Welcome to APAS IN ACTION, bringing you the latest news on how your general farm organization is working on behalf of Saskatchewan farmers and ranchers. If you are receiving this as an APAS Member RM Rep, RM Administrator or Reeve (Member or Non-Member), we encourage you to share this information with your Council at your next scheduled meeting and with ratepayers in your RM whenever possible.

We hope this message has reached you with your bins full and the majority of your harvesting done for the year. This time of year has also proven to be a busy and exciting time for APAS, as we welcome new staff members to our team and continue to tackle existing priorities and take on new issues affecting agricultural producers.

In September, APAS was pleased to announce the official start of two new staff members, Mitch Demyen as Co-General Manager of APAS, and Donovan Howden as Research Officer. Mitch will co-manage APAS with Co-manager, Doug Faller, while Donovan will be conducting research in support of the organization's policy mandate.

On September 4th, APAS Co-Manager, Doug Faller, met with other members of the Western Canadian Tree Nursery Coalition (WCTNC) to release the business plan for the continued operation of the Indian Head tree nursery. Immediately following the release, the Coalition forwarded the plan and a request for support to AAFC Minister Gerry Ritz. Discussions with Minister Ritz regarding his Department's commitment to the plan's implementation are ongoing. A thank you goes out to McNair Business Development Inc for delivering such a strong and dynamic business plan.

APAS continues to provide the Community Pasture Patrons Association (CPPAS) with administrative support. On August 4th CPPAS launched its new website, www.cppas.co. Please visit this website for regular updates on the Association's continued efforts to secure a viable, long term future for the community pastures.

Following up on July's mid-term meeting, APAS is pleased to report that the Chrysler fleet pricing program is garnering considerable interest among farmers, ranchers and small businesses in APAS member RMs. Those interested in finding out how these discounts work are encouraged to visit the APAS website or speak to a Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge and Ram dealer. Several presentations from the mid-term meeting were also recently uploaded to the "APAS-on-air" YouTube channel, including the presentations by Famers of North America President, Bob Friesen, and Canadian Grain Commissioner Elwin Hermanson.

As we head into fall, APAS is looking to connect with members at the district level to initiate dialogue on a number of important public reviews currently underway at both the Federal and Provincial levels. Of present concern are changes to the *Surface Rights and Acquisitions Act*, the development of agricultural drainage policy through the "25 Year Saskatchewan Water Security Plan", and finally, the federal review of Canada's crop variety registration system. APAS staff will announce how these district meetings will unfold in the coming weeks. Please stay tuned for the opportunity to have your voice heard on these topics.

Agriculture is Everyone's Business

A note concerning changes to the election schedule for APAS Representatives in odd-numbered RMs:
The 2013 elections for Representatives in odd-numbered Rural Municipalities have been deferred one year to coincide with the 2014 RM Elections. We thank the odd-numbered RM offices, councils and APAS representatives for their cooperation.

APAS Executive, Directors and staff welcome the Reeves, Councils and Ratepayers of the RM's of Loon Lake No. 561, Turtle River No. 469, Heart's Hill No. 352, Mount Hope No. 279 and Maryfield No. 91 who have recently joined APAS as Transitional Members. We look forward to the participation of their appointed RM Representatives at our committee, district and annual meetings and to providing the ratepayers with a wide range of benefits and services, including the highly successful myRM program.