



**Agriculture is Everyone’s Business**

**APAS in Action – May, 2015**



President Norm Hall May 2015

Sitting on a tractor putting in the crop gives a person time to think and reflect on the past year. The May 28, 2015 Government of Saskatchewan Crop Report noted that 87 per cent of the crop has been seeded, well above last year’s level of 64 per cent and significantly above the five year average of 61 per cent. Last year almost everyone was faced with saturated soils and although some of us on the east side of the province continue to face excessive moisture during seeding, as I write this introduction, many areas of Saskatchewan have experienced a 180 degree swing in the growing season from 2014.

On the west and south central side of the province many farmers have sown their crop and are looking to the skies for some rain to germinate their seed. Pastures and hay land remain brown and the grass crunches underfoot. Ranchers will be using their hay supply or looking to purchase feed to supplement spring feeding. A ban has been issued on all open fires for all provincial forests and for all provincial parks and recreation sites located within those forests.

Some crops had germinated in early May and emerged in a few short days, a deep frost occurred and reseeded is underway. Last week’s frost, although not as cold, was widespread and will further impact many crops. What a difference 12 months can make.

As farmers and ranchers, we deal with the present, hope and plan for the best, and will adapt as required to ensure the success of our farming operation over the longer term. Above all else, as we enter the 2015 production year, please stay safe, remain confident about your skills and abilities, continue to be an optimist, and enjoy your family and neighbours.

**New Website up and running**

Yes, it is here! APAS has a new website up and running [www.apas.ca](http://www.apas.ca). It has a new look, but more importantly, it is packed with information. Want to know what policies APAS is working on? Who is on the Board? Which rural municipalities are members? Current or past resolutions? How about the rewards that APAS members receive. [Click on it today!](#)



## Upcoming APAS Events – Register Today!

### 2015 Farmers' Forum on Grain Transportation Getting on Track: Solutions for the future

**Monday July 20, 2015**

10:00 am - 4:30 pm

The Saskatoon Inn & Conference Centre  
2002 Airport Drive, Saskatoon, SK, Canada S7L 6M4

Looking forward, the number one issue that farmers face across Saskatchewan continues to be reliable grain movement . As producers, we are export dependant. We need to get our product out to the customer when they want it if we are to truly grow Saskatchewan's agricultural economy. What will it take to get us there?

The Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS), Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission and Saskatchewan Barley Development Commission are hosting a one-day transportation forum for Saskatchewan producers.

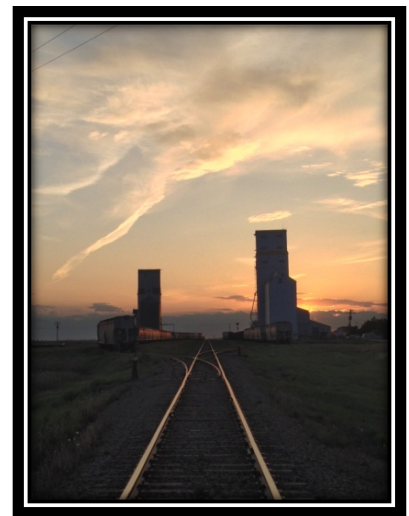
The primary objectives of the one-day forum are to focus on the path forward for grain transportation:

- Understand the current state of the rail situation in Saskatchewan
- Provide an overview of the growth in demand for rail services in Saskatchewan due to our growing economy
- Understand rail investment strategy to grow capacity
- Review the USA Northern Great Plains rail transportation situation and lessons learned
- Understand the current Canadian Transportation Act (CTA) review process and early learning's
- Understand how the Maximum Revenue entitlement works
- Identify changes needed to build rail capacity and efficiency for Western Canada

Confirmed presenters include:

- Terry Whiteside - Whiteside & Associates
- Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce
- Murad Al-Katib - Special Advisor to the CTA Review Panel
- Mark Hemmes - Quorum Corporation
- Dr. Richard Gray - Bioresource Policy, Business and Economics, U of S
- John Edsforth - Travacon Research Ltd.
- Greg Northey - Ag Transport Coalition
- Additional speakers TBA

[Registration is now open for this event.](#)



## Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan Midterm meeting – July 21, 2015 Saskatoon

Following on the heels of the transportation forum, APAS will be holding a one-day Mid-term meeting in Saskatoon at the Saskatoon Inn on July 21, 2015. The title is “Constraints and Opportunities for the Saskatchewan Agriculture Sector”. Confirmed speakers include:

- Chuck Penner, LeftField Commodity Research from Winnipeg on grains/oilseeds/pulses
- Brian Perillat, Canfax from Calgary speaking about the beef industry
- Farm Business Consultants on taxation issues and planning
- Farm Credit Corporation on farm financing and land prices
- Brian Michnik, Saskatchewan Trade & Export Partnership discussing future trade opportunities
- Shelly Jones, Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture on agriculture’s social license.

**Registration for this event is now open:** The APAS Mid-term meeting is open to the general public. For non-APAS Representatives, registration fees are \$75.00, which includes lunch. [Submit your registration online](#)

### Now Accepting Applications

#### Youth Leadership & Mentorship Program

Calling potential farmer leaders! APAS and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture have an opportunity you do not want to miss. Are you involved in farming or ranching? Are you between the ages of 18 and 39 as of September 1, 2015? Does leadership skill development interest you? Is your RM a member of APAS? If you answered “yes” to all four questions, please apply to APAS for the “Youth Leadership and Mentorship Program”. Youth Leadership candidate time requirement - about 14 days over 12 months. Costs for successful applicants – none. Opportunity to learn from experienced farm leaders – substantial. If you are interested or you know of young women and men who may qualify, phone APAS for more information 306-789-7774 ext 3. [For more information and application form](#)



### APAS Membership Cards

APAS wallet-sized Membership Cards are available at your RM office and may be distributed through your RM Tax Notice. These cards will be provided each year to RM ratepayers. These cards may be required by suppliers of APAS Member Rewards. To learn more about APAS Member Rewards visit our website at: [www.apas.ca/my-rewards](http://www.apas.ca/my-rewards).



## **APAS Mark's Work Wearhouse Cards**

APAS appreciates having the benefit of Mark's Work Wearhouse cards for 2015-16. The cards will be distributed in your RM Tax Notice. Enjoy year-round savings on all regular priced Mark's merchandise.

### **The Co-operators**

Farm, home, auto and travel insurance discounts are available from The Co-operators for APAS Member ratepayers. Enhance the coverage offered in the Farm Guard Policy for only \$25.00! Call your local Co-operators office to find out more information.

## **Welcoming New Members**

### **RM of Garry #245**

APAS welcomes RM of Garry #245 as a member. The RM office is located in the community of Jedburgh. The RM is located west of Yorkton, north of Melville and straddles highway #52. The municipality was incorporated in January 1, 1913. Welcome Reeve Garry Dubiel and councillors from APAS.

### **RM of Craik #222**

The RM of Craik includes the communities of Aylesbury and Craik on Louis Riel Trail (Highway #11). The RM of Craik was incorporated in 1912 with the municipal office located in the Town of Craik. Included in the RM is the Craik Eco-Centre, Eco Village, Arm Lake and Craik & District Golf course. APAS welcomes Reeve Hilton Spencer and councillors to Saskatchewan's general farm organization.

**We look forward to see you at the Farmers Forum and**

**APAS Midterm meeting!**