



## APAS In Action – February 2016

### Responses to the APAS Farm Program Survey still needed!

APAS is still looking for input from Saskatchewan agricultural producers through an online survey on Crop Insurance, Agri-Stability and Agri-Invest programs. Although awareness of the survey has been gaining momentum in recent weeks, we are still short of our goal of having a large and representative sample size to work with.

Anyone who has already completed the survey is asked to send the link to friends and neighbours or direct them to the APAS website where the survey is located on the front-page: [www.APAS.ca](http://www.APAS.ca)



APAS Farm Program Survey link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7LH9GSZ>



After submitting a completed survey, respondents are provided the opportunity to enter their email addresses for a chance to win \$150 Gift Card to Mark's Work WearHouse.

Note: Most APAS Representatives have already completed this survey at the December AGM in Regina. However, we still need your help spreading the word about the survey and why it's important that the viewpoints of Saskatchewan farmers are understood and advanced at the national level.

### ALUS Canada starts the New Year as an independent entity

By Bryan Gilvesy, Executive Director, ALUS Canada

In this first month of the new year, we at ALUS Canada can look back on 2015 as a year of fundamental and exciting change for the organization.

The most monumental shift of this past year was the formation of ALUS Canada as an independent legal entity, separate from the organization that played an integral role in ALUS' initial growth and development, Delta Waterfowl.

Under Delta's nurturing umbrella, ALUS became a strong, successful mechanism for the delivery of ecosystem services.

Indeed, the ALUS program has blossomed in the Prairies.

In Saskatchewan, the ALUS program emerged in 2011 as a partnership between Delta Waterfowl, Agriculture Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS), Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds (SAW) and the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation (SWF).

Having engaged these key partners in the province, ALUS began to deliver a progressive and individualized program for farmers and their communities in four Rural Municipalities of Saskatchewan.

With Delta at the helm, the ALUS program was established in the Little Saskatchewan River Conservation District in 2014, and in 2015 began to be delivered on a watershed basis in Saskatchewan, via the Wascana and Upper Qu'Appelle Watershed (WUQWATR) and the Assiniboine Watershed Stewardship Association (AWSA).

Confident in the burgeoning success of the ALUS program, Delta Waterfowl and the ALUS team have now decided that it is time for the ALUS program to go forward independently.

This shift will help ALUS to grow nationally and move forward with its strong and unified vision: ALUS Canada supports farmers and ranchers in creating a healthy landscape that sustains agriculture, wildlife and natural spaces for all Canadians, one acre at a time.

The ALUS team is profoundly grateful for Delta Waterfowl's support and mentorship in our formative years, and we look forward to maintaining an important strategic relationship with Delta Waterfowl as ALUS Canada continues to grow in 2016 and all the years to come.

For more information, please visit [www.ALUS.ca](http://www.ALUS.ca) or contact Bryan Gilvesy, ALUS Canada's Executive Director, at [bgilvesy@alus.ca](mailto:bgilvesy@alus.ca)

### **CFA profiles little-known loan-guarantee program**

The Canadian Federation of Agriculture is spreading the word about the Canadian Agricultural Loans Act (CALA) program. It's a loan-guarantee program designed to increase the availability of loans to farmers and agricultural co-operatives. With low interest rates, longer repayment periods, and lower down payments, CALA loans can be obtained by farmers to establish, improve and develop their farms, and by agricultural co-operatives to process, distribute or market the products of farming. However, many producers and a number of financial institutions lack awareness of what's available through CALA, and this can result in missed opportunities to access credit opportunities on favourable terms.



CALA loans are open to: existing farmers; beginning farmers (those who have been farming for less than six years); start-up farmers; farmers taking over the family farm; part-time farmers; agriculture co-operatives as long as at least 50% + 1 of their members are farmers. If you fit one of these categories, take a look at what the program offers. For more information, email [Agiculture and Agri-Food Canada](mailto:Agiculture and Agri-Food Canada) or call toll-free at 1-888-346-2511.

### **Canadian Western Red Spring (CWRS) Project – Opportunity to become involved**

APAS has been contacted by research scientists at the University of Manitoba who are involved in a project investigating the nature of variation in gluten strength of CWRS wheat grown in the Prairie region. These researchers are looking for participating farmers to provide 2 kg samples of spring wheat from these varieties: Glenn, Stanley, Utmost, Carberry, Brandon, Cardale, Settler, Unity and Harvest.

Farmers who participate will receive a report on the quality of their submitted sample in comparison to the average of samples of the same wheat variety submitted by other farmers. We have reviewed the information provided by the researchers, and believe this project will produce valuable information required to help maintain Canada's reputation as a producer of high quality and consistent grain.

To learn more about this project and how to participate, please click [here](#)

### **Food Freedom Day 2016: What's the story behind your grocery bill?**

The Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) has calculated that on **February 9, 2016** the average Canadian will have earned enough income to pay for his/her grocery bill for the entire year.

In 2015, Canadians are expected to have spent 11% of their disposable income on food, compared to 10.4% in 2014. While rising food costs have resulted in this year's Food Freedom Day falling three days later than last year's date, it's important to note that relative to populations around the world we are quite fortunate in Canada. Canadians have some of the lowest food costs in the world, consistently ranking in the top five for cheapest food costs worldwide.

Still, there is no denying that the rise in food costs has the potential to affect day-to-day budgets. According to the ***Food Price Report 2016***, which was published by the Food Institute at the University of Guelph, Canadian food prices increased by 4.1% during 2015. The prime reason was the low Canadian dollar, which has had a profound impact on imported food products, such as fruits, vegetables and nuts, which are highly susceptible to market fluctuations.

Looking ahead to 2016, the *Food Price Report* notes that food prices will be most affected by climate change, the weakening Canadian dollar, and consumer trends. With this forecast in mind, Food Freedom Day serves as an opportunity to consider our individual role and the impact we all have on the Canadian food system, whether that be as a consumer, farmer, processor or retailer.

"There are plenty of reasons why we encourage consumers to buy Canadian," explains CFA President Ron Bonnett. "Domestically produced food does not face the same exchange rate increase we have been seeing with imported products. By understanding what is available each season in Canada, consumers can contribute to Canadian food security while also keeping their family's food bill down."

Choosing Canadian products at the grocery store is an incredibly important role Canadian consumers have in supporting farmers and our food system here at home. The grocery store purchases of consumers provide market data for retailers, who then determine what they will stock their shelves with. This produces a ripple effect that is felt right down to the farm level.

"There is also a notable difference with the Canadian brand when it comes to animal welfare standards and the quality and safety of our products – and it is one to be proud of," Bonnett added. "We ask that consumers place their 'grocery store vote' for Canadian farmers and invest in a stable domestic food supply."

#### ***The Quick Facts on FFD***

- **February 9** is the calendar date for 2016 when the average Canadian has earned enough income to pay his/her grocery bill for the year, coined by the CFA as Food Freedom Day!
- In 2015, Canadians are expected to have spent **11%** of their disposable income on food.
- Interested in how Food Freedom Day is calculated? Click [here](#).

**Help us grow & spread the word!**

**Connect with [@farmed4you](https://twitter.com/farmed4you) on Twitter and help spread the word about [www.farmtotablemagazine.ca](http://www.farmtotablemagazine.ca)**

As you know, *Farm to Table* is an exciting new platform that CFA has organized which features stories following the path of Canadian farm & food. The articles are meant to be informative for Canadian consumers and promote transparency.

Today, 100,000 of inserts will be distributed in the *Toronto Star*. CFA has a double page spread in the magazine which promotes *Farm to Table* and its social license aims. Our ad will also be shown over the course of two months in one of Toronto's main underpass and on two jumbo screens in Dundas Square.



We are hopeful this project will result in increased traffic to [www.farmtotablemagazine.ca](http://www.farmtotablemagazine.ca) and generate an audience in one of Canada's main metropolitan areas. We decided to start a social media channel as a place where consumers can go to be a part of the initiative and discussion. We hope you will help us populate the page with followers and promote it with your fellow Canadians - rural and urban alike!

### **Canada-Saskatchewan Job Grant (CSJG)**

Want to train current or new employees for existing or future job opportunities? The CSJG program

- Provides two-third costs of training, employer one-third
- Training must be for a minimum of 24 hours
- Training must be completed within 52 weeks
- Employer has or will have a job upon completion of training
- Training must be delivered by a third-party provider
- Training is to enhance the workers' skills for the current job or for a new/better job
- Student must receive a record of completion, certificate, grade, etc.

Employers who have identified a need for current or future job opportunities, and see a need for training, can go to [www.economy.gov.sk.ca/job-grant](http://www.economy.gov.sk.ca/job-grant) for more information, application and contact information.

## **APAS Representative Elections**

Hear yea! Hear yea! Hear yea! APAS Representatives will be elected in October. All Representatives two-year terms will be expiring in 9 months.

As a Representative your input is vital to ensure APAS continues to be the 'voice for Saskatchewan producers'.

For more information, please check out APAS' website, call APAS office at 306-789-9994 or email the office at [info@apas.ca](mailto:info@apas.ca).

APAS Representatives are a critical link between RM Council Members, ratepayers and APAS.

## **Combine to Customer**

Response to APAS' call for interested individuals in attending Combine to Customer was outstanding! APAS was able to forward over 30 individual names to the Canadian International Grains Institute (CIGI). To date, all seats are filled. It is a great course that no one should miss!

## **Mentees Heading for Ottawa**

The Youth Leadership and Mentorship Participants (YLMP) will be attending the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) Annual Meeting on Feb. 23-25. Developing national policies with 24 agriculture organizations bringing their own perspective to the CFA policy debates in two official languages of Canada will expand the Mentees understanding of Canadian policy development from coast to coast. Other activities are being pursued including meeting with farm leaders, bureaucrats, Ministers and MPs and participating in Parliament Hill functions.



## **Farm Safety**

As winter slips away and farming's mega-project approaches – spring seeding, it is important to again elevate safety as one of the topic objectives in your farming operation. Farm machinery is involved in 75% of farm accidents, most in the farm yard and 14% involve youth. No one wants to work in an unsafe manner. The website below is linked to The Farm Safety Guide developed by the Occupational Health and Safety.

Work safe, have everyone else work safe and make safety a top priority over the upcoming growing season.

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/business/safety-in-the-workplace/hazards-and-prevention/safety-in-professions-and-industry/farm-safety>

## **Stats Canada Using Internet for Census**

Faster, quicker, simpler. According to Statistics Canada, farmers should spend 30% less time responding to the 2016 Census of Agriculture, on average. After the last census, Stats Canada received more than 200 submissions including farm organizations. One result was the exclusion of questions such as detailed expense information, operator place of residence, details on irrigated land and the source and use of manure. Replacement questions queried about adoption of technologies, direct marketing, succession planning and renewable energy production. End result - net reduction of 18 questions.



More information from Statistics Canada will be distributed to all Canadian adults in May.

## **New APAS Directors**

At the December APAS Annual General Meeting new Board members were elected:

- [Marion McBride, RM of Moosomin #121, District 1](#)
- [Terry Anthony, RM of Baidon #131, District 2](#)
- [Ian Boxall, RM of Connaught #475, District 4](#)
- [Jeremy Welter, RM of Mariposa, District 6](#)

APAS looks forward to taking advantage of their skills, knowledge and experience to move agriculture in a positive direction.

APAS is also fortunate that the former directors will be continuing as APAS Representatives. APAS looks forward to their future contributions as their in-depth understanding of APAS and the general industry will be extremely beneficial in coming months.

Thank you to all for your involvement to ensure APAS is firmly grounded as a grassroots organization.

## **Welcome to APAS**

RM of Orkney #244 has become a transitional member of APAS. Communities in the RM are Yorkton, Ebenezer, Springside, Orcadia and Fonehill and have access via highways #9, 10, 16, 47 and 52. The RM office is located in Yorkton.

The most recent full-time member is Lakeside RM #338. Quill Lake and Watson communities are included in the RM boundaries that are serviced by highways 6 and 16. Lakeside RM also includes the northern portion of Big Quill Lake, all of Mud Lake and the western edge of Little Quill Lake. The RM office is located in Quill Lake.

**Welcome to Orkney and Lakeside RMs for joining APAS.**

**Save the Dates:** July 18 Summer Midterm Meeting (Saskatoon)  
Nov 29, 30 and December 1 APAS AGM (Regina)