



APAS in Action – March 2016

March has come in like a lamb. Will it go out like a lion?

Election Ag Dialogue (Persephone Theatre, Remai Arts Centre, Saskatoon)

APAS and the Western Producer have teamed up to host Why Ag Matters – An Agricultural Dialogue in Saskatoon March 22. The event is an opportunity for voters to clearly understand the agricultural and food platforms of the five provincial political parties before the provincial election on April 4, 2016. We look forward to seeing you in Saskatoon.

The event will also be live-streamed through the Western Producer website (www.producer.com). Online participants will be able to participate in meeting discussion via Twitter. The event will be rebroadcast on Access and Shaw cable TV networks at a later date.

Event details:

Tuesday, March 22, 2016

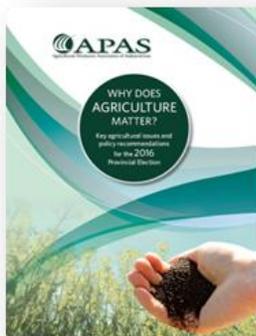
Remai Arts Centre: doors open at 12: 30 PM

1:30-3:00 PM, Persephone Theatre (please be seated by 1:15)

100 Spadina Crescent E, Saskatoon, SK S7K 0L3

Public Dialogue:

Agricultural sector organizations, university students, farmers and anyone interested in the future of farming are invited to participate.



APAS Election Policy Document “Why Does Agriculture Matter?”

APAS has compiled a provincial election policy document to highlight APAS policy positions and to promote discussion of key policy positions developed by APAS representatives. A copy is attached for APAS members to use in discussions with local candidates, neighbours and friends.

[Download APAS Provincial Election Policy Document, “Why Ag Matters”](#)

Canadian Federation of Agriculture Annual General Meeting Feb 22-25

APAS was well represented in Ottawa by Board members, Youth Leaders and staff. APAS met with a number of federal officials in Ottawa:

Agriculture Minister Lawrence MacAulay

APAS President Norm Hall and Vice President Todd Lewis joined colleagues from the Alberta Federation of Agriculture and Keystone Agricultural Producers in meeting with Federal Minister Lawrence MacAulay. Discussions included the Canadian Transportation Agency Review Report, the status of the Indian Head Tree Nursery and the future of the PFRA Pastures in Saskatchewan. We look forward to a constructive working relationship with the Minister in the years to come.

Agriculture critics

APAS met with Chris Warkentin MP for Grande Prairie-MacKenzie, Conservative Party Agriculture Critic and Ruth Ellen Brosseau, MP for Berthier-Maskinonge, New Democratic Party Agriculture Critic.

The APAS delegation met with agriculture critics to discuss key issues such as Grain transportation, Business Risk Management Programs, Water Management, the future of the Tree nursery and PFRA pastures, carbon tax and rural broadband internet service. We look forward to working with all members of the House of Commons Agriculture Committee. Both members reviewed APAS's resolution package for CFA.

Saskatchewan Members of Parliament

While in Ottawa, APAS was pleased to meet with Saskatchewan MPs Randy Hoback, Cathay Wagantall and Sheri Benson to discuss our issues.

APAS resolutions at CFA

APAS brought forward resolutions on safety standards for imported equipment, forage seed standards, the Indian Head Shelterbelt Centre, PFRA Pastures, Water Development and Conservation Infrastructure, Weather Radar Coverage, the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program, and a western check off for grains research. APAS looks forward to working with the CFA over the course of 2016 to advance these issues on behalf of Saskatchewan farmers.



APAS in the news

Upcoming Saskatchewan election debate to focus on agriculture

<http://www.620ckrm.com/2016/03/14/upcoming-saskatchewan-election-debate-to-focus-on-agriculture/>

Saskatchewan farmers safely dispose of more than 91,000 kilograms of obsolete pesticides and livestock medications

<http://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/saskatchewan-farmers-safely-dispose-of-more-than-91000-kilograms-of-obsolete-pesticides-and-livestock-medications-571649201.html>

Saskatchewan's largest farm group wants Ottawa to allow more foreign seasonal workers

<http://www.620ckrm.com/2016/02/24/saskatchewan-s-largest-farm-group-has-a-request-for-federal-government/>

Producers United on railway revenue cap value

<http://www.producer.com/2016/03/producers-united-on-railway-revenue-cap-value/>

More farm groups pan CTA review panel report

<http://www.manitobacooperator.ca/news-opinion/news/more-farm-groups-pan-cta-review-panel-report-2/>

Review Calls for Phase Out of Rail Grain Revenue Cap

<http://www.saskatoonhomepage.ca/agriculture-news/72328-review-calls-for-phase-out-of-rail-grain-revenue-cap>

Agricultural Safety Week from March 13 to 19

The Canada-wide Ag Safety Week started on March 13. The theme for 2016 is *Be an AgSafe Family by Keeping Kids Safe* – and this applies 365 days a year!

The Canadian Agricultural Safety Association (CASA) has been raising awareness about the importance of safety on Canadian farms by hosting the Canadian Agricultural Safety Week (CASW). This initiative, which is undertaken in partnership with the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA), serves as an opportunity to reflect on the importance of farm safety and provide producers with the resources needed to make your farms safer.

This year, CASW will take place under the theme of *Keeping Kids Safe* as part of a new three-year farm safety campaign, *Be an AgSafe Family*. The aim of *Be an AgSafe Family* is to empower producer families with the necessary tools to understand the challenges unique to keeping every generation of the family – kids, adults, and seniors alike – safe on the farm, while also preserving a way of life that is cherished and essential to our country's dynamic landscape.

Safety is everyone's responsibility and your support will help to reinforce our collective path to a safer, more productive sector.

APAS Representative District Meetings

APAS District meetings will be held in March and April. Please see the time and location noted in “Save the Dates” at the end of this edition. As a Representative your continued involvement is vital to ensure APAS continues to be the ‘voice for Saskatchewan producers’ and that the needs of your RM are being met by being the link between the RM Council Members, ratepayers and APAS.

For more information, please check your email or call APAS office at 306-789-7774

APAS Representative Elections

Are you interested in improving the business environment for farmers and ranchers? Is expanding your professional network of contacts an objective you have? Does working with fellow farmers and ranchers to solve problems appeal to you? If yes, please sign up to be the next APAS Representative for 2016-2018. You can make a positive difference to farmers, ranchers and APAS.



Combine to Customer

This year’s Combine to Customer has come to a close. APAS was able to nominate 32 grain producers to attend the 3 sessions in 2016. And rumour has it that because of demand, next year there will be 4 sessions. APAS would encourage you, men, women and couples, to put your name forward for next year so that you are on the list when the next course is announced for 2017. Call or email APAS office at 306-789-7774 or info@apas.ca.

These courses provide an outstanding opportunity to learn how the Canadian International Grains Institute (CIGI) is helping to market the “Canadian Brand” to our international markets and to learn about so much more! It is a great course that no one should miss as grain producers!

To understand more of what you might learn from Combine to Customer, please see [the attached short video](#).



Mentees engaged in Agricultural Policy Work Ottawa

The Youth Leadership and Mentorship Participants (YLMP) attend the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) Annual Meeting on Feb. 23-25.

The Youth Candidates had a bird's eye view of policy development. With policies starting at the grassroots level, crystallizing those ideas through the APAS policy committees and the Annual General Meeting, having those Saskatchewan suggestions become national policy and then being involved in formal and informal meetings with other farmers, farm leaders, MPs and Ministers enhanced the Mentees understanding of moving from a thought to policy to advancing those policies.

The Youth Candidates also took the opportunity to tour Parliament Hill, sit in on Question Period, visit the National Gallery and War Museum and expanded their professional networks. The experience also gave the mentees an appreciation for APAS' credibility in CFA and allowed them to momentarily immerse themselves in working with CFA that covers more than 7500 kms, 10 provinces, 26 memberships and 2 official languages.

APAS appreciates the opportunity to have the five youth candidates at CFA. Over the next few months they will be involved in various APAS meetings. Please introduce yourself at the District or Mid-term meetings.

Farm Safety

Saskatchewan Common Ground Alliance (SCGA)

If you are a landowner and want to ensure you, your family and employees are safe when disturbing ground from activities such as excavators, road builders, electric, telecommunications, oil, gas or water lines, SCGA may be of assistance. Canadian Common Ground Alliance (CCGA) has 7 regions in Canada, Saskatchewan being one. SCGA is a member-driven association dedicated to ensuring public safety, environmental protection, and the integrity of services. For more information about SCGA please review their website at <http://scga.ca/>.

In April breakfast meetings will be held at various communities in Saskatchewan. See the locations via this link and if interested, please RSVP <http://scga.ca/files/20160213BreakfastInvitation.pdf>.

Welcome to APAS

RM of Sasman #336 has joined APAS as a transitional member. The RM is situated on the northern shore of Fishing Lake and extends north to a few kilometres south of Kelvington. The western boundary

of the RM is a few miles east of Wadena and the eastern boundary is between Margo and Invermay. Communities included in the RM of Sasman include Kuroki, home of the RM office, Margo, Kylemore, Nut Mountain, Ottman-Murray Beach and North Shore Fishing Lake. Major roads include highways #5, #38, #49, #310, #665 and #765.

APAS also wants to recognize RM of Kingsley #124 as another transitional member. Kipling is the RM office home and is located in the southern portion of the municipality on highway #46. The eastern boundary starts a few kilometres west of Kennedy and the western boundary runs just east of Windthorst. The northern boundary is few kilometres south of Broadview and a few kms south of Kipling is the southern boundary. The RM includes the community of Inchkeith.

Welcome to Sasman and Kingsley RMs for joining APAS.

Save the Dates:

March 21 – District 2 meeting 9 am to Noon
(Regional Municipal Plaza, 1410 CARIBOU ST. W., Moose Jaw)

March 22 – Agriculture Election Dialogue 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm
(Persephone Theatre, Remai Arts Centre, Saskatoon)

March 23 - District 3 meeting Noon to 4:30 pm
(K Motel 1 W, intersection route, Swift Current)

March 29 – District 1 meeting 11 am to 3:30 pm
(Skyline Motor Inn, 13 HWY, Carlyle)

March 30 – District 5 meeting 10 am to 3:30 pm
(Manitoba Room, Saskatoon Inn, 2002 Airport Drive, Saskatoon)

March 31 – District 4 meeting 10:30 am to 3:30 pm
(Canalta Hotel, 906 93th Ave, Tisdale)

April 7 – District 6 meeting 10:30 am to 3:30 pm
(Gold Eagle Casino, 11902 Railway Avenue, North Battleford)
(lower east side meeting room)

July 18 - Summer Midterm Meeting (Saskatoon)

Nov 29, 30 and December 1 - APAS AGM (Regina)