

Agriculture is Everyone's Business

APAS in Action

December 2014

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.

President's Message

Where has the time gone?? It just seems like yesterday that we were talking about rail transportation and the shortfalls of the grain system and.....oh wait, yes it was just yesterday, and today, and tomorrow. The grain issues we talked about a year ago brought on the Order in Council and the Canada Transportation Act Review. APAS has been at the centre of those discussions and will continue to be with the "Saskatchewan Voice Coalition" made up of APAS, Sask Pulse, Sask Wheat and Sask Barley, bringing forward a Saskatchewan producers' voice to the CTA Review process. This process will take us well into the new year and will hopefully culminate with a report to the minister that is favourable to the Saskatchewan and Western Canadian Ag community.

Grain and rail transportation are far from the only issues that APAS will be dealing with in the coming year. We also have many livestock issues as well as water and environmental issues and concerns over shortfalls in crop insurance, Agri-Stability, Agri-Invest and Agri-Recovery.

Before we get too far down that path though, it is very important throughout the year to take time for family and friends, and the Christmas season is the perfect opportunity to take that time. So my wife, Fern and I would like to wish you and yours a very merry Christmas and hope that New Year brings water, sunshine and grain transportation all in the right quantities.

Say "Hi" to Santa for me!



Norm Hall, President

2014 APAS Annual General Meeting

The 2014 Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS) took place December 2-4, 2014 at Mosaic Place in Moose Jaw. The meeting was an opportunity to share information with - and gain insight from - ranchers and farmers from across the province in order to promote sound agricultural policy.

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Expert guests from across Canada were on hand to engage delegates and present on a wide range of topics, including water governance and conservation planning, the ongoing review of *Canada Transportation Act*, Species at Risk legislation, access to labour, and an overview of the economic challenges ahead for Canadian agriculture. The AGM concluded with a vigorous policy discussion and the adoption of 17 policy resolutions, granting APAS a clear mandate to continue to advance innovative farm policy into 2015 on behalf of Saskatchewan agricultural producers.



The themes for Wednesday night's banquet were recognition and appreciation. APAS Reps and guests had the opportunity to express our appreciation and gratitude to Terry Hildebrand, founding President of APAS, who stepped down as Representative for RM 181. Terry, in turn, provided the audience with a delightful account of his experience as APAS President during the organization's formative years. Thanks to Terry for not only his years of service as APAS Rep and President, but also for the stimulating keynote address at the banquet. Current APAS President, Norm Hall, then took the stage to present those RMs which have supported APAS for ten consecutive years with a certificate of appreciation and recognition.



District One

- Argyle #1
- Enniskillen #3
- Coalfields #4
- Lomond #37
- Golden West #95
- Moosomin #121
- Martin #122
- Silverwood #123
- Chester #125
- Montmartre #126
- Francis #127
- Spy Hill #152
- Wolseley #155
- Langenburg #181
- Fertile Belt #183
- Churchbridge #211

District Two

- Excel #71
- Sutton #103
- Baidon #131
- Caron #162

District Three

- Carmichael #109
- Piapot #110

District Four

- Emerald #277
- Big Quill #308
- Lakeview #337
- Arborfield #456
- Connaught #457
- Moose Range #486
- Nipawin #487



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District Five

- Prairie Rose #309
- Lost River #313
- Viscount #341
- Corman Park #344

District Six

- Winslow #319
- Prairiedale #321
- Grandview #349
- Grass Lake #381
- Round Valley #410
- Eldon #471
- Mervin #499

The election of the 2015 APAS Board of Directors also took place at the 2014 AGM. Congratulations to District 1 Directors, Arlynn Kurtz and James Vogt; District 2 Director Todd Lewis; District 3 Directors Don Connick and Dorothy Weetman; District 4 Director Norm Hall and Mervin Kryzanowski; District 5 Directors Donovan Block and Micky Palfy and District 6 Directors Jeff Simpson and Bill Warrington. A special thank you to former District 2 Director, Bob Rusk, for his dedication and valuable contributions to the APAS Board.

The 2015 APAS Board of Directors re-elected the 2014 Executive for another term. Norm Hall from the RM of Emerald (No.277) will serve as the 2014 APAS President. Arlynn Kurtz from RM of Fertile Belt (No.183) and Todd Lewis from RM of Lajord (No.128) will serve as the 2015 APAS Vice-Presidents. Congratulations to the re-elected members of the Executive, and thank you for continuing to provide APAS with your valuable leadership in 2015.

Recent Policy Submissions – CTA Review

On December 2, APAS formally presented nine recommendations in a preliminary report to the *Canada Transportation Act* Review Panel. Entitled, "Producer Recommendations on the Future of Canada's Transportation Act", the report was developed in partnership with the Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission, Saskatchewan Barley Development Commission, and the Saskatchewan Pulse Growers. This producer partnership emerged from an October 16 meeting that APAS organized, where each of the four producer groups recognized the importance of speaking with one voice on a topic that is so critically important for the future growth of Saskatchewan agriculture. The Report identifies grain producers' unique interest in the grain handling and transportation system, putting forward recommendations that support a fair costing structure, foster competition, and enhance transparency, efficiency and long-term operational effectiveness. APAS and the Saskatchewan Producer Coalition continue to raise awareness about our submission in addition to seeking broader support from other agricultural stakeholders.

The Report can be found online at: [CTA Joint Producer Group Submission](#)

[Interview with Murad Al Katib](#)

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Upcoming Priorities

As we head into 2015, the need for a Saskatchewan general farm organization is clearer than ever. In the weeks ahead, expect to hear more about efforts to engage directly in the CTA Review process, conduct further consultation with other stakeholders and continue to raise the profile of our recommendations. Although APAS has worked with other producer groups to make this initial submission, APAS and all producers have much work ahead over the next year, if legitimate agricultural producer needs and interests are to be reflected within the revised *Canada Transportation Act*. Please make your views known.

It was also made clear at the 2014 AGM that Representatives were interested in the development of new provincial Surface Rights legislation. Many farmers and ranchers feel disadvantaged when dealing with resource development on their land. Site location, design and cumulative effects of well operations were issues identified at our AGM as pressing concerns in many local areas. Last fall, APAS was pleased to hear that the Provincial Government was committed to updating the surface rights legislation and addressing many of these longstanding issues. However, given the Saskatchewan Government's decision this past week to not introduce legislation in the fall legislative session, APAS will have to go back to the drawing board to identify, and lobby for, interim measures that can be implemented until new legislation can be introduced, which could be well over a year down the road. A first, immediate, step is to strengthen our partnership with other producer and surface rights groups so a common message can be advanced. We intend to provide an update on Surface Rights in the February APAS in Action.



On the business risk management file, APAS is currently working through the Canadian Federation of Agriculture on a number of upcoming initiatives to review Canada's agricultural policy framework (Growing Forward II) with a view to identifying current shortfalls and also to begin setting the stage for what Canada's agricultural policy framework needs to look like in the future - when the current agreement expires.

APAS also continues to identify long-term management strategies and short-term measures to better equip agricultural producers to deal with excess moisture and flooding and is also increasingly concerned over the affordability of the PFRA pasture system as it transitions to association pastures. And finally, the 2014 resolutions have directed APAS to explore a number of new policy directions. Please stay tuned for updates on these files in the weeks and months ahead.

On behalf of the APAS team - Brenda McBride, Donovan Howden, Don Ross, Mitch Demyen, Bruce Dodds, the APAS Board of Directors and myself, we wish you and those close to you, a safe and joyful holiday season and we look forward to serving you in the new year.

Alan Syhlonyk – General Manager

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Rewards for being a member of APAS

Chrysler

Greetings from Chrysler Canada Inc. The Chrysler Fleet Program showed excellent results for 2014 for the sales during the period of June 1st 2013 to August 29th, 2014. During that period there were 115 sales recorded to qualifying APAS members. We are pleased to continue the program for the 2015 model year for qualifying APAS members and discounts are in the system. 2015 program will run from Sept 1st 2014 to August 31st 2015.



Thank you for your business and support.

A Great Opportunity for APAS Representatives

APAS has a total of 30 spots for Combine to Customer in Winnipeg. Costs are minimal. A great opportunity to expand your professional network. Learn from first-hand experts about the future of the grain industry.

CIGI Combine to Customer Program dates

- January 19–21, 2015 (Opening dinner Jan. 18, 6:00 pm, closing lunch 12:30 pm, Jan. 21)
 - 1 spot available
- February 9–11, 2015 (Opening dinner Feb. 8, 6:00 pm, closing lunch 12:30 pm, Feb. 11)
 - 2 spots available
- March 23–25, 2015 (Opening dinner Mar. 22, 6:00 pm, closing lunch 12:30 pm Mar. 25)
 - 2 spots available

The program will include a number of senior level speakers who will provide insight into where the grain industry is heading and what needs to be done to stay competitive and meet the ever-changing requirements of domestic and international grain buyers. Learn more about the program by viewing the video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QP5ABKYDDXQ>.

The draft agenda for these programs can be found at the following [*link*](#).

CIGI will pay all costs for each participant attending a Combine to Customer program (flights, hotels, meals, airport transfers). CIGI will also coordinate all travel and other arrangements.

CIGI asked all participants to register by the end of December.

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Please advise APAS office if you plan on attending. Acceptance to the program will on first come, first served basis.

Information required, by APAS, from each nominee includes:

- **Name**
- **Mailing address**
- **Title: if part of the organization/group**
- **Email address: critical to ensure CIGI can send you a registration link.**

CIGI will send them a registration link and make all other arrangements. Participants should be active farmers. Any farmers taking on the leadership roles in their respective organizations and other commodity groups will benefit immensely from this program.

For more information please contact APAS' office by phone (306-789-7774 ext 3) or email (info@apas.ca).

Don't delay. Please register today!

Upcoming dates

January 12 - 15, 2015	Crop Production Show
January 19 - 21, 2015	CIGI Combine to Customer Program
January 20 - 21, 2015	AFA - AGM
January 28 - 29, 2015	Keystone Ag Producers AGM
February 9 - 11, 2015	CIGI Combine to Customer Program
February 24 - 25, 2015	Canadian Federation of Agriculture Annual General Meeting
March 23 - 25, 2015	CIGI Combine to Customer Program



[Video link from Norm Hall](#)

Wishing you all a very Merry Holiday Season!

