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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.

APAS in Action



APAS President Norm Hall
 Working on behalf of all Farmers and Ranchers in Saskatchewan

Welcome to the new format of APAS in Action. This has been another busy winter and spring. The grain transportation issue has taken up a huge portion of our time, but we continued the work on a number of other fronts, provincially, regionally and federally. I know you will find this issue informative and interesting. Till next month, Norm Hall, APAS President

Anti Spamming Legislation

If you wish to be removed from this newsletter service please unsubscribe at the bottom of the message.

Policy Highlights *Meeting with SCIC*

On June 16, the APAS Executive met with officials from Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC) to discuss benefits and details related to the unseeded acreage program. Particular attention was paid to issues around crop establishment. Overall, the meeting was an excellent opportunity to touch base and open dialogue with these officials, which will be especially important as the impacts of excessive moisture around the province become increasingly evident. For an outline of the SCIC's Unseeded Acreage Feature, please visit the SCIC [webpage](#)



APAS Board

Grain Movement & Transportation Policy

On June 12, APAS was approached by the Canadian Transportation Agency (CTA) to discuss their new mandate under Bill C-30, *The Fair Rail for Grain Farmers Act*, which requires the Agency to set volume



Chrysler Fleet Program
 APAS Fleet program with Chrysler, Dodge, RAM, Jeep, and Fiat, continues to receive positive reviews. If you know of any ratepayers in your RM that would like to save dollars off of a new vehicle,

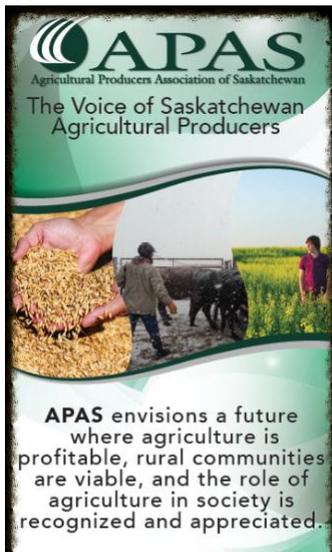
please share the following [link](#).



APAS midterm meeting June 24 - Saskatoon Inn
The midterm meeting is just around the corner. We have an informative day planned for you featuring district meetings, resolutions and speakers addressing hot topics such as "UPOV '91" and grain movement. [Midterm Meeting Details](#)



CFA AGM February 2014
Prairie Farm Leaders
in Ottawa



requirements to rail companies on a corridor specific basis. In order to ensure broad, inclusive input, APAS sought participation from Saskatchewan crop commodity groups as well as shortline rail companies. Among a wide range of concerns identified, a major topic of our discussion focussed on improved service for producer car shippers, southern corridors and Saskatchewan shortlines. Over the last several months, APAS has been participating in various industry conference calls and joint meetings to advance policy proposals and recommendations in the development of emergency legislation addressing the grain backlog, including Bill C-30.

Our summer mid-term on July 24 dedicates an afternoon session on transportation issues and legislative developments.

For more information please contact policy@apas.ca or 306-789-7774 ext 4

UPDATE - Grain Transportation Policy: CTA Review

On June 25, Transport Canada launched its review of the Canadian Transportation Act. The review is expected to take 18 months, and represents a significant opportunity to identify long-term solutions for improved transportation services. On June 26, APAS sent a letter to Minister of Transport Canada, Lisa Raitt, welcoming this review, but asked the Minister for amendments to include producer representation on the Advisory Panel. Throughout the review process, APAS will be very active collaborating with our Representatives as well as other agricultural stakeholders to ensure the voice of Saskatchewan grain producers is effectively heard. For more information on the CTA Review, please visit the CTA Review [website](#)



Board IPAD training

Upcoming dates

July 23 - Committee Meetings and Tours (Saskatoon)

July 24 - Midterm Meeting Saskatoon Inn

Oct/Nov – Fall District Meetings

December 2 – 4 APAS 2014 AGM (Moose Jaw)

Bill C-18 – The Agricultural Growth Act

On June 17, Bill C-18 *The Agricultural Growth Act*, received second reading and was referred to the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food. The Bill contains changes to nine pieces of legislation, including amendments to the Advanced Payment Program as well as Canada's *Plant Breeders' Rights Act*. The changes to the Plant Breeders Rights Act seek to make Canada's legislation compliant with the most recent international convention on plant breeder rights, "UPOV '91", a move that has attracted significant attention both within Parliament and across the media. While AAFC officials' initial deadline was to have this Bill passed by August, 2014, it is clear that deadline will not be met. With Parliament adjourning for summer break, Bill C-18 is expected to be tabled to the Standing Committee in late September.

Our summer mid-term on July 24 will feature a presentation by Anthony Parker, Commissioner of the Plant Breeders Right Office of the CFIA, who will give an overview of the proposed changes and will be available to answer any questions Representatives may have on Canada's current plant breeders rights system as well as the proposed changes.

For more information please contact policy@apas.ca or 306-789-7774 ext 4

Sponsorship

APAS continues to search for sponsors. Corporate sponsors will be those companies who require broad exposure to rural producers. They can be farm dealers, grain companies, farm implement manufacturers, consulting firms, banks or credit unions, farm input manufacturers or retailers for example. Corporate sponsors may want only name recognition or can have direct contact with producers. Alternatively, sponsors can be involved in a special event such as the APAS Mid-Term Meeting or Annual General Meeting to create awareness of their name or expertise for those attending the event. If you know of potential corporate or event sponsors, please contact APAS.

Young Farmer Leadership

Are you interested developing your leadership skills? Would working with current farm leaders who have local to international experience help you develop your leadership skills? Are you an agriculture producer between the ages of 18 to 39? Is your RM a member of APAS? If the answer is yes to all four questions, APAS has an opportunity you do not want to pass up. APAS and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture are hosting a “Youth Leadership and Mentorship Program” during the 2014-2015 winter season. Call APAS for more information or share this opportunity with potential farm leaders. Potential participants must fill out an application form. There are no costs for the participants.



APAS is the proud partner of the Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) program. APAS played an important role in bringing ALUS to Saskatchewan and has been involved since the launch in December of 2011.

On Wednesday, July 23rd, 2014 ALUS is hosting its first Farm Tour! This is a great opportunity for producers, partners and organizations to learn about the conservation efforts of ALUS and its important future here in Saskatchewan. More information is available [here](#) on our ALUS website

For details, please contact Paige Englot at (306) 539-1043 or penglot@sasktel.net

Now re-launching in Manitoba, ALUS is proud to be getting back to its roots. More information can be found [here](#).