased student seats thanks to funding from the Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and British Columbia governments. Saskatchewan's share of the subsidized seats increased from 20 to 25 with a funding increase of \$539,000, which will expand to \$2.2 million by 2026-27.

Dry Ground

Much of Saskatchewan is finally seeing relief from the drought that hit the province in 2020 and 2021, but some pockets are still dealing with dry conditions. Primarily, the southwest corner of Saskatchewan continues to deal with a

lack of snow over the winter months and rain in the spring, summer, and fall.

Kevin Gilbert, who farms in the Cypress Hills, compares the location of his farm to be in the mountains because he has one of the rare environments in the southwest where water is not an issue.

"We have enough surface water and surface runoff from even a little bit of snow that helps with that," Gilbert says. "Some of the challenges are keeping animals in certain pastures where we've had to drill wells and that kind of thing, but overall, the water situation is not extreme here right now."

Gilbert realizes he is one of the lucky ones in the southwest.

"I can't comment for everyone because I don't know their operations, but yes, I know the Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program (FRWIP) had a huge uptake in the last couple of years (in our area), so it's a very well-received and needed program."

Near Saskatoon, Dr. Wright at the LFCE said all of their property has had high enough water quality and quantity. A pressurized water system at their Clavet facility ensures enough water volume year-round, and the operation near Lanigan has also had adequate water. That said, six-quarters of land near Melfort has seen a decrease in water volume, but they have been able to use dugouts and other wet areas for their cattle.

At Julie Mortenson's farm, she believes they've been lucky so far this winter.

"We've received a lot of snowfall; last summer was okay, but the summer before, we ended up hauling water to most of our pastures because we were quite dry," Mortenson said. "At home here, we've got a well pumped in that's still going pretty strong, but in the pastures, we need the snowfall to melt and gather up nicely."

According to the provincial spring runoff report from March 1, most of southern

“ People can post questions on Facebook or Twitter faster than science can gather accurate data to answer those questions. ”

Dr. Scott Wright, Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence

Saskatchewan remains at "below normal" or "well below normal" spring runoff levels.

Oh Deer...

Another issue that is becoming a front-page problem in agriculture is wildlife damage.

Animals such as deer, moose, elk, and wild boar are wreaking havoc on feed supplies for livestock producers, getting into stacks of hay bales and grain bags.

Dr. Scott Wright with LFCE said they have their own deer population in the Clavet area, which influences a few things.

"Number one, it's an influence on our feed supply. We're fortunate in most of our areas, but we've seen the potential for elk damage beginning up north in that Pathlow (near Melfort) country, and yes, those concerns get elevated for us," Dr. Wright said. "Probably the biggest challenge for us in the wildlife-livestock interface is how it affects the research done here. We've got to do things with a level of precision and try to drive those processes out, so sharing a feed bunk with a few deer becomes more than problematic, more than cost. It's something we have to consider in terms of the validity of the work done."

For Kevin Gilbert, another form of wildlife is causing problems in his herd: cougars and coyotes.

That said, there are still significant costs related to deer in the province's southwest.

"I love wildlife and want to keep it sustainable," Gilbert said. "The problem we have with deer in our area – along with cougars and coyotes – is the deer will defecate and urinate in the feed, which wastes the feed, and also carries diseases and parasites, so that's a huge problem."

APAS members across the province have highlighted this concern and are exploring new solutions to address the wildlife issues in Saskatchewan. At the APAS General Meeting in December, APAS members passed a resolution to request the Ministry of Environment to provide special hunting licenses for Saskatchewan-based landowners and provide producers with increased tag allocation for areas with high numbers of wildlife damage compensation claims.

Saskatchewan Bison

Some of these issues that have impacted the cattle industry have also affected other livestock sectors, such as bison.

Keegan Kitzul, Vice-President of the Saskatchewan Bison Association, farms in the Foam Lake area, and his family farm has been raising bison since 2000. He says many of the same issues impacting the cattle industry are also causing concern in the bison industry, such as drought, feed supply, and the rising cost of inputs.

He believes the carbon tax has had one of the most significant impacts on the farm. "The carbon tax on fuel and feed has taken away from a farmers' bottom line," Kitzul said. "Right now, with the higher-than-usual feed costs and fuel costs for transportation, the pressure on cow-calf producers has been the ultimate kicker. Calf prices are much lower than they should be, not reflecting the high cost of inputs to finish an animal."

According to Kitzul, bison producers do not have a solid option for larger-scale slaughter in Canada that can meet their needs.

"We rely heavily on the US for larger scale slaughtering at the plants," Kitzul said. "We do have provincial plants that are doing an excellent job at keeping

up with farmgate sales because many producers have turned to that route to help sell meat off the farm and educate consumers on what bison is all about."

That often means a lot of travel for the bison producers however, plus a lot of travel for their animals. That leads to issues with fuel costs, new freight regulations, and electronic logbooks.

"We've had some negative impacts already just with driving time and idling time that's affecting both the trucking companies and the producers because freight bills are going up," Kitzul said. "It needs to be evaluated, not even for the financial part for the producers, but for the animal's welfare."

All in all, however, things are starting to look better for bison. Kitzul said he hears a lot more people talking about bison, which never used to happen.

"Some big opportunities we have seen include getting into retail and the hospitality industry. We have a lot of family throughout Saskatchewan and Alberta, and whenever they go out to a restaurant, they're starting to see bison at many of them," Kitzul said. "People are asking for it; the chefs are asking for bison, which is great to see and hear."

Kitzul adds bison wasn't as heavily impacted by COVID-19 as other meats, because the market is so small and the plants didn't get shut down during the pandemic like beef and pork packing plants.

"When people were saying there was a shortage of beef on the storage shelves, bison was there to fill the void. A lot of consumers who like their red meat, if they couldn't find beef, picked up the bison, and many of them have stuck with it," Kitzul said. "I guess, in a way, bison got into many more mouths than previously. The consumer response has been that they like the product, so they will continue to buy. It's good for our sector that way."

According to the Saskatchewan Bison Association, the commercial bison herd in Saskatchewan is in the low 30,000s.

Saskatchewan Sheep

One of the many challenges the livestock industry faces in terms of growth and adding new producers is capital investment.

One organization believes sheep can help resolve that.

Gord Schroeder, the Executive Director of the Saskatchewan Sheep Development Board, ran about 500 ewe for just under 30 years in the Watrous-Drake area and has worked for the Development Board for almost 25 years.

“

I lose a lot of calves in a year. It's a huge cost in this part of the province for predator control, that's for sure.

”

Kevin Gilbert, APAS District 3 Director, on the cougar and coyote population in the Cypress Hills

Schroeder said sheep allow young producers to get involved in agriculture without a significant capital investment while making some high profits.

"If you can invest into agriculture, do a good job of it, you can make some money with a fairly quick turnaround. Our lambs will harvest within 4-5 months of being born, so the cashflow is also reasonable," Schroeder said. "The other thing is we look at the opportunity in the industry; we're producing 40% of what we consume in this country, and we import more than we produce, so there's a huge opportunity for growth in the industry."

Among some similar issues that impact cattle and bison, sheep also face a perception issue.

"Sheep probably don't get a lot of attention. We see that with the Ministry of Agriculture and different companies saying, 'it's just the sheep industry.' Yet, we see no reason that the sheep industry couldn't be huge in Saskatchewan or western Canada," Schroeder said. "Right now, the world is generally short of lamb. Many export countries that used to export into Canada aren't producing the same number of animals they once did."

Another potential issue is the economic situation in Canada.

"Lamb meat for some of our population is seen as a staple, but it's a specialty for a big chunk of our population. When economics are tight, and when there are no extra dollars in the pockets of our consumers, lamb could be one of those things that they say, 'we just can't afford to treat ourselves to these specialty items,' and so demand drops or slows," Schroeder said. "It concerns us when the consumer doesn't have the dollars to buy those specialty items. Right now, it doesn't look like there will be an end to it right away; we're not in a good position with the economy, and food prices are high."

While he's not advocating for cattle producers to get out of beef, Schroeder said there's an opportunity to add sheep to their current operations.

"We're just saying, 'why not add some sheep?' Co-species raising works well; there are some synergies as far as control of obnoxious weeds like leafy spurge; sheep will go after those types of species, cows won't," Schroeder said. "We have cattle producers that have

switched completely into sheep, especially on the younger end of the spectrum, because of the capital investment and the opportunity. We're seeing our producers' average age drop from year to year because of young people getting in, and so it's encouraging."

Schroeder believes the establishment of price insurance would help the sheep sector grow even further.

"We have young people that are investing some substantial dollars in buying stock, building barns, investing in the industry, there's no price insurance to protect them, so there's a big risk that they have there," Schroeder said. "We can't get that established; it seems like it hits the brick wall every time we approach the price insurance file. We need safety nets for our industry if we want to see it expand, and we do not see why the industry can't grow and be a significant contributor to the economy because of the demand for lamb worldwide."

The Saskatchewan Sheep Development Board has just under 800 members with sheep on their farms, ranging from hobby farms to large commercial operations. Schroeder says the Saskatchewan sheep herd sits at about 60,000 breeding females in the province.

At the End of the Day

In conclusion, there is genuine concern for the livestock sector.

"I think that things need to change, and we need more leaders in the industry," Julie Mortenson said. "We need people who know how to change people's minds and reach out to people without being very confrontational. We need more people to continue informing our policymakers and government about what livestock producers need."

It is critical that livestock stay on the land and continue grazing habits that have evolved over centuries.

“ We’re not even considering exports because we don’t need to. If we wanted to get into that, the growth opportunity is great. ”

Schroeder on the future of raising sheep in Saskatchewan

"It's been estimated that we've had between 30 and 60 million bison. Go back 200 years; that number is not out of the realm. The whole prairies and grasslands in central and western Canada, and the U.S. – the great northern plains – have all evolved under this ecology of grazing management," Dr. Scott Wright said.

"That's a huge benefit to sustaining that system's resilience and stability. We're replacing in many ways on those native grounds land that has been grazed, land that has evolved under grazing systems, land that is designed to be worked under animals and fire, and beginning to emulate that, to understand how to optimize that carbon balance based on the whole ecology that system was built to do. Those inherent environmental services, things like biodiversity, water-cycling, and organic carbon build-up in the soils are the fundamental services that come out of utilizing grazing animals as part of the picture on the landscape."

Add to that; there's a passion and love for the animals and the industry that can't be matched.

"I love all aspects of animal production, from seeing baby calves born to eating a steak," Keving Gilbert said. "It's my occupation, and it's how I make money; it's how I put food on the table."

Success in livestock production is crucial for Saskatchewan's agricultural sector. Finding ways to stabilize the sector and identify alternatives to help secure its long-term future is in Saskatchewan's economic, social and environmental interests.



Understanding the Term “Agrology”



The key role agrologists play in the success of Saskatchewan agriculture

If you work in the field of agriculture, you know the term “agrology.”

But you may not know that the field of discipline is less than 100 years old and that its origins have strong ties to Saskatchewan.

You also might not realize just how important a role agrologists play, and have played historically, in the success of the Saskatchewan agriculture industry.

“It’s the base of Saskatchewan,” says Valerie Pearson PAg, Executive Director/Registrar of the Saskatchewan Institute of Agrologists (SIA). “We’re talking about the safety of our food, the quality of the air we breathe, and the sustainability of our environment. I don’t know of anything else more important.”

She says the growth of our agriculture industry – a world leader in supplying safe, high-quality grains, oilseeds, pulses, livestock and agri-food products to the world – would not have been possible without the backbone of the agrology field supporting it. The field of agrology was originally created to support the

agriculture industry, by providing farmers with the best, verified information to help them responsibly and successfully grow crops.

The SIA was officially formed in 1946 with the mandate of protecting the public by ensuring that all certified agrologists in Saskatchewan are qualified, licensed and experienced.

“When you’re working with someone who’s an agrologist, you know that they’ve got the highest standards for both competency and ethics – that’s a given,” Pearson says. “You’re getting safe, reliable, sustainable information.”

To become a registered agrologist, one must prove they’ve completed the necessary science-based education from a certified institute, complete an articling program and adhere to a professional code of ethics.

“That’s really the assurance to the customers,” Pearson says. “They know the information they’re getting from their agrologist is based on science and without bias.”

Licensed Saskatchewan agrologists must also renew their license annually, and complete a set amount of continuing professional development hours, which ensures they stay up to date on the latest industry news and information, Pearson says.

“They’re continuing to learn and implement new techniques, so they’re staying current with the profession, providing accurate information and a truly professional opinion,” she says, adding this is crucial in today’s world of constant and easily accessible information.

Pearson says many people are also surprised by the scope of the work agrologists do. Although the field is often associated with agriculture, agronomy is just one of the areas in which agrologists can be licensed. Others include food safety, plant science, agribusiness & economics, policy development, renewable resources, environmental sustainability, and more.

And the need for the type of information that agrologists provide has not diminished in the past decade. In fact,

“ We like to say that agrologists are the guardians of the food system, the stewards of the environment and innovators in the economy. ”

Valerie Pearson PAg,
Executive Director/Registrar of SIA

the number of agrologists has grown steadily over the decades in Saskatchewan, as have the opportunities for people trained in the discipline, Pearson says.

History of Agrology in Saskatchewan

In the 1920s and 30s, many immigrants had come to Saskatchewan to farm but there was a lack of knowledge amongst them around how to best produce dry-land crops in the prairies. They needed high quality, scientifically sound knowledge and prairie-based production techniques to be able to grow crops to feed their families and satisfy market demand. This need only increased during the drought years of the 1930s and during and after the Second World War, when Europe desperately needed Canadian agricultural outputs.

The field of agrology was created to address this need. The term “agrologist”

was coined by an agriculture scholar in the University of Saskatchewan’s College of Agriculture, Dr. J.B. Harrington. Quebec was the first province to legislate the profession, forming the first Canadian agrologist institute in 1937, but Saskatchewan was not far behind – the SIA was formed in 1946. Other western Canadian provinces

followed suit shortly after.

Today, there are approximately 1,900 agrologists practicing in Saskatchewan. One of the top employers of agrologists is the Government of Saskatchewan. Many are also employed by the U of S and large agriculture, input and agri-food companies such as Federated Co-operatives and the Co-operative Retailing System, Nutrien AgSolutions, WinField United Canada, Richardson Pioneer, BASF, and more.

**Created With files from SIA*

FAQs

What is agrology?

Agrology uses science-based knowledge, including economics, to help achieve optimal agricultural production of safe food and agricultural products for consumers using safe methods and sustainable environmental practices.

What does an agrologist do?

Agrologists are licensed professionals with science education and training who work in agriculture, food, bioresources, and related environmental sectors. Agrologists use a PAg or TechAg designation to inform the public they meet qualifications and use competent, safe and ethical practices.

Agrologists may work in the fields of:

- Renewable resources
- Agribusiness
- Livestock management
- Watershed management
- Policy development
- Agronomy
- Food science
- Biotechnology

How does someone become an agrologist?

To become an agrologist, one must complete a four-year science-based agrology-related degree from the University of Saskatchewan or an equivalent, or must have a graduate degree approved by the registration and admissions committee. They must also complete an articling program.

What does the SIA do?

The SIA’s job is to protect the public interest by ensuring that all people practicing agrology in Saskatchewan are qualified and licensed and that all its members provide accurate, science-based knowledge and advice on agriculture, the sustainability of the food system, and protection and stewardship of our natural resources.

What’s the difference between an agrologist and agronomist

Agronomy is a field of study within the profession of agrology. Agronomists study elements of crop and soil science, and apply scientific knowledge specifically to crop production and soil management. Those working in agronomy belong to the profession of agrology and are called agrologists.



By Farmers, For Farmers

How Saskatchewan farm kids are helping shape the future of the industry through agriculture technology

BY DELANEY SEIFERLING

Growing up on a grain farm in Holdfast, SK, Kyle Folk knew he didn't want to be a farmer.

"As a kid, driving a tractor on the field, I despised it – I wanted nothing to do with the farm," he says.

But now, decades later, he has found his true calling – still deeply rooted in the agriculture industry.

After launching his first agriculture technology (ag tech) company in 2011, which developed grain monitoring systems for farms, he is now onto a second venture that aims to empower farmers with the ability to grade their own grain in real time.

The ideas behind both of Folk's companies were inspired by his experience on the family farm and his desire to help farmers combat modern farming issues.

And he is just one of a handful of young ag tech entrepreneurs in Saskatchewan who come from farming backgrounds and have channeled their passion for the industry into technology ventures that have the potential to shape the future of the industry and further position Saskatchewan as a leader in the ag-tech sector.

"Successful AgTech founders have a deep connection to the farm and agriculture industry – they build with intention,

practicality and value-add innovation in mind to solve real problems on the farm – something that only someone who has lived it can do well," says Erin Trapp, Venture Capital Manager for Conexus Venture Capital, which launched a \$60 million ag-tech fund in 2021.

The vast majority of entrepreneurs who come through the Conexus program come from farming backgrounds, Trapp says,

"The 'build it yourself and fix-it-with-duct-tape mentality' that's bred on the farm makes these founders extremely resourceful and practical when building innovative solutions and businesses. Combine their gritty farmer-approach





with a deep knowledge of agriculture and you have some of the best ag-tech founders on the planet right here in Saskatchewan. "

These young talented entrepreneurs are clearly having an impact. The field of ag tech in Saskatchewan is advancing rapidly right now, with millions of dollars of investment driving this growth, says Kari Harvey, CEO of Innovation Saskatchewan, which launched a \$1 million AgTech Growth Fund in 2020 to help drive growth in the sector. (Innovation Saskatchewan also invested \$15 million in the Conexus fund.)

"Adoption of innovative technologies that help farms become more efficient and productive is the only way for farmers to meet growing demands while using less inputs," Harvey says.

Saskatchewan already has a proven track record in inventing new products for farmers, Harvey says, as the modern air seeder and the world's first autonomous tractor were both developed by local companies (Bourgault Industries and DOT Technology, respectively).

This growth is also being driven by Saskatchewan farmers, who are extremely innovative and open to trying new technology that could strengthen their operations, Harvey says.

However, there are still major challenges to overcome for the sector, such as continuing to grow the technology at a rate that works for the market.

"It is difficult to test and validate ag tech," Harvey says. "Farmers want to make sure the tech that they are putting to use actually works. Providing space and infrastructure for our ag tech companies to test their technologies in a real-world setting will be key to continued growth in the sector."

But overall, she says the opportunities outweigh the challenges.

Sean O'Connor, fund manager for the Conexus Venture Capital Fund, agrees. He says while other big Canadian technology sectors have largely been centered out of big cities like Toronto, Saskatchewan is uniquely positioned to nurture and grow the burgeoning ag tech industry.

"You can't build ag tech companies on Bay Street – they belong in agriculture ecosystems, where you're directly interacting with industry itself," he says.

"Saskatchewan is the heart of Canadian agriculture, 40% of the farmland; our view is that this is a unique opportunity that's not going to come very often."

Meet The Local Entrepreneurs

Katlin Lang - FarmSimple

For Katlin Lang, launching an ag-tech business was a way of helping out his community. Having grown up on a primarily cattle operation near Francis, SK, Lang has farming in his blood, even though his dad has since left the farming business.

After studying electronic engineering systems at university, Lang was approached by a friend with a cattle operation who had a technical query.

"He said, 'I'm going to the lake in a few weeks, do you think you could build me something that will send me a text message if the water goes too low for my cows? Because then I don't have to drive home to check them and that will save me a lot of time and money.'"

From there, the idea behind FarmSimple was born. The company now offers a suite of products for cattle operations to monitor their water levels and temperatures from afar.

"It was a problem that we related to," Lang says, adding that his family missed out on a lot of camping and fishing trips when he was younger because they had to stay close to their farm.



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FarmSimple was incorporated in 2018 and began selling its products just over a year ago. Since then, have increased tenfold, Lang says, adding one of the major catches for local producers is that there's nothing else like it on the market in Canada.

"Australia has been using water monitoring technology for years and from what I can tell, they really benefit from it," he says. "But the majority of customers that I talk to here in Canada have never even heard of such a device. So we pride ourselves on being a leader in that category."

For Lang, it's an exciting time to be in the ag tech sector.

"I believe there's we're just at the starting point of where we can be, especially because of our advantage living here – we're connected to the problems that producers face."

One of the greatest sources of pride for Lang in doing this type of work is helping local support the local farming community.

Kyle Folk - Ground Truth Ag

After moving away from the family farm, Folk underwent training to become an electrician and later bought his dad's electrical company.

But one weekend when he was back home, helping his dad load a canola truck, inspiration struck.

"We went to throw the auger in the bin and it wouldn't go in. His canola bin had spoiled," he says.

The experience spurred him to develop Bin-Sense, a grain monitoring technology system that allows farmers to monitor their grain remotely.

His company, IntraGrain, was launched in 2011 and began selling the Bin-Sense products the following year. By 2018, the company had 85% of the market share in Canada and was selling all over the world before it was acquired by an Ottawa based company. Folk stayed on for two more years before departing on good terms.

"I just felt I needed something different," he says.

After taking some time off, he eventually decided he needed to do something new.

"I said to my wife, 'I need to start another company. It's all I know, it's all I've done.'"

So he started to think about what other products farmers need.

He eventually got to wondering about the most efficient way for farmers to increase the value of their stored grain. Although blending is the most common option now, he says it's not always practical, as farmers need to right infrastructure and grain quality information to do so properly.

He also began to recognize cracks in the ways that we measure for grain quality and output currently.

"The majority of decisions today for precision ag are made using yield as your output because you can measure it to an acre," he says. "So you measure all of your efforts towards a yield output, and everybody wants to grow more. But if you're growing more at the expense of quality, you need to know that information."

He also says during this discovery phase he learned that the grain grading and regulation process hasn't changed much since it was first put in place by government in 1912.

"The process is subjective by nature," he says. "We do the best that we can do, but the best that we can do still leaves us in handcuffs."



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“

We still feel connected to the farm. Our friends, our family, our close network are all farmers. So really, we just started this company to develop tech to help farmers.”

Katlin Lang,
Farm Simple



So he launched Ground Truth Agriculture Inc., a company that will offer farmers technology to grade their own grain, in real time during harvest, using a combination of machine vision, near infrared spectroscopy and machine learning.

“In the combine, it takes the grain off as it’s coming out of the bubble of water and as it passes it by the camera and spectrometer, it will image, scan and run models continuously and be able to determine what is present and in what quantities.”

The technology and accompanying software is still in very early stages of development and are likely still a year or two away from being commercially available, he says, adding that the team doesn’t want to rush development.

“When we put this product into the market, we need to support and stand behind it in a way that nobody else does,” he says. “We need to make sure we’re doing all the heavy lifting when farmers are taking on the risk of something new.”

But in the meantime, there’s a lot of interest in Ground Truth. Last fall, Folk announced a \$4 million investment in the company (\$2 million of this comes from the Conexus Venture Capital fund).

Folk also says he’s received a lot of positive feedback from farmers to date.

“There are just way too many things in agriculture that farmers have no ability

to control, so if you can control one more thing, that’s exciting,” he says. “This is one of the areas that it just makes sense that farmers should be in the driver’s seat for.”

As one of the few veterans in the ag tech world, he says that the industry in Saskatchewan has come a long way.

“In 2011, ‘ag tech’ wasn’t even really a word,” he says, adding that a lot of the previous successful Saskatchewan agriculture startups focused on equipment rather than technology.

“The industry has changed so much.”

He foresees the importance of the ag tech sector only continuing to increase, with so many global factors – such as population growth, market volatility, and changing weather patterns – making the world even more dependent on strong and consistent agriculture systems.

“Ag tech is extremely important,” he says. “There’s just too many inflection points coming together at the same time for this not to be opportunistic. How many industries touch everybody, multiple times a day?”

Cory Willness

- Croptimistic Technology

Cory Willness grew up on a mixed farm in Smeeton, SK, and later went on to start his own agronomy consulting business. It was through this work that

he saw the need and opportunities for new farm technology.

One of the opportunities was for soil mapping techniques to help farmers apply nutrients to their fields more efficiently, he says.

His company started offering mapping services around 2008 but quickly realized how difficult it was to deal with multiple pieces of software and hardware from various sources. So, he decided to build his own.

In 2018, he launched CropTimistic Technology, which develops custom soil, water and topography (SWAT) mapping software and hardware for farmers.

The primary function of the SWAT maps is to help farmers develop a site-specific approach to managing variability within and between fields, he says.

He says in some areas of the province, it’s not uncommon that 5-10% of a farmer’s acres are saline.

“A farmer could be spending \$5 million on fertilizer and seed,” he says. “Well, if 5% of your acres are an absolute waste, that’s \$250,000 worth of inputs just thrown out the window.”

Now, although the maps remain a primary selling feature for CropTimistic, the company has evolved to offer a suite of other products and services, all designed to help farmers become more efficient, automated and profitable.

“Much of the current growth that we’re seeing is being driven by farmers themselves. Many venture capital firms focused on investing in ag are recognizing that farmers know their own business best and understand how technology can play a role in improving agriculture. That is why we are seeing increased ag-tech investment activity in jurisdictions like Saskatchewan.”



Kari Harvey,
CEO of Innovation Saskatchewan

“You could say we’ve created basically a brand new business model,” he says, adding that increased efficiency on farms is especially timely right now, as the federal government is discussing potential fertilizer reductions for Canadian agriculture.

“I would say in the short term, farmers are mostly doing this because of the profitability –they know that they can optimize their nutrient and seed appli-

cations,” he says. “But now if regulations happen, or incentives come, these people will be prepared.”

He says that while there remain several challenges to running an ag tech company in Saskatchewan, one of the most positive parts has been working with local farmers.

“Adoption and acceptance in the farming community in general has been fan-

tastic and this has been a great place to do business, in terms of being a service provider for farmers,” he says.

“Amongst farmers in Western Canada, there are a lot of early adopters, a lot of people interested in trying the new technology and making it work. So that part’s been excellent.”



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APAS Policy Resolutions



Photos by Dave Stobbe

Land and Environment

Cost-Shared Investment in Water Infrastructure: Request higher levels of government support for agricultural water infrastructure programming to promote investment and drought mitigation in the sector. This would include 85% government cost share for community and group projects and a 60% cost share for individual farm and ranch water infrastructure projects, including the addition of power installation as an eligible project cost.

Private Land Use by Outfitters: Request the Province of Saskatchewan to make legislative changes to enable landowners to collect a royalty from for-profit outfitters for access to private land while ensuring that individual, non-guided hunters remain exempt for these changes.

Review of Conservation & Development Act: Support the review and modernization of the Conservation and Development Act and recommend for government support for the flying of LidDar to help determine points of adequate outlet and delineate watershed boundaries.

Landowner Hunting Tags - Request the Ministry of Environment to provide special hunting licenses for Saskatchewan-based landowners / producers with increased tag allocation for areas with high numbers of wildlife damage compensation claims.

Livestock

Cow/Calf Production Insurance: Examine and support the development of a cost-shared production insurance program for livestock.

Wildlife Damage Compensation for Reserved Grazing Supplies: Request Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation to include wildlife damage to reserved pastureland as an eligible loss under the Wildlife Damage Compensation program.

Future Success of Livestock Industries: Take the initiative to convene a summit of interested stakeholders to assess the current state, trends and opportunities to strengthen the future success of livestock industries in the province.

On-farm Weather Stations for Insurance Coverage: Engage the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation about giving producers the option to have for-

age rainfall insurance coverage calculated using on-farm, third-party verified weather stations.

Certified Rangeland and Forage Agronomists: Request federal and provincial governments to help provide better access to trained agronomists forage agronomy, grazing, and rangeland management.

Electronic Log Mandate Exemption for Livestock: Strongly advocate for livestock exemption from a federal Electronic Logging Device (ELD) mandate rules that are set to take effect on January 1, 2023, due to the risks these rules pose to animal health and welfare.

Livestock Production Insurance as Security: Work with the provincial and federal governments to design a program that provides a similar type of insurance coverage as is provided for grain that can be used to secure cash advances for livestock.

Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Eligible Costs: Request the Ministry of Agriculture to remove funding restrictions on wind powered projects eligible under the Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program.

Crops

Producer-led Farm Input Survey: Investigate a process to develop an ongoing, producer-led survey to more independent information about the prices and availability of commonly used farm inputs.

Scientific Foundation of Fertilizer Emissions Strategy: Further investigate the methodological and scientific assumptions used to support the federal government's federal emissions reduction strategy.

Access to Lambda-cyhalothrin or Equivalent (brand name Matador/Silencer): Strongly urge the Pest Management Regulatory Agency to work closely with product registrants to expedite reviews and consider the use of emergency exemptions to provide access Lambda-cyhalothrin or an equally effective alternative in a timely manner.

Finance & Taxation

Cost of Production Investigation: Investigate what is driving cost inflation for fuel, fertilizer and chemical products, and send results to the Competition Bureau and Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food for further investigation.

Increase to the Lifetime Capital Gains Exemption: Advocate for an increase in the Lifetime Capital Gains Exemption limit from \$1,000,000 to \$5,000,000

Farm Corporations' Access to the Capital Gains Exemption: Request changes in the Income Tax Act to give farmer shareholders the ability to transfer their capital gains into the corporation to the business when selling farmland.

Rural Issues

Promoting the Value of Primary Products: Work with industry partners on an awareness campaign to inform urban Canadians around the value of raw farm products within consumer goods.



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The advertisement features a red background with a checkered pattern on the left. At the top left is the Diamond Industries Ltd. logo, which includes a diamond shape and the company name. Below the logo are two images of workbenches: one with grey cabinets and drawers, and another with red drawers. The text 'HEAVY DUTY STEEL WORKBENCHES' is prominently displayed in white. At the bottom, contact information is provided in white text.

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- Threshed grain coverage: Must be purchased separately
- Unharvested produce coverage: Must be purchased separately

Elite coverage on farm machinery and tools:
\$5,000 per occurrence loss of use

Fire department charges coverage: \$10,000

Coverage with APAS membership

Homeowner's Prestige Coverage

Member Program Enhanced Coverage

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- Fences and corrals coverage: Fire peril limit \$5,000; Vehicle impact peril limit \$2,000
- Onsite cleanup coverage: Limit \$50,000
- Fertilizers and chemicals coverage: Limit \$10,000
- Threshed grain coverage: Limit \$100,000

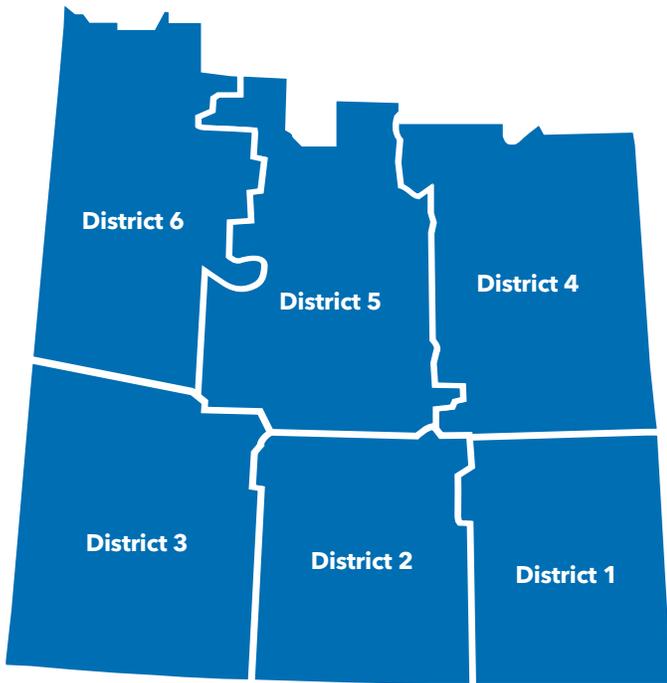
Elite coverage on farm machinery and tools:
\$15,000 per occurrence loss of use

Fire department charges coverage: \$25,000



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Mary Robinson's Time With CFA

After being elected CFA President in 2019, Mary Robinson announced she was not running again for 2023

STORY AND PHOTOS
BY RYAN MCNALLY

On a February day in Prince Edward Island, Mary Robinson sits in front of her computer for yet another Zoom call. It's one of the possibly thousands she's had since 2020, and surely, it's not her last. But this one, she sat down with APAS to discuss the end of her term as President of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA).

Robinson is a sixth-generation farmer from PEI, with a whole suite of agri-businesses as well. They farm a four-year rotation of potatoes, soybeans, barley, and hay on 2,000 arable acres, but the farm leases out their land for their potato year.

"After my husband and I had our second baby, I decided I wanted to get more involved in industry, and so I reached out to the Prince Edward Island Federation of Agriculture (PEIFA) and ended up on their board as a Prince County rep," Robinson said. "Shortly after that, (I was on) the Executive, and then shortly after that, I was the President.

"Within my role on the Executive of the PEIFA, I got exposure to the Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council (CAHRC), which I ended up chairing in time," Robinson continued. "That gave me my first exposure on the national stage. My first time at the CFA board would have been as a substitute for our past President – because PEI always sends its past President to represent PEI and the board – and from there, Ron Bonnett (Former CFA President) started chipping away on me to convince me I should throw my hat in the ring, and I succumbed to the pressure."



Robinson became President of the CFA in 2019, but the months after taking over were anything but normal for a CFA President.

"In the first year, there was a lot of travel, going to the World Trade Organization in Geneva, Switzerland, going to the North American EU Agri Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark, traveling to Washington, DC for pollinator conferences," Robinson said. "As far as farm tours went, there wasn't a whole lot, and then all of a sudden everything was shut down."

COVID-19 started to make events and consultations that are normally in-person virtual, but that didn't lighten the load from a policy standpoint.

"I sat in this very seat looking at this very screen, and just like everybody else, it was fire-putting-out as far as all-hands-on-deck, and we were definitely in Zoom calls for 12-plus hours a day," Robinson said. "The big issues in the initial stage of COVID was PPE and access

to foreign workers because if you look in BC, southern Ontario, and the Annapolis Valley (Nova Scotia), in places where we have a lot of horticulture. I know a cherry farmer who was on the phone fairly regularly with me, and he was waiting for several hundred Mexican workers for his cherry farm, and he didn't have that labour," Robinson added. "Dealing with the temporary foreign workers situation was critical and time consuming because that was pretty devastating for a lot of producers. That was really the big first punch-in-the-face of COVID."

Even during the COVID pandemic, a whole host of agriculture issues arose from the time Robinson began her term. On her second day as CFA President, the federal government announced a cabinet shuffle, and Marie-Claude Bibeau became the Federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. Shortly after, China announced their ban of Canadian canola. Other issues such as rail strikes, rail blockades, Avian Influenza, African Swine Fever and record droughts occurred as well during her four years as President.

“Mary was a phenomenal voice for Canadian agriculture at the international level. I’m glad I got to work with her in the capacity I did, and I wish her the best in her business ventures at home.”

Todd Lewis on Mary Robinson’s time at CFA.

“Each of these experiences, I’m going to treasure having been at the table when a lot of the discussions were had about how we approach each of those crises in a way to best mitigate the impact on farm families and farmers in Canada,” Robinson said. “I think it’s fair to say it offered me amazing potential for growth on a personal level, and the experiences of meeting the people I’ve met and worked with and seen the things I’ve seen is unimaginably awesome.”

During her time with CFA, Mary has gotten to visit Saskatchewan a handful of times, including Saskatoon twice in 2022. She attended the Federal, Provincial and Territorial (FPT) Ministers meeting in Saskatoon in July, and attended the APAS General Meeting in December. She described her first time in Saskatoon in July.

“I had Gord Downie’s voice singing in my head, it really is the ‘Paris of the Prairies,’” Robinson said. “It was awesome to be in a city where you walk around and there’s no doubt what pays the bills, agriculture is absolutely top of the pile. I think in Saskatchewan, that’s something I really enjoyed, was seeing the value of agriculture being so tangible.”

Mary also talked about how Saskatchewan’s magnitude on the world stage is extremely noticeable, even on the other side of the world.

“I attended the Climate Change Conference (COP) in Egypt in November 2022, and I had the opportunity to sit in on a side event hosted by Saskatchewan, and to watch that event where they showcase the natural resources of Saskatchewan, I don’t know how many Canadi-

ans recognize what a resource-rich province it is,” Robinson said. “And I think probably one of your best resources are your people.”

Robinson also made sure to talk about the APAS Youth Leadership and Mentorship Program (YLMP) Presented by FCC, and how beneficial it is to get young producers involved in agricultural policy.

“There’s been some bumps in the road, there’s been some learning, but over and over we see at our AGM is this fantastic roster of young people coming from Saskatchewan, and that’s why I say it’s one of your greatest resources,” Robinson said.

During the CFA Annual General Meeting in March, APAS had a presentation speaking to YLMP and how beneficial it has been. During the meeting, Keith Currie from the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) became President of the CFA, while former APAS President Todd Lewis was acclaimed as 1st Vice-President for the CFA.

For Mary, she says it was time to offer an opportunity for the next in line.

“My husband and I have got two kids who are teenagers, I’ve got a business I’d like to get back to focusing a bit of my time on, I’ve got parents who are not getting any younger, and all of those things,” Robinson said. “I think it made sense for me to step aside,

for me to pay attention to a lot of those things.”

Looking forward, Robinson is hoping to see more movement on innovation in Canadian agriculture.

“We have broadband internet, which is a huge limitation for us,” Robinson said. “When we say that we’re the 5th-top largest exporter of food, the reason we can do that is because of our land mass, and then when you look at how do you build infrastructure across land mass, it’s kind of a natural problem to have when we’ve got so much land. When we see what’s going on in regard to stalling the development of that rollout of high-speed internet, it’s a huge concern for all of agriculture.”

Mary Robinson was the first female President of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture. In 2017, she was also the first female chair of the Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council (CAHRC).

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“Good Afternoon and Good Farming”

Jim Smalley calls it a career

**STORY AND PHOTOS
BY RYAN MCNALLY**

If it's happened in Saskatchewan Agriculture over the last 50 years, Jim Smalley has likely talked about it.

Smalley, who turns 69 this year, announced his plans to retire from his Agri-news director position at 620 CKRM in Regina last fall. After being asked to stay on for another six months, his final day was April 28. The long-time radio veteran began his career March 12, 1973, in Dryden, Ontario at the age of 18. After stops in Fort Francis, Ontario and Weyburn, Jim settled down in Regina with CKCK Radio and Television in 1975. In 1982, Jim made the jump to CKRM Radio, and the rest is history.

Jim has been on the agriculture beat for almost all of his 50 years, but in some ways, Jim has been involved in agriculture his whole life.

“I was a farm boy from Corning, Saskatchewan going to Ontario to learn radio, and it was training on the job,” Smalley said. “There was an exchange student on a farm near Dryden from Britain. Guess who was selected at the

radio station to interview this exchange student from Britain? Me. So I've been doing farm interviews for 50 years.”

Included in some of the thousands of stories Jim has written on agriculture is the story of APAS' creation and activities over the years.

“It was good to get a new general farm group because the Saskatchewan Federation of Agriculture had been the general farm group, but they disbanded,” Smalley said. “Coming up with a Rural-Municipal model I thought was an excellent idea, that's a good way to do it. And also, it enables you to get a broader reach of the farm audience involved, the farm group involved with setting up a good general farm group rather than being based on one really giant farm organization.”

Jim is also impressed by the fact APAS is a non-partisan organization.

“They say wheat is 15% protein and 85% politics – that's another great old phrase – and politics was steeped in Saskatchewan throughout agriculture for years and years,” Smalley said. “To have a middle-of-the-road, standard

organization with the thoughts of only promoting Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan farm exports, and farm goods is the way to go in my opinion.”

That said, two of the bigger policy issues Jim covered in his time included grain freight rates and the Canadian Wheat Board.

“I thought in my lifetime, I would never stop talking about them ever, because the Canadian Wheat Board was key and critical, and grain freight rates were frozen at a level set in 1897, and this was into the 1970's when we had inflation of 10-15%, so you could imagine what the railways felt – that they weren't making money, and therefore they allowed all of their rolling stock to be degraded,” Smalley said. “With the Wheat Board, the thought I had after that – because we had heard doom and gloom – the sky didn't fall in. A year later, grain exports saw increases. That was a huge political issue.”

According to Jim, the best way to get on the airwaves with a story is to make sure someone is available to talk about it when he calls.



“The work he has done for our industry will not be forgotten.”

APAS President Ian Boxall on the impact Jim Smalley has had on Saskatchewan Agriculture.

APAS President Ian Boxall presented Jim a gift at the General Meeting in December 2022

"I've done meetings and told farm groups that you have to make sure you have the President or someone else accessible that can give a comment, because I get so much other information thrown at me that if I can't get a reaction, I move on to another story, another organization, whatever it takes," Smalley said. "In radio, the deadline is the next top of the hour, and you have to remember that. I have a noon broadcast that runs an hour, so it allows me to do in-depth interviews, which is an advantage, but it is also a time issue with constraints. When I call, then I have limited time as to what I can do and how long I can do it."

On March 10, 620 CKRM held a celebration of Jim's 50 years in radio. APAS Past President and representative for Lajord #128, Todd Lewis joined Jim to talk about their many interviews over the years.

A Huge Loss

When it comes to the radio station itself, Jim's retirement will without a doubt leave a noticeable hole in the building.

Program Director Abbey White says the length of Jim's career is something that is incredibly rare in this day and age.

"When you think about it, a lot of farming is generational. Families pass it on from generation to generation, Jim has been through several of those generations of families that grew up listening to him when they were kids, and now they're running the family farm," White said. "They know what they get from Jim, he's reliable, he's trustworthy, and I think that's why he's the man. There's nobody better than Jim."

CKRM's News Director Andrew Dawson says it's incredibly special to see Jim continue to bring a positive energy into the radio station every day, even after 50 years in the industry.

"Just to see someone who's done this for 50 years, and being able to take that goodbye lap (is special)," Dawson said. "Anybody who has been with another broadcasting company knows you very rarely get the chance to say goodbye when you're leaving, and we're so happy we get to do it for Jim."

APAS President Ian Boxall presented Jim a gift at the General Meeting in December, 2022. He says Jim has provided a crucial service to Saskatchewan's agriculture sector.

"Jim has told agriculture's story for so long, regardless of how difficult the story or how divisive the issue," Boxall said. "That story includes the creation of APAS, and he is a constant presence for APAS when it comes to reporting the work we do. The work he has done telling agriculture's story will have a lasting effect."

620 CKRM has hired Ryan Young as the new agri-news director. He will take over from Jim on May 1.

DISCLAIMER: Ryan McNally worked with Jim Smalley for 4 years at 620 CKRM between 2017 and 2021.

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Dealing With Wildlife Damage

BY DELANY SEIFERLING

Rural landowners in Saskatchewan have long had a troubled relationship with local wildlife populations.

Over the last decade, farmers and ranchers in the province have brought several concerns forward about risks posed to their land and agricultural assets by changing wildlife populations, as well as the lack of adequate compensation for certain types of damage caused by wildlife.

In light of these mounting concerns, and several recent resolutions brought forward at annual general meetings, the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS) has made it a top priority to find constructive solutions and put safeguards in place for rural landowners.

Last year, this issue became a top focus for APAS's Land and Environment Policy Committee, which consists of representatives and directors within the organization, as well as associate member organizations with interests and expertise in agri-environmental policies.

“The Committee approved a workplan in early 2022 that aims to better understand the current risks that wildlife poses to rural landowners.”

The Committee approved a workplan in early 2022 that aims to better understand the current risks that wildlife poses to rural landowners and to study policy options to improve management in agricultural lands and compensation for farmers.

In order to carry this out comprehensively, the committee began consultations last year to fully understand recent experiences and concerns with wildlife populations.

To date, the committee has heard that a common concern from producers and other rural ratepayers across the province is the increasing populations of various wildlife species, including both big game and predators.

One option to help mitigate concerns around these increasing wildlife populations is hunting, but several landowners also believe that improvements can be made to government-backed hunting initiatives that aim to balance populations. Other producers believe that landowners should be able to collect a royalty from for-profit companies who hunt on their land (which they currently can't).

Other concerns in recent years have involved the risk that unmanaged wildlife can bring and spread diseases onto farms. Tuberculosis in elk herds have been a particular threat in recent years, as has Chronic Wasting Disease in cervid populations. Many producers believe there is room for improvement in government strategies to manage and control the spread of these diseases, which pose threats to their on-farm operations.

After developing a comprehensive understanding of current issues, the committee's next steps will include examining best management practices and policies that have been successfully used elsewhere. Specifically, they will look at ways to best carry out compensation programs for farms that have experienced damage from wildlife – both Manitoba and Alberta run extensive wildlife damage compensation programs at a government level.

The committee will also address how to best manage protected lands to prevent wildlife encroachment (and other risks) on adjacent farmland, as well as explore options to improve government hunting

tag allocation programs, to help with wildlife population control in problem areas, and to help track, control, and manage disease risks in wildlife.

Overall, the committee will use the information collected to suggest enhancements to the provincial government's policy approach to wildlife management to address current and evolving risks, improve accountability and prevent overall wildlife damage that can have a negative impact to agricultural production.

Watch the APAS website for new developments on this file.

Anyone seeking to provide input to this study including commentary or pictures can contact us at: policy@apas.ca

Wildlife resolutions from recent APAS AGMs

2015 – Classification of wolves

Resolution: The Ministry of Environment apply the same classification to wolves that is in place for coyotes



2016 – Monitoring of wild ungulates

Resolution: that APAS lobby all levels of government to undertake research and education programming around rodent control in agricultural land, particularly for pocket gophers (moles) *Thomomys talpoides*

2017 – Chronic Wasting Disease management plan

Resolution: That federal and provincial governments increase funding to study and monitor Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD); that the provincial government consult with all affected stakeholders to identify options to better monitor and manage CWD in Saskatchewan.

2017 – Chronic Wasting Disease testing

Resolution: That the Government of Saskatchewan allocate adequate budget to increase level of funding for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) testing of wild cervids in Saskatchewan.

2018 – Wildlife damage compensation

Resolution: That Saskatchewan Crop Insurance be asked to allow wildlife damage compensation to apply when



wildlife have been deemed to indirectly cause crop loss

to reduce the risk of fire, flood, invasive weeds, and disease.

2018 – Saskatchewan Wildlife advisory committee

Resolution: That APAS request that the Minister of Environment appoint an Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan representative on the Saskatchewan Wildlife Advisory Committee.

2020 – Wildlife damage programs for grain in temporary storage

Resolution: That APAS request that wildlife damage compensation and prevention programs be expanded to cover harvested production stored in grain bags and other temporary storage systems.

2018 – Wildlife damage compensation

Resolution: That APAS commend governments for their continued support of Wildlife Damage Compensation programming

2022 – Private land use by outfitters

Resolution: That APAS request the Province of Saskatchewan to make legislative changes to enable landowners to collect a royalty from for-profit outfitters for the use of private land to conduct business on, and that individual, non-guided hunters would remain exempt from these changes.

2019 – Tag allocation system

Resolution: That APAS advocate for Saskatchewan Environment to re-evaluate the tag allocation for the hunting of wildlife such as elk, moose, and mule deer, with focus on areas of overpopulation or significant crop damage.

2022 – Landowner tags

Resolution: That APAS request the Ministry of Environment to provide special hunting licenses for Saskatchewan based landowners / producers and work with Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation to base tag allocation on the number of wildlife damage claims that are reported in the hunting zones.

2019 – Management of protected lands

Resolution: That APAS advocate for the active management of protected lands



Farm Animals of Saskatchewan

Farm animals are special members of farm families across the province. In every issue, we spotlight some of the most beloved farm dogs in Saskatchewan. But for the first time, we are also sharing the stories of some other beloved farm animals in this issue. 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.



Cassie

Home: RM of Wreford #280

Age: 8 years old

Family: Avery, Paisley, Logan & Julie Mortenson

Breed: Black Lab X

About Cassie: As a puppy, Cassie came into Logan and Julie's lives when they had just started dating about 8 years ago.

She has always been timid around people, especially those she doesn't know. But she loves her family fiercely and enjoys keeping a watchful and protective eye on Avery (4) and Paisley (3) while they play outside.

Although she has never been formally trained to work cattle, her favorite thing to do is ride in the back of the truck to the pastures to check cows in the summer. In the winter, she helps keep coyotes away from the yard during the day. At night she barks back at the coyotes from the safety of the heated garage.

This year we have noticed Cassie getting a little slower and a few more grey hairs on her chin. There is never enough time with a good dog!

Runtlet

Home: RM of Hazel Dell #355

Age: N/A

Family: The Kreshewski's

Breed: Goat

About Runtlet: Runtlet was born smallest of quadruplets. His mother did well with the three, but he needed extra help. As with all bottle baby goats they become attached to people and unafraid. He would stand in bucket of the tractor or jump in the truck if the door was left open. It was perfect timing taking a picture with his hooves on the steering wheel.





Jessie

Home: RM of Spalding #368

Age: 13 years old

Breed: Border Collie / Black Lab Cross

Family: Kienle Family (Rose, Rachele, Darlene, Karl)

About Jessie: Jessie lived the first part of her life on an acreage in Kuroki with Rachele, Darlene and Karl Kienle then moved with them to Caronport. Throughout her life, she gave everyone around her the gift of her childlike spirit and her loving, motherly ways.

In Caronport, she was one of the kids even though she became a fantastic mother at the age of two! She enjoyed going for walks, running in the fields, and even attending school. Sometimes she would sneak off to school to play with the kids. Other times, Ra-

chelle took her to school to watch her sister, Charisa, play basketball. There sat Jessie, like another person in the bleachers watching the ball go back and forth, and probably getting some good tips on how to play!

In 2016, she came to live the rest of her life at Rose Kienle's farm in Quill Lake. Jessie loved farm life and brought her childlike spirit wherever she went! She loved hopping in the truck to visit Rose's friends, playing ball (thanks to all those basketball lessons in Caronport!) and taking a dip in the dugout on hot summer days. She always welcomed her family from Toronto and even though they only visited once a year, she developed a great friendship with the kids, especially Izzy.

Jessie was a real patient, faithful, and loving friend to all. Sadly, we lost our precious Jessie on Christmas morning of 2022. On Christmas Eve, she had her last game of ball, her last milk bone treat, and a goodnight pat on the head. On Christmas morning, she was found resting still and peaceful on her mat. She will always and forever be in our hearts and her lessons of love and friendship will live on.



Redge

Home: RM of Tisdale #427

Age: 3

Family: Riley Hayes and Carlie Bowditch

Breed: Purebred Border Collie

About Redge: Redge is unique in his red colour and his amber eyes. Redge was born in Alberta. The timid one in his litter, Riley got him as a young pup. He immediately took to working cattle. He was Riley's right hand to complete chores and work cattle while he lived and worked around the Grasslands National Park.

In May of 2022, Redge and Riley moved to the RM of Tisdale. This changed Redge's life as he changed from ranch dog to farm dog. Though he misses cattle there are so many sticks to play fetch with at his new home. Redge enjoys semi rides, supper in the field and chasing deer out

of the bin yard. He is also a trusty rodeo dog, making many miles with us to Canadian Cowboys Association rodeos all summer and showing off his back flip and vertical jumping skills to anyone who will throw a stick up in the air!

We look forward to spring when we plan to have 10 or 15 cattle to rope! This should fill Redge's natural want to sort and move cattle.

DISTRICT ONE

Directors: Wanda Reid and Steven Donald
 RM #1 - Argyle: Brenda Ryckman
 RM #2 - Mount Pleasant: Terrance Macfarlane
 RM #3 - Enniskillen: Barry Fitzpatrick
 RM #33 - Moose Creek: Reed Gibson
 RM #37 - Lomond: Ryan McKenzie
 RM #63 - Moose Mountain: Jack Wilson
 RM #64 - Brock: Darren Ippolito
 RM #65 - Tecumseh: Thomas Breault
 RM #91 - Maryfield: Jeff Chambers
 RM #92 - Walpole: William Hollingshead
 RM #93 - Wawken: Blaine Ehr
 RM #94 - Hazelwood: Kyle Kish
 RM #95 - Golden West: Wanda Reid
 RM #96 - Fillmore: Christopher Procyk
 RM #97 - Wellington: Sarah Leguee
 RM #121 - Moosomin: Trevor Green
 RM #122 - Martin: Steven Donald
 RM #123 - Silverwood: Chris MacPherson
 RM #124 - Kingsley: Greg Pusch
 RM #125 - Chester: Lee Sluser
 RM #126 - Montmartre: Cory Stringer
 RM #127 - Francis: James Vogt
 RM #151 - Rocanville: Herb Park
 RM #152 - Spy Hill: Nick Denbrok
 RM #153 - Willowdale: Kenneth Aldous
 RM #155 - Wolseley: Michelle Williams
 RM #181 - Langenburg: Mike Mitschke
 RM #183 - Fertile Belt: VACANT
 RM #184 - Grayson: VACANT
 RM #187 - North Qu'Appelle: George MacPherson
 RM #211 - Churchbridge: Cameron Wiebe
 RM #214 - Cana: Janette Reinson

DISTRICT TWO

Directors: Bev Pirio and James Bateman
 RM #11 - Hart Butte: Louis Paradis
 RM #38 - Laurier: Bev Pirio
 RM #71 - Excel: Ron Daviduk
 RM #72 - Lake of the Rivers: Chris Bates
 RM #73 - Stonehenge: Vince Topola
 RM #74 - Wood River: Lee Tallon
 RM #100 - Elmsthorpe: James Beingessner
 RM #101 - Terrell: Chris Hawkins
 RM #103 - Sutton: Jonathan Kolish
 RM #104 - Gravelbourg: James Bateman
 RM #128 - Lajord: Todd Lewis
 RM #129 - Bratt's Lake: Gregor Beck
 RM #131 - Baildon: Christine Whelan

RM #162 - Caron: Ray McBride
 RM #163 - Wheatlands: Kurtis Hicks
 RM #191 - Marquis: Glen Steinhauer
 RM #219 - Longlaketon: Scott Hegglin
 RM #220 - McKillop: Glen Munholland
 RM #221 - Sarnia: Aaron Bachman
 RM #222 - Craik: Trewett Chaplin

DISTRICT THREE

Directors: Don Connick and Kevin Gilbert
 RM #75 - Pinto Creek: Glen MacKenzie
 RM #76 - Auvergne: Dale Davidson
 RM #79 - Arlington: Kevin Gilbert
 RM #106 - Whiska Creek: Tania Demencuik
 RM #109 - Carmichael: Don Connick
 RM #135 - Lawtonia: Sterling Dayne
 RM #136 - Coulee: Greg Targerson
 RM #138 - Webb: Bruce Gibson
 RM #167 - Saskatchewan Landing: Dan Barber
 RM #257 - Monet: James Myers
 RM #261 - Chesterfield: Leah Cooper

DISTRICT FOUR

Directors: Ian Boxall and Bill Prybylski
 RM #241 - Calder: Roy Derworiz
 RM #244 - Orkney: Randy Trost
 RM #245 - Garry: Bill Prybylski
 RM #274 - Good Lake: Brian Berrns
 RM #275 - Insinger: Willy Zuchkan
 RM #277 - Emerald: Norman Hall
 RM #304 - Buchanan: Myron Kopec
 RM #307 - Elfros: Justin Thordarson
 RM #308 - Big Quill: Ernest Hall
 RM #333 - Clayton: Lorne Ball
 RM #334 - Preeceville: Dale Parkin
 RM #335 - Hazel Dell: Brett Spray
 RM #336 - Sasman: Dale Redman
 RM #337 - Lakeview: Angela Jones
 RM #338 - Lakeside: Jason Friesen
 RM #367 - Ponass Lake: Rick Sunderland
 RM #395 - Porcupine: Bryan Young
 RM #426 - Bjorkdale: Glen Clarke
 RM #427 - Tisdale: Darren Ukrainetz
 RM #428 - Star City: Shawn Mooney
 RM #456 - Arborfield: Ryan Edwards
 RM #457 - Connaught: Ian Boxall
 RM #458 - Willow Creek: Brent Freedman
 RM #486 - Moose Range: Ashley Van Meter
 RM #487 - Nipawin: Arnold Schellenberg
 RM #488 - Torch River: Jerry Kindrat

DISTRICT FIVE

Director: Donavon Block and Ryan Scragg
 RM #254 - Loreburn: Ryan Glubis
 RM #279 - Mount Hope: Ian McNichol
 RM #280 - Wreford: Julie Marie Mortenson
 RM #281 - Wood Creek: Glen Busse
 RM #284 - Rudy: Jean Harrington
 RM #309 - Prairie Rose: Garth Burns
 RM #312 - Morris: Jason Johns
 RM #313 - Lost River: Ivan Carpenter
 RM #314 - Dundurn: David Aldred
 RM #339 - Leroy: Donavon Block
 RM #341 - Viscount: Mickey Palfy
 RM #342 - Colonsay: Marvin Lang
 RM #343 - Blucher: Blair Cummins
 RM #344 - Corman Park: Ken Rosaasen
 RM #346 - Perdue: Curtis Lammers
 RM #369 - St. Peter: Paul Ulrich
 RM #399 - Lake Lenore: Mark Schemenauer
 RM #403 - Rosthern: Chad Krikau
 RM #429 - Flett's Springs: Scott Hermus
 RM #430 - Invergordon: Wayne Bacon
 RM #459 - Kinistino: Lindsay Dupin
 RM #460 - Birch Hills: Ron Miller
 RM #461 - Prince Albert: Richard Wilson
 RM #490 - Garden River: Ryan Scragg
 RM #491 - Buckland: Jason Zalewski

DISTRICT SIX

Directors: Jeremy Welter and Devon Walker
 RM #287 - St. Andrews: Kevin Sinclair
 RM #347 - Biggar: Robert Danychuk
 RM #349 - Grandview: Allen Turk
 RM #350 - Mariposa: Jeremy Welter
 RM #351 - Progress: Kim Herbst
 RM #381 - Grass Lake: Bentley Sperle
 RM #382 - Eye Hill: Greg Rissling
 RM #410 - Round Valley: Taylor Wallace
 RM #436 - Douglas: Nick Partyka
 RM #438 - Battle River: Jaden Jamieson
 RM #440 - Hillsdale: Lawrence Olson
 RM #442 - Manitou Lake: Karl Koch
 RM #466 - Meeting Lake: Morris Prescesky
 RM #468 - Meota: Glenn Tait
 RM #470 - Paynton: Adam Bugg
 RM #471 - Eldon: Scott Owens
 RM #472 - Wilton: Devon Walker
 RM #499 - Mervin: Chris NWeilson

If your RM isn't currently part of APAS, ask your Council to buy a 12-month trial membership for only \$2023.

We would like to welcome the new RM's, Walpole RM #92, Pinto Creek RM #75, Whiska Creek RM #106, and Porcupine RM #395

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.

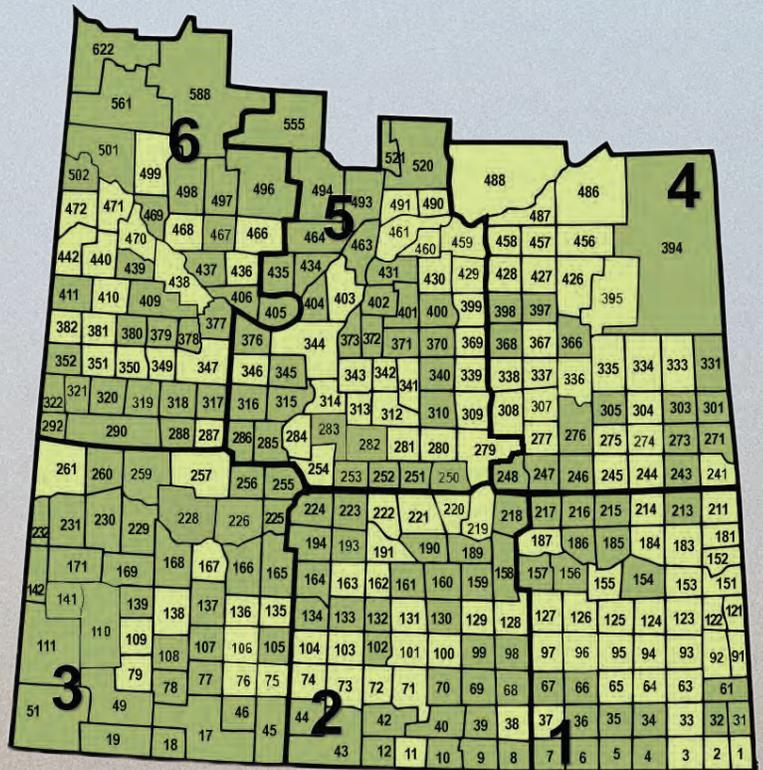
If your RM isn't currently part of APAS, ask your Council to buy a 12-month trial membership for only \$2023.

134 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 \$2023 for a 12-month trial membership.

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



MEMBER NON-MEMBER



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