

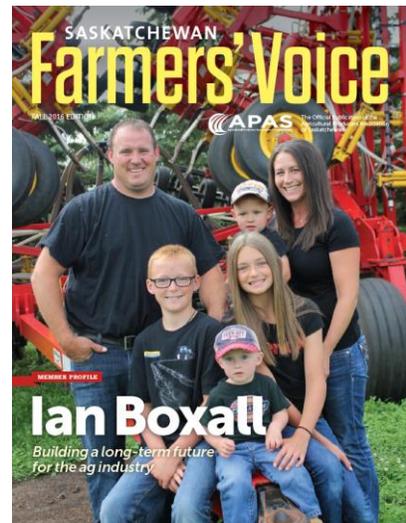


APAS in Action – September 2016

Welcome to APAS IN ACTION, bringing you the latest news on how your general farm organization is working on behalf of Saskatchewan farmers and ranchers. If you have ideas for any future edition or wish to comment on anything you read in APAS in Action, please feel free to contact us at by email at: info@apas.ca or phone: (306) 789-7774

Saskatchewan Farmers' Voice 1st Edition Now Available!

APAS is pleased to announce the publication of our new quarterly magazine, **Saskatchewan Farmers' Voice**. Our magazine is designed to communicate with all Saskatchewan farmers and ranchers. Each edition will include information about APAS activities, profile important agricultural issues, feature sections about business and agronomy, and provide information on member benefits available to APAS member ratepayers.



Saskatchewan Farmers' Voice is produced by Farm Business Communications and is published quarterly. Distribution is provided through the Western Producer to their Saskatchewan subscribers **on October 6**. We will also post an electronic version on our website at www.apas.ca. The production is funded primarily through advertizing, and we would like to thank our advertisers for their support.

We hope you enjoy Farmers' Voice and appreciate your feedback on our new venture. Click to view [Farmers' Voice](#)

Recent APAS Policy Initiatives

Sask Producer Coalition Responds to Transportation Consultation

APAS recently collaborated with Sask Wheat and Sask Barley to provide comments to a Transport Canada consultation on rail transportation. The consultation is an extension of the ongoing review of *the Canada Transportation Act* (CTA) that began in December of 2014.

The Sask Coalition responded to this second round of consultations by reaffirming our original recommendations and providing further explanation supporting the need to retain the Maximum Revenue Entitlement in an uncompetitive freight environment.

In February of this year, the CTA Review Panel released its final report which included a number of recommendations on grain transportation, including the elimination of the MRE within seven years time. The federal government is now considering the Report and collecting additional feedback from stakeholders to develop its approach to the CTA. An announcement is expected sometime this fall.

APAS believes the Coalition's original recommendations to the Panel continue to present an effective template for transportation policy reform. One of the key recommendations contained in our original submission is for the MRE to remain in place and a full review of railway costs be conducted to ensure the program is working as intended.

[Download the Sask Producer Coalition Comments to Transport Canada \(Sept, 16, 2016\)](#)

[Download a summary of the Producer Coalition's recommendations to CTA Review \(Dec. 2014\)](#)

CGC Licensing Consultations

On August 31, APAS submitted a brief to the Canadian Grain Commission's proposal to license feed mills, agents, and producer car loading facilities. The APAS recommendations to this review are intended to strike a balance between producer protection in the marketplace, on the one hand, and the need to ensure small and medium sized businesses are not burdened with unnecessary regulations and red tape.

The APAS submission was developed over the summer with extensive input from the APAS Grains and Oilseeds Committee, the APAS Livestock Committee, and other affected stakeholders from Saskatchewan's agricultural community.

[Download the APAS Submission to CGC Licensing Review](#)

APAS response to Port of Churchill closure

Following the announcement that OmniTrax was ceasing operations at the Port of Churchill, APAS wrote to Minister MacAulay (AAFC) and Minister Garneau (Transport Canada), expressing support for a coordinated action plan to ensure the Port remains operational.

It is estimated that 80% of the grain that flows through the Port is sourced from Saskatchewan. As a least cost route to tide water, the Port has provided Saskatchewan producers millions of dollars in cost savings. These savings are at risk of being lost the longer the Ports remains idle. APAS will continue to raise the importance of the Port's long-term viability in meetings with federal and provincial government stakeholders.

[Download the APAS letter on Churchill](#)

CFA Roundtable on the Next Policy Framework

In July, the Canadian Federation of Agriculture held its annual roundtable with provincial and federal agriculture ministers. The topic this year was the next agricultural policy framework which is set to replace Growing Forward 2 in 2018. The roundtable gave national farm leaders, including APAS President Norm Hall, the opportunity to present and discuss their recommendations for the next generation of agricultural programs.

[Download a summary of the CFA recommendations for the next policy framework](#)

Following the CFA roundtable, the federal-provincial-territorial ag ministers convened for the annual FPT agriculture meeting, which concluded with a joint statement on the next agricultural policy framework. You can read that statement [here](#)

Upcoming Policy Initiatives

Pan-Canadian Framework on Climate Change

In order to meet the targets set out in the Paris Agreement on climate change, the federal government has committed to working with provinces to develop a “Pan-Canadian Framework on Climate Change”. An announcement is expected sometime this fall.

APAS is pursuing both federal and provincial avenues to ensure the interests of farmers are reflected in any policies resulting from these discussions. Provincially, APAS is working alongside the Saskatchewan Soil Conservation Association (SSCA) and other producer oriented groups in a “Saskatchewan Carbon Initiative”. The SSCA pulled the initiative together earlier this year with the goal of obtaining recognition and credit for agricultural practices that capture and store carbon in the soil. Federally,

APAS is also providing input through the CFA to ensure mitigation policies, like cap and trade or carbon taxes, are truly revenue neutral for producers. At the 2015 APAS AGM, APAS representatives passed a motion calling on APAS to oppose the introduction of a carbon tax on fuel and other agricultural inputs.

Providing Input to the Competition Bureau

APAS is currently preparing comments to the Competition Bureau concerning several recent proposed corporate mergers in the agricultural supply sector. Under the Competition Act, mergers of all sizes and in all sectors of the economy are subject to review by the Commissioner of Competition to determine whether they will likely result in a substantial lessening or prevention of competition. The Bureau uses quantitative information such as prices and/or distance to markets as evidence in making its determinations.

Competition among the developers and suppliers of agricultural inputs is necessary to ensure farming remains profitable and innovative into the future. Any individual or organization that has concerns with a particular merger can provide their comments directly to the Bureau [here](#)

Member Benefits and Opportunities

Youth Leadership & Mentorship Program

Do you see yourself as a potential farm leader? For those of you said “yes” or are uncertain, this program provides a great opportunity for potential young farm leaders to:

- Be immersed in policy development from the grassroots, the local level, follow that discussion through APAS and onto the national scene at CFA and Ottawa.
- Be mentored by respected individuals

- Develop skills and competencies
- Expand your personal network of contacts
- Rub shoulders with top agriculture leaders in Saskatchewan and Canada

If you are interested in exploring the world of farm leaders and what is required to become a farm leader, read more information on APAS website at www.apas.ca/youth-leadership-program or call Don Ross @ 306-789-7774 or dross@apas.ca.

Young women and men, under the age of 40 years as of November 1, 2016 are welcome. Application deadline is November 1, 2016.

Join APAS' Youth Leadership program and gain an improved understanding of skills, qualities, advocacy processes and professional conduct to become a respected farm leader.

Combine to Customer 2017

Do you know the many final uses of spring wheat? Of soft wheat? Of green peas? Are you interested in a better understanding of grain grading? Do you understand the role of 'customer service' that CIGI provides to our many international customers? Attending Canadian International Grains Institute (CIGI) Combine to Customer seminar can give you answers to these questions and more. Contact APAS to put your name on a list for a future course in January to March 2017.

Course dates have NOT been set as this publication is issued. However, in mid-October APAS will obtain the dates and consult those who have registered with APAS to find dates that suit you and your partner.

There will be 4 courses this year and therefore you have more dates to choose from and more chances to participate in the seminar.

Call APAS and put you name on a Combine to Customers list for 2017 and understand the world of field crops from the buyer's perspective (Don Ross @ 306-789-7774 or dross@apas.ca). www.apas.ca/combine-to-customer-2017

Fleet Program Renewed

We are happy to offer the Chrysler Fleet Program for another year. For the new concession prices visit [here](#)

Save the Dates

October 5 – Second call for APAS Representatives' nomination

October 26 - APAS Representatives election day

Fall District Meetings – Late October / Early November – Specific Dates/Location TBD

November 15 – APAS Representatives take office

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