



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 October 2014

I am taking this rain break from harvest to write you a note about what has been happening at APAS. The Executive Committee continues to meet every Monday morning by conference call to deal with the weekly occurring issues and the scheduling of meetings that are coming up though out the upcoming months.

Prior to the AGM the executive are planning meetings with Ministers Moe, Stewart and Boyd. I will be attending the CFA Board meeting in Ottawa. APAS will be bringing commodity organizations together to talk about the Canadian Transportation Act Review in October. We look forward to meeting with our Associate Members during Agribition in November and hosting a meeting of the Western Farm Leaders in December.

October and November are District meeting months, so watch for the district meeting in your area. Once again this year our district meetings will have a public session. There will be some very interesting speakers. Check for dates and meeting topics later in this issue of "APAS in Action".

FNA, Farmers of North America, have come up with an interesting idea to facilitate the purchase of the CWB by farmers. There has been quite a bit of media surrounding this concept, if you are interested check out their website at [www.fna.ca](http://www.fna.ca)

In speaking with many of our reps and directors we are hearing that this year's harvest is a real mixed bag. Everything from great crops, but not as good as last year's, to being unable to harvest any crop because crop and field conditions are too wet to harvest.



I hope everything is going well for your operation this fall, and hope to see you at one of our district meetings. - Norm Hall, President.

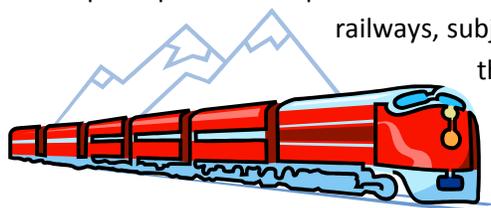
### Actions from the APAS Office

This past month has been busy in the APAS office as well. Once September 1 hit, it appears that governments have come alive and are pushing ahead on a number of fronts and I want to touch on a few of them.

This week AAFC is meeting with a number of farm groups, including APAS to describe where they are going in regards to **varietal registration**. As you are likely aware, APAS supported the need for a

cautious approach to changing the varietal registration process whereby elected producers would need to approve any reduced testing requirements for new crop varieties, especially around merit. As you likely are aware, merit is the registration requirement that new varieties need to meet or exceed existing varieties in disease, end-use and agronomy. We contended that since producers are the group most affected by reductions in merit and associated changes, they should oversee and approve any proposed reductions. We need to balance the need to continually innovate and allow new varieties to match producer needs and consumer demands, while at the same time, Canada's reputation for high quality cereals cannot be placed at risk.

Moving last year's crop to market continues to be top of mind. Since the government has introduced and passed several rounds of emergency legislation, which concluded with the passage of the Bill C-30 regulations on August 1st, we have seen improvement in a number of areas and, what appears to be, a record amount of grain moved from the Prairies to the Port. At the same time, however, APAS is hearing from producers that either cannot get cars onto short lines or long line-ups of trucks at elevators waiting to unload b-trains. There are major concerns over back-ups occurring as grain deliveries have ramped up for the September and October period. Astoundingly, we also hear in the media that the



railways, subject to fines under B-30, are suggesting that elevators do not have the grain to ship. On October 16<sup>th</sup>, APAS will be meeting with

Canadian Transportation Agency staff at their request so that they, in turn, can update their advice to the Minister of Transport. If you can let us know how the system is working for

you, the producer, this would be of benefit to APAS as we carry this discussion forward.

On September 22, the APAS Executive, along with a number of agricultural groups, met with Murad Al-Katib from the independent commission undertaking the review of the **Canada Transportation Act**. This review is of particular importance to agriculture due to the high reliance on rail, and competition with other commodities such as potash and oil in an ever expanding export market. Given that Mr. Al-Katib is expecting to make a report by the end of December, APAS will be working with other Saskatchewan commodity groups and the Canadian Federation of Agriculture to make sure the interests of agricultural producers are known.

## Fall District Meeting across Saskatchewan

Six regional meetings are planned across the province as follows:

District 6 – Monday, October 27, – Kindersley and District Plains Museum

- Kindersley (Grain Marketing, Grain Movement and Livestock Price Insurance)

District 3 – Tuesday, October 28, – Houston Pizza

- Swift Current (Grain Marketing, Grain Movement and Livestock Price Insurance)

District 2 – Monday, November 3, – Community Centre

- Mossbank (Grain Marketing, Grain Movement and Livestock Price Insurance)

District 1 – Tuesday, November 4, – Community Legion Hall

- Whitewood (Flooding and Grain Movement)

District 5 – Wednesday, November 5, – Uniplex Convention Centre

- Humboldt (Grain Marketing, Grain Movement and Livestock Price Insurance)

District 4 – Thursday, November 6, – Wadena Legion Hall

- Wadena (Flooding and Grain Movement)

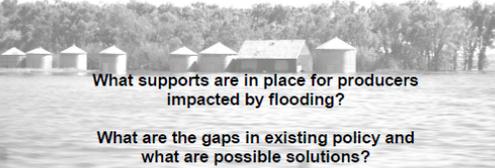
Detailed agenda available at: [myrm.ca/apas/meetings/](http://myrm.ca/apas/meetings/)

The meetings are set up in two parts. The morning sessions are open to APAS representatives and rural municipal leaders from both APAS and non APAS rural municipalities. These meetings will provide an opportunity for participants to get an update on files such as plant breeders rights (UPOV 91), pending surface rights legislation, PFRA pastures and flooding. The meetings are also designed to generate lots of discussion from participants so that APAS can understand the local issues and seek policy solutions that can be championed with decision makers.

Public Meeting: All Producers Welcome

## Flooding & Grain Transportation

The Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan is pleased to sponsor a public meeting to both provide information but also seek your input on these and other agricultural issues of importance to rural Saskatchewan.



What supports are in place for producers impacted by flooding?

What are the gaps in existing policy and what are possible solutions?

Canadian Transportation Act is under review  
Why is it important to you?

**Presentations by  
Sask Crop Insurance & Sask Water Security Agency**

9:30 – 1:15 APAS Business meeting  
(APAS Reps, Council Members and Reeves invited)

1:20 p.m. doors open (coffee)(ALL Producers Welcome)  
1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. presentation, discussion, Q&A

**November 4, 2014: Whitewood**  
(Legion Hall)  
738 Lalonde St Whitewood

**November 6, 2014: Wadena**  
(Community Legion Hall)  
254 Main Street North Wadena

See the detailed agenda at [myrm.ca/apas/meetings/](http://myrm.ca/apas/meetings/)  
Sponsored by:



Ph: (306) 789-7774      Website: [www.myrm.ca/apas](http://www.myrm.ca/apas)

Public Meeting: All Producers Welcome

## Grain Marketing, Grain Movement & Livestock Price Insurance

The Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan is pleased to sponsor a public meeting to both provide information but also seek your input on these and other agricultural issues of importance to rural Saskatchewan.



**Senior advisors from Agri-Trend Marketing:**

- Do you understand what commodity prices are doing?
- What do you need to consider to market this year's crop?

**Canadian Transportation Act is under review**

- Why is it important to you?
- What is APAS doing to advance your interests?

**Managing price risk in cattle markets**

9:30 – 1:15 APAS Business meeting  
(APAS Reps, Council Members and Reeves invited)

1:20 p.m. doors open (coffee) (All Producers Welcome)  
1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. presentations, discussion, Q&A

**October 27, 2014: Kindersley**  
(Kindersley and District Plains Museum)  
1 KM East of Kindersley on Highway 7  
south side of the highway

**October 28, 2014: Swift Current**  
(Houston Pizza)  
323 N. Service Road West Swift Current  
meeting room

**November 3, 2014: Mossbank**  
(Community Hall)  
109 – 5th Avenue East Mossbank

**November 5, 2014: Humboldt**  
(Uniplex Convention Centre)  
619 17<sup>th</sup> Street Humboldt  
Large meeting room

See the detailed agenda at [myrm.ca/apas/meetings/](http://myrm.ca/apas/meetings/)

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## Afternoon Public Sessions: Flooding and Marketing (APAS Fall District Meetings)

The afternoon meetings are open to the public and will vary from region to region. All of these meetings will have a presentation from APAS on our efforts around the grain backlog and our preparations for the upcoming Canadian Transportation Act review consultations.

Two of the meetings (Wadena and Whitewood) will then focus on flooding - receiving information from the provincial government on what is being done and the forecast going forward. These meetings are also an important opportunity for communities to identify programming gaps that will help APAS develop a set of flooding related policies and actions that can be taken forward to decision makers.

The other four meetings (Mossbank, Swift Current, Humboldt and Kindersley) will focus on agricultural price trends and price/market risk management in both the grain and livestock sectors. For the grain marketing portion, APAS is sponsoring consultation sessions facilitated by **Agri-Trend Marketing advisors**. These sessions will provide an overview of world commodity markets and “drill down” to local circumstances to give you a better idea what to expect going forward. Agri-Trend will also provide an

outline of the options available to producers to manage price and market risk given the current dynamics. On the Livestock side, presenters from the Western Livestock Price Insurance will provide an outline of the new program and what producers can expect as we head into the fall cattle run. Please mark the date and bring your neighbours.

On a final note, when you still have crop in the field, bales to move and machinery to put away, it is easy to rush into tasks. Please take the time to work safe!

District Meeting agendas can be found at [myrm.ca/apas/meetings/](http://myrm.ca/apas/meetings/)

## **Accepting Applications for the “Youth Leadership and Mentorship Program”**

Deadline is for applications is **October 31**

APAS has an opportunity you do not want to pass up. Do you know young farmers between 18 and 39 that would like to improve their leadership skills and learn about Agricultural policy? 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](#). Costs to participate are covered by the program (ie. registration, flights, materials and hotels).

Some highlights:

1. Participation in the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan AGM in MooseJaw
2. Opportunity to attend the Canadian Federation of Agricultural AGM in Ottawa
3. Work with experienced Saskatchewan farm leaders
4. Connect with other young farmers and learn from each other
5. Provide input and thoughts on agricultural policy – be the change

APAS has several seats for the 2015 Canadian International Grains Institute Combine to Customer program held in the January to April time frame. Anyone participating in the Leadership program will have first opportunity to participate in the Combine to Customer program which can include your spouse/partner. The CIGI program has been well received by producers.

## **Welcoming New Member Sherwood**

APAS welcomes the RM of Sherwood #159 which joined our organization as a transitional member in September. With a population of 929, Sherwood surrounds the city of Regina and features a wide range of commercial and industrial activity in addition to farming. The RM’s primary agricultural focus is grain and oilseed production. Sherwood brings to 16 the number of new transitional members that have joined APAS in 2014.

## **Upcoming dates**

**October 16** CTA Review

**October 31** - Deadline for [Application for APAS Youth Leadership and Mentorship Program](#)

**Oct/Nov** – Fall District Meetings (See the times above)

**November 26** Associate members meeting – (Regina)

**December 2 – 4** APAS AGM 2014 (Moose Jaw)

**On behalf of APAS, please have a safe and productive harvest!**