



*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 November 2014**

For most of us this harvest was a long challenging time. I just hope that the effort made by APAS over this past year will make the winter marketing and shipping season much more successful for all.

With the call for the CTA review, APAS called a meeting of Saskatchewan commodity organizations and other interested parties to add a Saskatchewan voice to the review. These same groups met with the Canadian Transportation Agency to express their concern about the possible removal of the minimum rail volumes of grain slated for November 29, 2014.

Over a two week period APAS held 6 district meetings, a two day board meeting and a meeting with the Co-operators. During the board meeting we met with the President of SCIC to discuss crop insurance as well as Agri-Stability and Agri-Recovery, passing on concerns that we have heard over the course of the district meetings. At the district meetings we heard concerns on flooding and surface rights. The week following these meetings I attended the Assiniboine River Basin Initiative Conference which APAS has been a supporter of over the past year, to discuss water issues. I also we met with Minister Boyd to talk about the concerns you put forward on the changes to the Surface Rights Act.

Remember our AGM will be held in Moose Jaw, December 2 – 4. All visitors are welcome. Be sure to register with Brenda at our office. See you there.

Norm Hall, President

### **Actions from the APAS Office**

#### **Fall District Meetings Report**

From October 27 to November 6, APAS Representatives, Directors and municipal leaders gathered for the 2014 APAS fall district meetings. Six meetings were held across the province, as delegates engaged on a number of topics that were of top of mind in their local areas. In addition to roundtable discussion, staff also presented updates on key policy files

that are ongoing in Saskatchewan agriculture. Below are just some of the highlights that took place in the business portion of the meetings.

### ***Flooding/Excess moisture:***

Current gaps in the business risk envelope for producers faced with flooding including insurance coverage for unseeded acres and yield loss as a result of excess moisture as well as policy options to address flooded acres in terminal lake basins and the need for a comprehensive water management and drainage policy were topics discussed at length. The APAS Representatives clearly expressed a desire for greater long-term planning to effectively manage peak water flows. Discussion also focused on the value of ecological goods and services programming to compensate producers for the public goods related to water retention on private agricultural land and the need to stop framing flooding as an agricultural problem. The outcomes of these sessions will form the basis of a more concrete approach to be reported on at the upcoming AGM.



***Cat Tails in the eve troughs summer 2014***

*As an update to this file, the Saskatchewan Water Security Agency, together with Inshtrix Research, just released their findings from an online forum on water drainage which closed in March, 2014. It appears that approximately 500 people total, including producers and other interested parties, took part in the online consultation. You can find a copy of their Report here:*

<https://www.wsask.ca/About-WSA/News-Releases/2014/November/Results-of-Online-Consultations-to-Help-Shape-New-Drainage-Regulations/>

*APAS looks forward to participating in further consultations as the Water Security Agency continues to develop a more comprehensive water drainage strategy for Saskatchewan.*

### ***Oil/Gas Development and Surface Rights:***

APAS Representatives talked about surface leases and resource development on their farmland in light of the Provincial Government's current review of the *Surface Rights and Acquisitions Act*. Early indications are that there will be some improvement in the compensation structure offered to landowners. APAS remains concerned that recommendations regarding biosecurity to stop the spread of soil borne disease and noxious weeds; concerns over environmental liability; and a "Farmer's Advocate" do not appear evident in the Province's recent discussion paper. While oil and gas development

was the primary focus, the delegates identified a number of concerns that extended well beyond the oil and gas sector including pipelines, Crown utilities & easements and other industrial development that has the potential to negatively impact the health and livelihood of rural people as issues that APAS should be focussed on as this review proceeds.

***PFRA Transitions:***

Several pasture patrons were on hand to hear a report on the transfer of PFRA pastures. Discussion with the APAS Reps and Pasture Patrons reinforced the need for fair and balanced negotiations and a stable transition process that upholds the important role that Community Pastures play in Saskatchewan agriculture. APAS believes that there is potential for pasture patrons to negotiate a better deal that recognizes the public expectations being placed on the new pasture associations.



***Federal Review of the Canadian Transportation Act:***

APAS staff provided a report on the CTA review process, outlining the steps that have been taken to develop a submission to the review’s advisory panel. APAS is partnering with the Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission, Saskatchewan Barley Commission and the Saskatchewan Pulse Growers to develop a Saskatchewan producer submission. APAS Representatives will have the opportunity to consider our submission in more detail at the APAS AGM.

***Bill C-18 Agricultural Growth Act:***

APAS staff provided an update on the status of Bill C-18 which has very recently passed the Committee stage and will return to the Parliament for a third and final reading. The update focussed on the changes to Planter Breeders Rights Act, as Representatives considered the costs and benefits associated with the proposed changes, reaffirming farm saved seed and a competitive seed sector as important principals to take forward. We will continue to provide regular updates on the status of Bill C-18 as it winds its way through the legislative process.

### ***Roundtable discussion:***

The quality of this year's cereal crop was a matter of significant attention. APAS Representatives discussed disease susceptibility and the need to ensure fusarium remains a number one priority in future crop development. Canada's grain grading system was also the subject of serious consideration and debate, with Representatives reporting inconsistent grading determinations at their local elevators. These discussions highlighted the importance of using the Canadian Grain Commission's grain grading services to know what you have in the bin.

### ***Afternoon sessions:***

The fall District meetings also featured public afternoon sessions with presentations from grain marketing advisors from Agri-Trend, the program coordinator of the new Western Livestock Price Insurance Program, and presenters from Saskatchewan Crop Insurance and the Saskatchewan Water Security Agency. We thank the presenters and their respective organizations for the contributions in helping make the 2014 APAS Fall District meetings informative and an overall a success.

## **Register now for the 2014 APAS AGM!**

Reminder for everyone to get their registrations in for the 2014 AGM, taking place in Moose Jaw, SK, from December 2nd to 4th, 2014. The 2014 AGM will be exploring a slate of hot topics and notable speakers, including:

- ✓ Panel Presentation on Water Governance, Planning and Flood Mitigation Strategies for Saskatchewan agriculture
- ✓ Prairie Farm Leaders Panel - moderated discussion (APAS, KAP, AFA, BCAC)
- ✓ Ron Bonnett, President of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture
- ✓ Grain Transportation Policy – Murad Al-Katib, Special Advisor to the Canadian Transportation Act Review Panel
- ✓ And much more....

Visit our website for the tentative agenda and registration forms. If you are a member of public who is planning to attend, please complete a "Guest Registration Form" and submit it to the APAS General Office. <http://myrm.ca/apas/meetings/>



## New Rewards for being a member of APAS

**CO-OPERATORS** – In October APAS, as a member-owner of the Co-operators negotiated Member Rewards Program that gives members and employees access to special coverage and discounts not otherwise available including enhanced farm insurance coverage, discounted travel insurance and loss experience discounts to name a few. Please contact your local Co-operators Advisor for details.



APAS is pleased to announce that Acklands-Grainger will provide varying discounts on their 300,000 items to ratepayers of APAS RM members. All that is required is to identify oneself when contacting Acklands-Grainger as an APAS member and identify the account number - 314192. This account is for cash purchases (debit, credit card accepted) only in Saskatchewan.

<https://www.acklandsgrainger.com/>

Acklands-Grainger (Cash Account Number: 314192)

### **A Great Opportunity for Producers in APAS Member RM's**

APAS has a total of 30 spots for Combine to Customer sessions 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)
- February 9–11, 2015 (Opening dinner Feb. 8, 6:00 pm, closing lunch 12:30 pm, Feb. 11)
- March 23–25, 2015 (Opening dinner Mar. 22, 6:00 pm, closing lunch 12:30 pm Mar. 25)

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.**

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) or email ([info@apas.ca](mailto:info@apas.ca)).

**Don't delay. Please register today!**

### **Upcoming dates**

November 24 -25 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	Grains Roundtable Meeting (Ottawa)
November 26, 2014	Associate Members meeting – (Regina)
December 2 – 4, 2014	APAS AGM 2014 (Moose Jaw)
December 4 – 5, 2014	Prairie Farm Leaders Meeting
January 19 - 21, 2015	Cigi Combine to Customer Program
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

**On behalf of APAS, please be safe out there and we hope to see you in Moose Jaw in December 2!**