



## **Adopted Resolutions from the APAS 2022 General Meeting**

### **Crops and Transportation**

#### **C&T1: CGC Statutory Declarations**

**WHEREAS** in order to comply with the Canada US Trade Agreement (CUSMA), the Canada Grain Act was amended to require a “Statutory Grain Declaration” for all grain varieties to ensure that grain receiving a Canadian grade is of a variety registered in Canada;

**WHEREAS** the Canadian Grain Commission is allowing licensed grain buyers to combine the statutory declarations with pre-existing commercial declarations that producers sign prior to delivery;

**WHEREAS** grain company declarations are specific to the commercial interests of the individual company and should not be conflated with declarations that are required by law;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that APAS advocate for the Canadian Grain Commission to require grain companies to separate the statutory declarations from company specific commercial declarations.

#### **C&T2: Crop Insurance Yield Cushioning**

**WHEREAS** the 2021 drought severely impacted crop yields across the province;

**WHEREAS** the current Saskatchewan Crop Insurance yield cushioning policy requires two consecutive years of below 70% average yield before cushioning limits the yield shortfall to 70% in the second year;

**WHEREAS** reduced yields in disaster years impact coverage levels for future years and are not reflective of individual yield history based on management and experience;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that Saskatchewan Crop Insurance change its yield cushioning policy to cap yearly yields at 70% long term average, beginning in the 2021 program year.

#### **C&T3: Early Release of SCIC “What-if” Scenarios**

**WHEREAS** Saskatchewan Crop Insurance “What if” calculators help producers estimate their insurance coverage for the upcoming crop year;



**WHEREAS** the early release of these estimates can help producers plan their inputs and cropping decisions;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that Crop Insurance “What If” scenarios and predicted prices be made available by the middle of December for the 2023 and future crop years.

#### **C&T4: Cash Advance Repayment on Interest-Free Portion**

**WHEREAS** the Advance Payment Program is valued tool that provides production financing and helps producers to optimize their grain marketing over the course of a crop year;

**WHEREAS** loan repayments are structured in such a way that the interest free portion is paid off first;

**WHEREAS** repayment of the interest free portion over a longer term would enhance the program and provide additional protection against interest rate costs and variability;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that APAS advocate for further enhancements to the Advance Payment Program to ensure that repayments are evenly split between the interest free and interest-bearing portions of the loans.

#### **C&T5: SCIC Crop Establishment Policy**

**WHEREAS** crop insurance coverage requires establishment for crops to be insured;

**WHEREAS** we are in a prolonged drought in many areas of the province;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that APAS lobby the provincial government to provide a full compensation claim on yield losses, or choice of an establishment claim, when crops do not grow or fail to establish.

#### **C&T6: Funding for Breeding Programs**

**WHEREAS** the federal government is currently developing research and innovation programs for the 2023-2028 policy framework;

**WHEREAS** funding through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada’s AgriScience Cluster program is crucial to the operations of public breeding programs;

**WHEREAS** breeding activities that develop trait technology and innovation play a vital role in the economic and environmental sustainability of crop production in Canada;



**BE IT RESOLVED** that Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada protect the viability of public crop breeding programs by ensuring that AgriScience Clusters provides funding for all crops breeding activities necessary to bring a new crop variety to market, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a minimum 70:30 (government-producer) cost share funding ratio is reinstated for smaller acre crops that cannot afford to meet the full cost share ratio.

## **Economics and Trade**

### **E&T1: Promoting Competition in Agricultural Markets**

**WHEREAS** competition is essential for markets to function effectively;

**WHEREAS** lack of competition in agricultural markets increases costs and reduces economic value captured at the farmgate;

**WHEREAS** rising input costs, access to equipment software for repairs, and widening price spreads in both retail beef and grain export markets are key issues facing the sector;

**WHEREAS** not enough has been done in Canada to investigate consolidation, asymmetry of information, and anti-competitive practices in agricultural markets;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that APAS take advantage of the recent elevation of competition policy discourse and work to advocate for farmer interest in key areas of concern.

### **E&T2: Trade and Market Development Programs**

**WHEREAS** the federal government is developing market support programs for the 2023-2028 policy framework;

**WHEREAS** trade access and market development programs are important for diversifying market and production opportunities in the sector;

**WHEREAS** smaller acres crops and niche commodities may not have the fiscal capacity to meet cost-shared funding thresholds, address emerging trade restrictions or promote their products in domestic markets;

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

- Funding for domestic market development, including activities to promote the health benefits of agriculture and agri-food products to Canadians;



- Financial assistance to help sectors resolve emerging non-tariff trade restrictions, including technical and political barriers to trade in overseas markets;
- Flexible funding agreements for commodity associations that are unable to meet existing cost-shared funding ratio requirements

### **E&T3: Sask Growth Coalition**

**WHEREAS** there is a group of industry and business associations working together as the Sask Growth Coalition to lobby the Province to introduce an Effective Mill Ratio (EMR) limit of 0.75:2.0, from the current 1:9 limit;

**WHEREAS** the tax burden on agricultural property classes would have to increase substantially in order to maintain services and infrastructure if these limits were implemented;

**WHEREAS** agricultural producers have significant investment in RM infrastructure;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that APAS call on the Provincial Government to reject Sask Growth Coalition's proposed Effective Mill Rate Ratio of 0.75 – 2.0

### **E&T4: Awareness of Sask Growth Coalition Proposals**

**WHEREAS** there is a group of industry and business associations working together as the Sask Growth Coalition to lobby the Province to introduce an Effective Mill Ratio (EMR) limit of 0.75:2.0, from the current 1:9 limit;

**WHEREAS** tax rates for agricultural and residential property classes would have to increase substantially to make up the revenue shortfalls resulting from this change;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that APAS work with SARM and SUMA to send out information to municipalities and the public about the intention and possible effects of the Sask Growth Coalition proposals.

### **E&T5: Farmer Share of the Food Dollar**

**WHEREAS** the increasing food costs are being attributed to high commodity prices;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that APAS, together with other farm organizations and the CFA, conduct research and promote awareness of the percentage of food prices that goes to primary production.



## **E&T6: Saskatchewan Farmers Advocate Office**

**WHEREAS** the Farmers Advocate Office in Alberta is mandated to provide resources and support to assist producers in provincial matters concerning nuisance complaints, consumer protection, and mediation of disputes with resource and utility companies accessing agricultural land;

**WHEREAS** the FAO is required to record common issues and concerns into an annual report to the Provincial Minister of Agriculture;

**WHEREAS** provincial matters affecting agricultural operations in Saskatchewan often span across multiple departments and agencies;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that APAS lobby the provincial government to create a Saskatchewan Farmers Advocate Office (FAO), similar to the FAO in Alberta, to ensure that producers have consumer protection, rural opportunities and fair process.

## **Land & Environment**

### **L&E1: Saskatchewan Liability Rating Program for Energy Companies**

**WHEREAS** the Saskatchewan Licensee Liability Rating (LLR) Program is meant to manage risk Oil and Gas Orphan Fund and prevent the occurrence of orphaned wells and facilities within Saskatchewan;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that an energy company's LLR rating include landowner rent payments and municipal tax payments as criteria to rate an energy company's financial position.

### **L&E2: Implementation of Updated Surface Rights Act**

**WHEREAS** the 1978 *Saskatchewan Surface Rights Compensation and Acquisition Act* is intended to protect the interests of landowners while enabling surface access for mineral and energy development;

**WHEREAS** a review of the Act and draft legislation were initiated in 2014 but not brought into force;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that APAS renew efforts to have the *Saskatchewan Surface Rights Compensation and Acquisition Act* review implemented to be consistent with the draft legislation written in 2014.



### **L&E3: Water Dam Construction for Agricultural Uses**

**WHEREAS** ongoing drought has resulted in water shortages for all aspects of agriculture;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that APAS lobby all levels of government to provide support for the construction of new dams in creeks, ravines and other waterways to increase water reservoirs available for irrigation and other agricultural uses.

### **L&E4: Motion of Support for Quill Lakes 5 Acre Plan**

**WHEREAS** current rules do not permit any drainage in the Quill Lakes basin despite most drainage (92%) in the basin does not have a net contribution to downstream flow;

**WHEREAS** small sloughs (5 acres and less) have very limited water storage potential throughout the year but cause significant salinity issues for crops;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that APAS support the member RMs that are part of the 5 Acre Plan.

### **L&E5: Omission of Zero-Tillage Protocols from Allowable Carbon Offsets Credits**

**WHEREAS** Saskatchewan producers have made significant contributions to carbon sequestration and climate change mitigation through the use of zero-tillage;

**WHEREAS** the federal and provincial governments have stated they will not support a carbon offset for zero-tillage because more than 40% of the agricultural sector has adopted the practice;

**WHEREAS** the federal government uses the carbon sequestration values from zero tillage to calculate Canada's National Carbon Inventory, while excluding the practice as an eligible offset because it is adopted by more than 40% of the agricultural sector;

**WHEREAS** the federal protocols are being used as standards to inform the provincial offset programs currently under development;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that APAS express our extreme disappointment with provincial and federal governments regarding the decision to disallow not allow zero-tillage offset protocols for Prairie producers because of our high adoption rate; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that APAS continue to advocate for the recognition of producer achievements in sequestering carbon through our farming practices.



## **L&E6: Water Infrastructure Funding**

**WHEREAS** Agricultural Producers and rural communities in many parts of Saskatchewan face challenges in accessing adequate supplies of quality water for human and livestock consumption and for other agricultural purposes.

**WHEREAS** Federal and Provincial governments are providing infrastructure funding to municipalities for the upgrading of water utilities;

**WHEREAS**, rural communities face capacity challenges in developing and funding proposals for cost-shared infrastructure proposals to deal with water supply issues;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that APAS advocate for enhancements to federal and provincial water infrastructure and water supply programming, including;

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

## **L&E7: Third-Party Infrastructure Remaining on Land After Decommissioning**

**WHEREAS** third-party infrastructure imposes permanent land use restrictions through right of way caveats and easements when left of agricultural lands after its use has been discontinued;

**WHEREAS** some forms of third-party infrastructure (pipelines and flowlines) can remain on producer lands even after being decommissioned;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that APAS lobby the provincial government to make operating companies responsible for the removal of decommissioned third-party infrastructure to subsequently release right of way caveats/easements.



## **L&E8: Oil and Gas Company Arrears**

**WHEREAS** increasingly, oil and gas companies are defaulting on their tax payment obligations for municipal and education purposes, thus forcing both governing bodies to lower the level of service to their ratepayers;

**WHEREAS** oil and gas companies use municipal infrastructure to access their facilities that provide revenue;

**WHEREAS** by defaulting on their tax obligations, oil and gas companies are not providing the necessary funds to municipalities for the upkeep/repair and upgrades to the same municipal infrastructure they use to produce their revenue which is also used by all RM residents;

**WHEREAS** an increasing number of oil and gas companies are having their assets sold through court orders that often contain “vesting orders” that not only protect purchasers from paying both municipal and education tax arrears, but also include direction from the Courts to have these tax arrears written off;

**WHEREAS** the amount of oil and gas taxes in the RM of Manitou Lake has had to write off over \$1.5 million in municipal taxes between 2015 – 2021;

**WHEREAS** the arrears of oil and gas taxes as of December 31, 2021 is \$863,514,.31;

**WHEREAS** these outstanding tax arrears reduce the amount of funding available for maintaining infrastructure and services within RMs;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that APAS lobby the Province of Saskatchewan to support the RMs and landowners to change legislation to hold oil and gas companies responsible for the municipal taxes they owe.

## **L&E9: Saskatchewan Grain Bag Recycling Program**

**WHEREAS** grain bag use is increasing in Saskatchewan;

**WHEREAS** unrecycled grain bags continue to pose an environmental risk;

**WHEREAS** there is increasing interest in grain bags as recyclable material to repurpose into new plastic products;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that APAS contact the Ministry of Environment to discuss potential changes to the Saskatchewan grain bag recycling program and how it can better meet the needs of new entrants in the market for agricultural plastics and recycling.





## **Livestock**

### **L1: Remote Sensing in Forage Insurance Programming**

**WHEREAS** the Alberta Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) has had success in recent years with remote sensing and determining drought conditions through their Satellite Yield Pasture Insurance Program;

**WHEREAS** AFSC also uses pasture clippings to both improving remotely sensed conditions and augment payments from the program;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that APAS ask Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC) to adopt a program similar to Alberta's Satellite Yield Insurance.

### **L2: New and Small Producer Access to Provincial Agricultural Programming**

**WHEREAS** new and small producers are unable to access necessary funding for water projects under provincial agricultural funding envelopes;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that APAS lobby the provincial government to lower the minimum farm income amounts to access Farm Stewardship Program and Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure program from \$50,000 to \$25,000.

### **L3: FRWIP Coverage Cost for Permanent Wiring**

**WHEREAS** the Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program (FRWIP) will allow cost coverage for the installation of solar power to run pumps but not for non-solar permanent wiring even when it would be a more reasonable option;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that APAS lobby the provincial government to include permanent wiring from existing power sources to service water infrastructure as a coverable cost under FRWIP funding when deemed a more economical or practical than alternative power sources.

### **L4: Pregnancy Evaluation on Livestock by Trained Personnel**

**WHEREAS** trained personnel are unable to perform pregnancy evaluations (preg checks) on livestock without the presence of a veterinarian;

**WHEREAS** the reduced number of rural veterinarians working with livestock in recent years is causing significant issues for livestock producers including access to antibiotics;



**BE IT RESOLVED** that APAS lobby the provincial government to change the veterinary regulations to allow trained personnel to undertake pregnancy evaluations of livestock without a licensed veterinarian present.

#### **L5: Expansion of SCIC Weather Stations**

**WHEREAS** Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation uses a network of weather stations to calculate claims for weather-based insurance products, including the Forage Rainfall Insurance Program;

**WHEREAS** variable precipitation can result in large discrepancies between the data used to calculate claims and the rainfall amounts recorded at the insured land location;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that APAS lobby Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation to install additional weather stations throughout the Province to more accurately represent rainfall amounts for the calculation of benefits under the Forage Rainfall Insurance Program