



**Agriculture is Everyone's Business**

**APAS in Action – APRIL, 2015**

Spring is finally here! It might not be really warm out yet, however the snow is mostly gone, a lot of producers are starting to wrap up spring calving, machinery is being pulled out, serviced and made field ready and seed is being cleaned. For the past number of months APAS has been busy developing policy and lobbying for positive change on your behalf. For this issue of APAS in Action, we want to highlight a number of significant policy issues impacting on farmers and ranchers across Saskatchewan including Water Management, “Maximum Revenue Entitlement” and current reviews being undertaken by the Canadian Grain Commission.



President Norm Hall

**Water Management in Saskatchewan**

Over the past couple of years, there has been much discussion across rural Saskatchewan on water management. More recently, Saskatchewan's Water Security Agency engaged in consultations on water management with a view to clarifying the rules around drainage. Their objective is finding a balance between achieving the benefits landowners obtain from drainage and the effective protection and mitigation against flooding. As part of these consultations, APAS has been asked by both government and by our members about our position on water management. [Read more about the APAS Policy approach to Water Management.](#)

**Maximum Revenue Entitlement - Facts and Fiction**

With the transportation crisis over the last two years we have heard lots of noise about the Maximum Revenue Entitlement (MRE). We have also seen an intense lobby by both Canadian Pacific and Canadian National Railways on why they want it eliminated. APAS believes it is timely to provide you, our members, with the facts surrounding the MRE.

The MRE came into force on August 1, 2000. It's only function is to deal with the rail rate on grain and nothing to do with level of service. The MRE is not a cap on total revenue, rather, it simply is a formula that sets a maximum yearly average dollar rate for grain per tonne per mile.

APAS has developed a “MRE: Facts and Fictions” document. The goal of our campaign is to enhance producer understanding of the MRE – why it exists and what it does or does not do and make clear the arguments on why it needs to remain in place.

[Read the MRE: Fact and Fiction document.](#)

## **Wheat Class Review**

APAS has been engaged in consultations with the Canadian Grain Commission (CGC) regarding the modernization of Canada's wheat classification system. The CGC is conducting a review of current varieties within the Canadian Western Red Spring Wheat (CWRS) class to address recent customer complaints about the gluten-strength of CWRS. At the same time, the CGC is also proposing the creation of a new class of milling wheat to accommodate current CWRS varieties that no longer fit the new CWRS quality parameters. U.S spring wheat varieties would also be eligible for designation under the proposed new class for milling wheat. You can find out more about the consultation on the [CGC Website](#).

APAS cautiously supports the gradual re-designation of low gluten varieties to address customer complaints, however we made clear to the Commission that many producers are preparing to seed these varieties this spring and market them as CWRS in the next crop year. Therefore, we have asked the CGC to allow these varieties to be eligible for CWRS for two crop years and for the CGC to provide additional sampling services to ensure that shipments are meeting customer needs until these varieties are cleared from the system.

APAS also made clear that for producers to fully endorse the creation of the new milling class to accommodate U.S varieties, we would require additional information and assurances that were not provided in the current CGC proposal. Without the ability to segregate new classes of wheat, the risk to Canada's reputation and Saskatchewan's competitive advantage, as supplier of high quality - consistent product, is significant and needs to be fully considered. APAS is also asking the CGC to conduct a simultaneous review of Canada's grading system and work with producers to identify and implement improvements.

[Read APAS's submission to the CGC's wheat class proposal.](#)

## **Proposed Licensing of Feed Mills**

The Canadian Grain Commission is also proposing introducing payment protection for producers selling grains to feed processors. As this would require changes to the current regulations and the licensing of feed mill operations, the CGC was seeking input from affected stakeholders, including APAS.

APAS supports the licensing of feed mills in order to provide grain producers with protection from payment default. In doing so, APAS urges the CGC to keep licensing requirements to a minimum so as not to impose significant administrative burden on these businesses. APAS is also recommending a new approach to payment security, whereby contributions are collected in a single, producer administered fund to allow a greater number of grain buyers to offer producer payment security

[Read the APAS Submission to the CGC Proposal to License Feed Mills](#)

## **Safety First**

As farmers begin a 7-month operation from seeding to harvesting, please ensure that you take a moment to ensure you approach each task safely.

Since 2000 there has been an average of 13 farm work related fatalities a year in Saskatchewan. Sixty-five of all fatal work-related death occurs between May and October. Seventy-four per cent of fatal injury events involve machines, the most prevalent being tractors (42.4%) and motor vehicles (22.0%). Farm-owner operators account for 51.5% of those fatalities, hired workers for 14.5% and children of the owner-operators account for 8%.

Preventative measures that farmers can take can be found at <http://pami.ca/resources/safety-publicationslinks/> or <http://aghealth.usask.ca/>.

Safe work habits ensure you and your family can enjoy each summer season for many years.

***Stay Safe! Be Safe! Work Safe!***

## **Save the Date!**

### **Midterm meeting – July 21, 2015 Saskatoon**

On July 21, 2015 APAS will be holding a one-day Mid-term meeting in Saskatoon at the Saskatoon Inn. The title is “Constraints and Opportunities for the Saskatchewan Agriculture Sector”. Confirmed speakers include Chuck Penner, Left Field Commodity Research, from Winnipeg on grains/oilseeds/pulses; Brian Perillat, Canfax from Calgary speaking about livestock; and a speaker from Farm Business Consultants who will address taxation issues.

Other invited speakers will cover topic areas of farm financing and land prices, Saskatchewan trade and export into the future and agriculture’s social licence. This meeting will be open to the public for a small admission fee that includes lunch. For an agenda and admission price, check APAS web site at [www.apas.ca](http://www.apas.ca) in the next couple of weeks.



## **Understanding Plant Breeders’ Rights**

APAS would like to remind producers to understand their rights and responsibilities when choosing and purchasing seed varieties this spring. With the passing of Bill C-18, *the Agricultural Growth Act*, Canada is now a signatory to the latest international convention on the protection of new plant varieties (UPOV '91). New varieties registered after February 27, 2015, are eligible to receive protection under the UPOV '91 rules.

A fairly useful FAQ sheet highlighting the most important changes can be found at:

<http://pbrfacts.ca/>

Alternatively, producers may wish to consult the CFIA's Plant Breeder Rights website directly at: [CFIA PBR Office](#). This office also has knowledgeable staff who are able to answer your questions about the new rules and plant breeders rights generally. Their contact information is provided at the "Contact Us" link.

### **APAS Press Releases**

- [APAS Views Railways Performance as Inadequate](#)
- [APAS Supports 2015 Provincial Agriculture Budget](#)

### **New Member RM's**

RM of Torch River #488: Torch River RM is located north across the Saskatchewan River from Nipawin. Communities in the RM include White Fox, Choiceland, Smeaton, Love, Garrick, Snowden, Shipman, Scot's Landing and Pruden's Point. The RM also includes 3 provincial forests. Welcome to Reeve Dave Smith, the Councillors and the Ratepayers of RM of Torch River.

RM of Perdue #346: Located approximately one-half hour west of Saskatoon on Highway #14 is the RM of Perdue #346. Communities of Perdue, Kinley, Feudal, Catherwood, Leney and Keppel are included in the RM. RM Reeve Bill Peters, Councillors and Ratepayers of Perdue are welcomed to APAS.

RM of Garden River #490: Welcome to Acting Reeve John Kowalik, Councillors and their Ratepayers to APAS. Garden River RM is north-east from Prince Albert immediately north of the North Saskatchewan River. Meath Park is home to the RM Office. The RM also includes communities of Albertville and Weirdale.

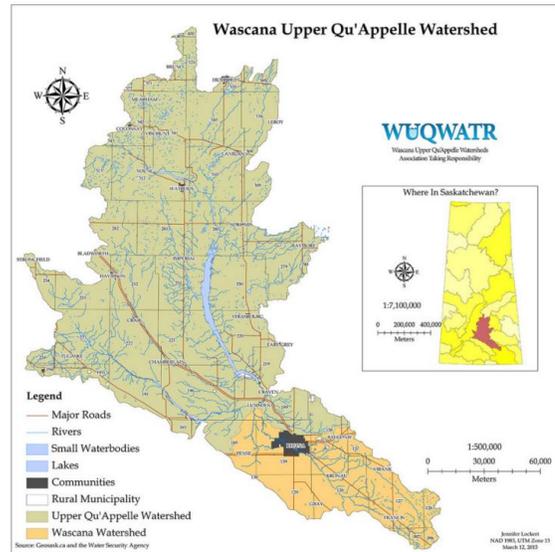
RM of Star City #428: East of Melfort is the RM of Star City. The Melfort Research Station, several large seed processing and cleaning plants and numerous small businesses are located in the RM. Other communities involved in RM of Star City include Star City, Valparaiso and Resource. APAS welcomes Reeve Kenneth Naber, Councillors and Ratepayers.

RM of Moose Mountain #63: Located on the south-eastern edge of Moose Mountain Provincial Park, the RM's administrative office is located in the community of Carlyle. Other communities in the RM include Manor, Wordsworth and Cannington Lake. On behalf of APAS, welcome to Lyle Brown, Reeve, the six Councillors and their respective Ratepayers.

RM of Dundurn #314: Located on Highway #11 about 20 minutes south of Saskatoon, Dundurn RM western boundary is defined by the South Saskatchewan River and includes Blackstrap Provincial Park, Canadian Forces Base Dundurn and Dakota Dunes Casino. Dundurn is the location of the RM Office and the RM boundaries include Thode and Shields communities. Welcome to Reeve Fred Wilson, the five RM Councillors and the Ratepayers from APAS.

### ALUS Project Expands

Delta Waterfowl Canada and Wascana and Upper Qu'Appelle Watersheds Association Taking Responsibility (WUQWATR) have announced the expansion of the Alternative Land Use Services program to agricultural producers in the two watersheds of Upper Qu'Appelle and Wascana at the WUQWATR Annual General Meeting. ALUS provides funding to landowners for ecological services projects on farms and ranches. **Read more about the ALUS expansion 1) [Assiniboine Watershed](#), and 2) [Upper Qu'Appelle and Wascana Watersheds](#)**



### Farm Stewardship Program

The Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture has made a number of important changes to the Farm Stewardship program. Producers now fill their Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) online at [efp.saskatchewan.ca](http://efp.saskatchewan.ca). New BMPs include grain bag rollers and carcass disposal planning. Funding caps were also increased on several existing BMPs to further encourage producers to make environmentally beneficial changes to their operations.

More information about the Farm Stewardship Program and the full list of BMPs can be viewed at [www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/GF2-FarmStewardship](http://www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/GF2-FarmStewardship).

### APAS in the News

- [Producers cautious to news of CWB deal](#)
- [Saskatchewan farmers split on allowing pension funds to buy land](#)
- [New network to take unified approach on water management](#)
- [Gov't ends rail targets](#)
- [Farm officials relieved cuts not worse](#)