

Agriculture is Everyone's Business

APAS In Action - August 2015

President's Message



Traditionally summer is supposed to be a time that is a little slower pace and allowing for one to spend time and smell the roses. Let me tell you, there is no moss growing under our feet at APAS.

As the federal election campaign is now officially underway, we have started to talk to the federal parties about our 'asks' for agriculture. With the fixed election date of October 19th, we will still be harvesting and too busy to talk to the federal parties about the election. The election and 'election asks' were also discussed at the CFA summer Board meeting in Charlottetown. That discussion also carried forward into the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Ag Ministers' /CFA Roundtable meeting as well. Our Farmer Forum on Transportation held on July 20th also had a hint of the election as well because the CTA Review Report is not due until Dec. 24th, 2015. The question that remains is whether the newly elected government will deal with the report right away or push it off for more study. Our Midterm Meeting the next day dealt with some of our 'election asks' in the wrap-up session and provided an opportunity for input from the Reps.

Some of our asks include improved BRM's – AgriStability, AgriInvest, and AgriRecovery, quick action on the CTA Review Report, and attention to farm labour needs in Sask and across Canada. These and others will be expanded upon later in the APAS in Action. So read on.

As haying continues and harvest begins, please be safe. Your family and your industry needs you for tomorrow.

APAS Election Asks

The Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS) is kicking off the 2015 Federal Election campaign by calling on Saskatchewan producers to start pressing candidates on their parties' platforms and key issues early, before harvest responsibilities take priority.

Listed below are preliminary "election asks" that the APAS Board of Directors and Representatives will be raising at one-on-one meetings and public events throughout the province as campaigns get underway.

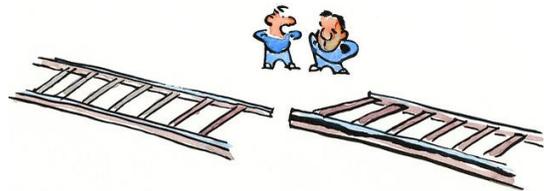
Managing Risk

- **Agri-Stability** - Restore support coverage to GF1 levels – 85% of reference margin and elimination of provisions that cap payments equivalent to eligible expenses
- **Agri-Recovery** – Amendments to address the multi-year impacts of disaster events, current program does not trigger “recurring events”
- **Agri-Invest** – Reform Agri-Invest into an investment tool to encourage growth and diversification in the ag industry.



Grain Transportation Reform

- Federal commitment to take immediate action to improve rail service following the completion of the CTA Review Panel in December 24, 2015, and to consult closely with producers and shippers in implementing the Panel’s recommendations.
- Federal government action to ensure the new interswitching rules, which provide shippers with increased options to access competitive rail service, do not expire on August 1, 2016.
- A federal review into grain contracts between producers and grain handlers with the goal of developing legislative options to ensure level of service accountability flows back to the farm-gate.
- A commitment is needed from the federal parties that the maximum revenue entitlement will remain in place as a form of rate protection in the absence of true market competition.
- A costing review to measure actual efficiency gains and to explore options to ensure such gains are more evenly shared across the supply-chain. The last full review of railway costs was completed in 1992.



Enhancing competitiveness through price parity

- Overhaul of Grower Requested Own Use (GROU) program to neutralize registrants’ influence over which foreign products are accepted into the program for import and use by Canadian growers.
- Canadian government commitment, with clear timetables, to establish a North American solution to crop protection product registration and approvals.
- A federal task force to identify and propose solutions to address price disparities for key farm inputs, including fertilizers, seed and fuel.

Addressing labour needs

- Dedicated funding to monitor regional agricultural workforce supply and demand
- A clear vision for the improvement of agricultural education and skills development across the entire education system
- Removal of caps on duration of stay for international agricultural workers
- Improved pathways to permanent residency for foreign ag workers

Federal Investment in Prairie Water Management Initiatives

- Dedicated funding for water infrastructure projects, including dams, reservoirs and maintenance of existing works.
- Dedicated funding to enhance our knowledge of water flows and storage capacity, through the use of forecasting models and mapping technologies.

Ask Your Candidate



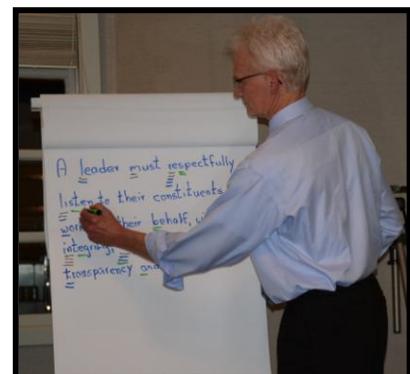
APAS has a dedicated webpage for the 2015 Federal Election Campaign:
www.apas.ca/2015-federal-election

The purpose of this webpage is to keep members up to date on the APAS activities related to the Federal Election and to provide access to our full list of Election Asks. We are encouraging members and producers to download, print, share, and, above all, raise these recommendations with your local candidates.

The 2015 Election Campaign is your chance to influence federal party platforms and help set the national agenda for farm policy. In order to have our voices heard, it is critical that Saskatchewan agricultural producers speak up and ask the candidates directly what their parties' positions are regarding **risk management, grain transportation, input price disparities, farm labour, and investment in water management.**

APAS Mid-term: July 20, 2015 – Saskatoon, SK

The theme for the meeting, “Future Opportunities and Constraints for Saskatchewan Agriculture”, featured six speakers who spoke about a number of issues, including market trends and opportunities in our cattle and grains markets, what’s happening on the international trade front, taxation strategies, and how agriculture can maintain its “social license”. Two emergent resolutions were presented from the



floor - one calling on APAS to express support for pipelines to alleviate demand for rail capacity and the other calling for a study into improved Port utilization and the potential for more double track along mainline corridors. The meeting concluded with an open discussion amongst the APAS Representatives, with specific focus on the issues agricultural producers want to see addressed in the federal parties' election platforms.

All presentations are available on the APAS webpage at: <http://www.apas.ca/midterm>

Farmers' Forum on Grain Transportation; July 20, 2015 – Saskatoon SK

The 2015 Farmer's Forum was also a great success! Over 170 people attended. Eleven speakers spoke on different aspects of railways and grain movement. The presentations from industry experts provided more insight into the CTA review process, the MRE, the US rail situation, how western Canadian basis is affected by rail movement, and options for regulatory reform. Registrants left with a better understanding of the complexity of finding remedial solutions and of the need to maintain vigilance as the review process proceeds.



The organizers of the event, APAS, Sask Wheat, and Sask Barley, will continue to provide input into the legislative process to ensure outcomes reflect the needs and interests of Saskatchewan agricultural producers.



All presentations can be found on the APAS website at: <http://www.apas.ca/Grain>

Canadian Federation of Agriculture Board Meeting and FPT Roundtable: July 13 – 16, 2015

The Canadian Federation of Agriculture gathered on July 13-16 in Charlottetown, PEI, to discuss a range of agricultural topics, including risk management, trade, climate change and federal election priorities for agriculture. The 2015 CFA Summer meeting was once again held in conjunction with the Federal-Provincial-Territorial (FPT) Agriculture Ministers Meeting and concluded with a roundtable discussion between the Ministers and CFA farm leaders. This year's roundtable focussed on how governments and producers can better co-operate to promote a positive image of agricultural production as a means of maintaining our "social license" with consumers. The CFA's annual FPT roundtable represents a valuable opportunity for Canada's farm leaders and their organizations to engage directly with Federal and Provincial Agriculture Ministers and their senior staff.

Farm land ownership legislation

Individuals were encouraged to share their views on the future of farmland ownership legislation in Saskatchewan by participating in a Government of Saskatchewan online survey. The survey concluded on August 10.

After conducting an internal survey of its membership on farmland ownership views, APAS provided comments to this consultation at a meeting with Minister Stewart on June 11, 2014. To learn more about what APAS said about farmland ownership in Saskatchewan please visit: www.apas.ca/apas-submits-comments-to-farmland-ownership-consultation

Announcements and Reminders

Farm Business Consultants (FBC)

June 1, 2015 FBC became an “Agricultural Leader” sponsor of APAS.

FBC has been in business for 62 years. Their head office is in London, Ontario and they have Saskatchewan offices in Regina, Saskatoon and North Battleford. They provide tax planning, tax preparation, audit protection and consultation, as well as financial and estate planning to Agriculture and small business owners on a year-round basis. FBC offers specific expertise in agriculture tax. They represent 19,000 Memberships nationally and 3800 in Saskatchewan.

FBC is offering APAS Members an Advanced Tax Planning Service at no extra charge when starting an FBC Membership (value - \$399.00). For further information see www.fbc.ca.

APAS welcomes FBC as a sponsor.

Youth Leadership & Mentorship Program

The 2014-15 program is drawing to a conclusion. The candidates were involved in several activities and events since November 2014 such as

- APAS District, Committee and Board meetings
- APAS Mid-term and Annual General Meetings
- Spend a week in Ottawa to attend:
 - Canadian Federation of Agriculture Annual General Meeting
 - CFA Committee meetings
 - Formal and informal APAS and MP discussions
 - Federal Ministerial discussions/presentations
 - Tour of Parliament Hill



- Witness the Federal Standing Committee on Agriculture proceedings
- Online support, learn how to chair a meeting, improve public speaking skills and master Robert's Rules of Order

APAS appreciated the involvement of the 2014-15 youth leadership mentees and their APAS mentors: Jeremy Welter, Ian Boxall, Brandon Perkins and Scott Sefton and the mentors, Don Connick, David Spencer, Wayne Bacon and Todd Lewis.

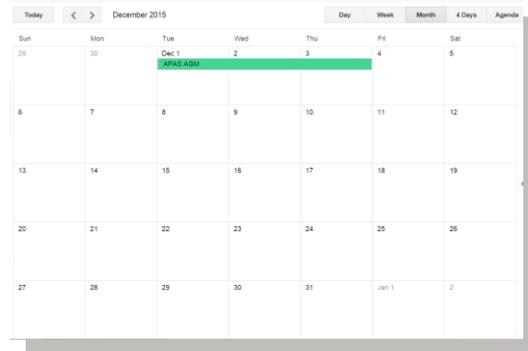
The 2015-16 Youth Leadership & Mentorship Program (YLMP) for APAS is now taking applications. If you see yourself as a future farm leader, enrol now. The program provides a great opportunity to see national policy development, expand your contacts and increase your skill level. APAS YLMP application can be found at <http://www.apas.ca/youth-leadership-program>.

APAS AGM 2015

December 1, 2, 3 Regina

Please mark your calendars for this event.

More info soon.



Farm Management Council

The Canadian Farm Business Management Council (FMC) is holding its annual Agricultural Excellence Conference, "Cultivating the Entrepreneurial Farmer" in Regina November 25-27 at the Ramada Plaza.

The Agenda focuses on having diverse learning experiences for participants. In addition to plenary sessions, the Conference hosts a topical debate, the National Farm Business Management Innovation Roundtable, Farm Business Management Resource Showcase, a panel discussion and Concurrent Workshop sessions.

For additional information please see <http://www.fmc-gac.com/content/agricultural-excellence-conference-agenda>.



APAS Representative Elections

The next APAS Representative elections will occur in October **2016**