

APAS In Action - October 2015

Presidents Message



As I scan the province and talk with APAS Representatives, Directors and members, farmers are experiencing a harvest that reflects the weather this year – extremely variable. Some farmers had little or no crop to harvest. Other farmers harvested crops that were average to bumper yields. And still others are attempting to harvest a crop that is being downgraded due to significant rainfall, the ruts are long and deep and the swaths have germinated. Clearly, mother nature has played a cruel joke on many farmers in Saskatchewan.

As farmers we understand these cycles. There are forces that nobody can control. As farm business people, we will manage to get through by perseverance, ingenuity, hard work and flexibility. Some forces can be influenced by farmers and ranchers. Some remedies are within their grasp. Other forces, such as CTA Review, business risk management, drainage regulations and others, require minor or substantial support from governments. That is the purpose of APAS; to identify those areas that are beyond the control of farmers, to work with producers to develop remedial measures, and forward those policies to key decision makers who have “access to the gas pedal”.

Agriculture has been mentioned marginally in the current Federal election campaign. As farmers we have identified some key obstacles that need government support. Yet, producers have, to a large extent, been sidelined. By the time you receive this APAS in Action there will be about 14 days to the Federal Election Day. Seek out your respective Federal candidates, help them understand the situation of farmers in your area, ask questions about their positions on grain transportation, business risk management, water, labour and developing a competitive North American business environment, and vote on October 19 based on your assessment of who will provide the best value to farmers and the farming community. Governments have “access to the gas pedal”.

APAS will be holding our Annual General Meeting in December in Regina. That is a great opportunity for APAS Representatives to assemble, discuss agriculture in Saskatchewan, debate and vote on resolutions and provide guidance to your Board of Directors for the coming months.

There will a package of resolutions coming to APAS Representatives and your RM Council in November. Please review, provide your guidance to your Representative and if required, develop resolutions to reflect some gaps that you are seeing from your farm business vantage point. The theme for the AGM is “Agriculture in 2025 – Are Farmers Ready?” To be ready for tomorrow, we must begin preparations today. Help APAS prepare to assist all farmers and ranchers in Saskatchewan by developing sound policy positions that will be APAS’ platform over the next year. **Your input is valued!**

APAS Welcomes New General Manager

On September 16, 2015, Duane Haave officially took over from Alan Syhlonyk as the new General Manager of APAS.

The APAS Board, Executive and staff, wish to thank Alan for his service at APAS and for his role in helping to facilitate a smooth administrative transition at APAS over the summer months. We also wish him well in his retirement and all the best in his future endeavours.

Duane comes to APAS following his tenure as General Manager at WUQWATR, the local non-



profit watershed stewardship agency in the Upper Qu’Appelle and Wascana watersheds. WUQWATR delivers farm stewardship and water programming under Growing Forward 2, and recently took administration and expanded local delivery of the ALUS Saskatchewan project.

Prior to working for WUQWATR, Duane worked for various agencies in the provincial and federal governments, including Industry and Resources, Highways and Transportation and Agriculture.

Federal Election Update

As the federal election campaign rolls along, APAS has been busy engaging the party leaders and candidates to raise the profile of our key election priorities. APAS has requested meetings with all four federal leaders and forwarded our election asks to all federal candidates running in Saskatchewan’s 14 ridings.



The response rate has so far been quite good. Local candidates have responded to say that APAS’s five priority areas have been echoed by Saskatchewan farmers and ranchers at campaign events and while canvassing farmers and rancher in rural Saskatchewan.

The five APAS policy priority areas are: Grain Transportation, Risk Management, Investment in Water Management Infrastructure, Labour, and Competitiveness through Price parity. Read more about these issues at: www.apas.ca/2015-federal-election

September 30th Ag Leaders Debate



On September 30, federal candidates representing the major parties in the Federal election took part in an agriculture debate in Ottawa. The event, hosted by the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, featured a live webcast and was recorded for future viewing. The debate touched on key issues related to trade, public research, social license, risk management, succession planning, and the environment.

A recorded taping of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture's Ag Leaders Debate on September 30, is available to view at your convenience at: www.cfa-fca.ca/election2015

Upcoming Initiatives

Provincial Legislative Session / Farmland Ownership

This year's fall provincial legislative session starts on October 13 and will not include a Speech to the Throne. The Province's intention is to allow more time for debate and introduction of new legislation that would otherwise be delayed by the provincial election, slated for spring of 2016.

One of the Provincial Government's stated priorities for the upcoming Fall session is to outline future plans for Saskatchewan farmland ownership rules in the province. Throughout the summer, the Ministry of Agriculture conducted an online consultation on potential changes to the legislation, and after consulting its own members on the topic, APAS submitted a brief to the minister on June 11, 2015.

APAS will be watching the announcement and legislative discussions around farmland



ownership closely to ensure the government's proposed approach is consistent with the views and recommendations that were put forward by the APAS members. To read more about our position on farmland ownership, please visit: www.apas.ca/apas-submits-comments-to-farmland-ownership-consultation

New Provincial Approach to Water Management



On September 1, the Saskatchewan Ministry of the Environment announced new drainage regulations as a first phase of an agricultural water management strategy for Saskatchewan. Later this month, the APAS Executive Committee will be meeting with the Saskatchewan Minister of the Environment, Herb Cox, to talk about their approach to water management and the new regulations in more detail. More information about

APAS's initial response to these regulations can be found at: www.apas.ca/important-changes-to-water-security-regulations

2015 APAS Policy Resolutions

APAS is currently compiling resolutions for the upcoming - Annual General Meeting, December 1 – 3 in Regina. If your council would like to submit a resolution, please submit to info@apas.ca.

APAS Representatives and RM Councils will also be provided a copy of AGM resolutions in time for November council meetings. This will provide you an opportunity to discuss the resolutions gathered thus far and submit further additions.

APAS Representatives attending the meeting in Regina will retain the right to propose resolutions from the floor.

However, resolutions not submitted prior to November 11, 2014, will require the consent of two-thirds of the APAS Reps present to be heard at the convention. Please watch your inboxes and mailboxes for the 2015 APAS Resolution Package which will be sent to Councils and Representatives by October 31st.



APAS in the News

[Farm issues being 'ignored'](#)

[New rules to bring all drainage projects under WSA](#)

[Editorial: Agriculture just wants a little respect](#)

[New drainage rules arrive](#)

[Selling, moving crops key issues for farmers](#)

[Letter to the Editor: MRE Explained](#)



[Crop conditions vary as harvest begins](#)

APAS AGM 2015


Agriculture is Everyone's Business
APAS Annual General Meeting
December 1, 2 & 3, 2015
Queensbury Convention Center
Regina, Saskatchewan
APAS RM Representative Registration Form
REGISTER BY: Friday, November 20, 2015 (please let us know ASAP as this helps us prepare for the meeting and find alternate Reps if necessary)

Name _____
Organization / RM _____
Address: _____ City/Town _____ SK _____
Postal Code _____ Phone _____
Cell: _____ Email/Fax _____

December 1, 2, 3 Regina, Saskatchewan
Queensbury Convention Centre

Please book your hotel rooms as soon as possible for the AGM.

Details can be found at APAS's website under upcoming events.

CULTIVATING THE ENTREPRENEURIAL FARMER

Farm Management Canada (FMC) will host the Agricultural Excellence Conference (AgEx) in Regina, Saskatchewan, November 25-27, 2015.

The Agricultural Excellence Conference focuses on bringing diverse industry experts and stakeholders together to share and explore beneficial farm management practices, advice, and insight with leading farm business thinkers. Top notch speakers and interactive learning sessions will assist Canada's farmers in making informed decisions and taking calculated risks that both mitigate negative impacts while maximizing potential rewards.

More information can be found at: <http://www.fmc-gac.com/content/agricultural-excellence-conference#sthash.BiQwgRRN.dpuf>.

Chrysler Fleet Program

We are happy to announce that the APAS Fleet program with Chrysler, Dodge, RAM, Jeep, and Fiat has been renewed for another year of savings. If you know of any ratepayers in your RM that would like to save dollars off of a new vehicle, please share the following [link](#).

www.apas.ca/apas-chrysler-fleet-program

Concession prices has been updated and posted to the website.

