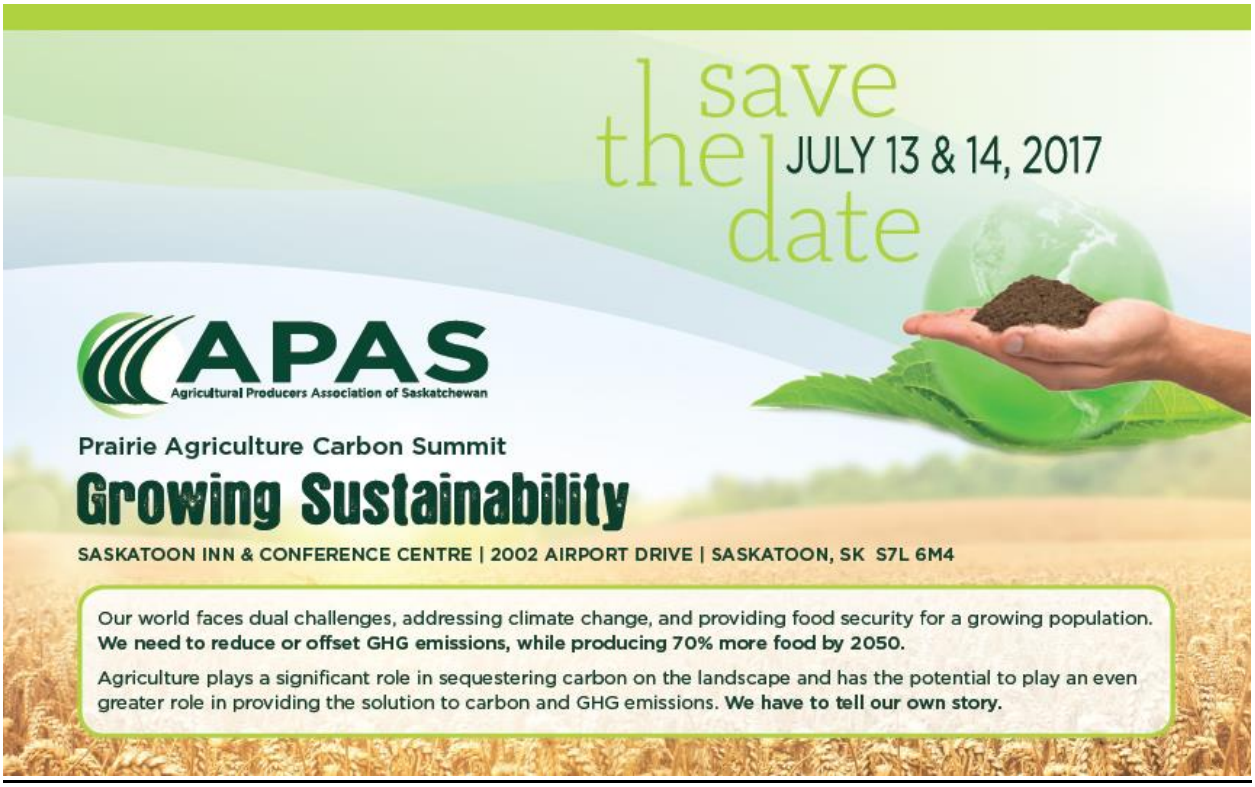

Welcome to a special edition of APAS in Action. If you have ideas for a future edition or wish to comment on anything you read in APAS in Action, please feel free to contact us at info@apas.ca or (306) 789-7774.

**Prairie Agriculture Carbon Summit**

**Register now:** http://www.apascarbonsummit.com

**APAS Rep registration:** http://www.apas.ca/apas-midterm-prairie-agriculture-carbon-summit?id=1180




APAS will be hosting an Agricultural Carbon Summit at the Saskatoon Inn and Conference Centre in conjunction with the APAS Midterm meeting. This event will focus on how agriculture helps to sequester carbon in soils and grasslands, and how science can help to increase sequestration in the future.

# Agriculture is the solution to carbon emissions, not the problem
## Todd Lewis, APAS President

Carbon and climate change policy have been very hot topics in the countryside since the Federal Government announced its policy on carbon taxation in October of 2016. This is especially true in Saskatchewan with the Provincial government's refusal to participate in the national carbon pricing plan. Agricultural producers have a lot at stake in this discussion, both from carbon pricing policies, and from the impacts of climate change on our business.

The demand for increased food production is an essential consideration. The Food and Agriculture Organization estimates that world food production must increase by 70% by 2050 to support a growing world population. Western Canada is a major export supplier of grains, oilseeds, pulse crops, and meat products, particularly to regions that are facing production shortages due to climate change

The message from our industry must be heard. Carbon taxes do not work for agriculture. Producers cannot pass along added costs through the value chain to their customers. There is no effective price signal in current carbon policy that will achieve the intended results. Agricultural producers do not set the prices for their products, operate on very thin profit margins, and endure high levels of risk from market prices and growing conditions.

Simply exempting farm fuel is not enough to shelter agriculture from negative impacts, when you add in the impact of all inputs, costs could go up between $15-$20 an acre at $50 per tonne.
Because energy and input costs are such a large factor in farm profitability and can't be passed along the value chain, producers have a lot of incentive to reduce operating costs by operating as efficiently as possible. When more efficient technologies, crops and management practices are available, they are rapidly adopted.

More crops and livestock are now being produced than ever before, with a lower energy footprint.
The second key point is that agriculture is one of the key sectors in addressing carbon emissions through management of our landscape.

At the signing of the Paris Climate agreement in 2015, it was clearly recognized that if we increase the sequestration of carbon in agricultural soils by 4 parts per thousand, the world's farmers can halt the increase in $CO_2$ in our atmosphere.

Nobody knows more about how to sequester carbon through agriculture than Prairie farmers and ranchers.

As the stewards of 40% of Canada's cultivated land and 35% of Canada's pasture land, Saskatchewan producers are key players in Canada's land use and carbon cycle management. Saskatchewan crop producers currently sequester an additional 8.5 megatonnes of carbon through improved management practices every year, and Prairie pastures sequester over two billion tonnes.

As the largest group of private sector land managers, farmers and ranchers also provide sequestration through forages, trees and wetlands.

So, our message to government decision makers is clear. Don't impose taxes that make it harder for us to do our work.

Policy that recognizes agriculture's role in addressing the carbon problem is essential to a real solution. Possible policy options that need urgent attention from policy makers include,

- How to design carbon offset policies that provide real financial benefit to producers.

- How to provide and recognize the existing carbon sequestration benefits provided by landscape features like pastures, trees, and wetlands, and enhance these features through positive incentives.
- How to dramatically increase research on plant genetics, cropping rotations and management practices to support even greater sequestration in agriculture.

For these reasons, APAS is pleased to host our Agricultural Carbon Summit at the Saskatoon Inn on July 13 and 14 to launch the discussion on these important issues. We look forward to working with all producer groups on promoting our industry's positions on this crucial issue.

## Speakers and Topics – Draft Agenda

- Overview of Other Jurisdictional Approaches to Carbon –
  Drew Black, Director of Environment and Science Policy, Canadian Federation of Agriculture

- The Agricultural Economic Impacts of Carbon Pricing

- Carbon Sequestration on Agricultural Cropland –
  John Bennett, Saskatchewan Soil Conservation Association and Brian McConkey PhD, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

- Rangeland Ecological Goods and Services –
  Daniel Hewins, PhD

- Nutrients and Rotations: Reducing Inputs and Impacts on Soil

- Carbon from the International Perspective –
  Leon Kochian, PhD

- Research and Innovation in Agricultural Sustainability –
  Maurice Moloney, PhD

## Important Details

Reservations can be made at the Saskatoon Inn and Convention Centre under the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan room block, please call 306-242-1440 for the special rate.

Post-secondary students and APAS Associate/Transitional Members and Ratepayers of APAS Member RMs receive a special discounted registration fee.

The Carbon Summit will be broadcast and later re-broadcast on Shaw and Access, and video will be made available on APAScarbonsummit.com.

**To inquire about Carbon Summit sponsorship and partnerships please contact:**

**Donald G. Ross**
**APAS Client Relationship Consultant**
**(306) 789-7774 ext. 3**
dross@apas.ca

# Thanks to….


Partners
Sask Wheat
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION


Sponsors
SaskBarley
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
CO-OP
Federated
Co-operatives
Limited
SaskCanola
CANADIAN
CANOLA GROWERS
ASSOCIATION
NorthStar
Genetics
SEED HAWK
SaskFlax