



APAS in Action – January 2017

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

Happy New Year from the Board, Representatives and staff of the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan.

Annual General Meeting 2016

APAS held its 2016 Annual General Meeting on November 29-December 1, 2016 at the Queensbury Convention Centre in Regina.

Keynote speakers included:

- Honourable Lyle Stewart- Saskatchewan Minister of Agriculture
- Ray Orb, President Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities
- Prairie Farm Leaders Panel: Humphrey Banack, Canadian Federation of Agriculture, Lynn Jacobson, Alberta Federation of Agriculture, Dan Mazier, Keystone Agriculture Producers and Norm Hall APAS
- Shawn Jaques, President – Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corp
- Elaine Froese- Succession Planning for farm families
- Jeanne Martinson- Effective meetings
- John Bennett, Saskatchewan Soil Conservation Association -Carbon sequestration in prairie soils
- Kate Fillmore, Canadian Transportation Agency
- Marty Seymour, Farm Credit Canada

2016-17 Executive and Board of Directors

The Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS) Board of Directors elected Todd Lewis, APAS Representative for RM of Lajord #128, as President for the 2016-2017 year. Todd farms at Gray SK with his family.

Mr. Lewis replaces Norm Hall, who retires after serving five years as President.

The Board also elected Norm Hall and Ian Boxall of Tisdale as Vice –Presidents

“APAS is very much a team, and I am very honoured to take over from Norm as leader of our team”, said Mr. Lewis. “Norm has done a tremendous job to raise the profile of our industry and our organization, and that is essential work that we plan to continue.” Lewis concluded.



Board Members by District:

District 1-Arlynn Kurtz RM of Fertile Belt #183,
Marion McBride RM of Moosomin #121

District 2-Todd Lewis RM of Lajord #128, Terry
Anthony RM of Baildon #131

District 3-Don Connick RM of Carmichael #109,
Rick Jensen, RM of Webb #138

District 4-Norm Hall RM of Emerald #277, Ian
Boxall, RM of Connaught #457

District 5- Donavon Block RM of Leroy #339,
Mickey Palfy RM of Viscount #341

District 6- Jeff Simpson RM of Grandview #349,
Jeremy Welter RM of Mariposa #350

APAS Committee News

The APAS Policy Committees also met over the course of the meeting to elect their Chairs for the year.

Grains & Oilseeds – Garth Burns RM of Prairie Rose #309

Livestock – Donavon Block RM of Leroy #339

Land & Environment – Cameron Wiebe RM of Churchbridge #211

Economic, Trade and Strategic Growth – Jeremy Welter RM of Mariposa #350

NEW- Representatives voted to set up a Young Farmer's Committee

This committee was formed in order to address the unique challenges faced by young and beginning producers in the agricultural industry. These issues include limited financial capital, exposure to financial and business related risks and limited recognition in the legislation and regulations that govern Saskatchewan agriculture.

APAS Policy Committees are an important source of grassroots policy development for the organization. Thanks to all new, returning and former Committee members for their input and dedication.

New APAS policy manual

Representatives at the meeting also voted to adopt an APAS policy manual to present, record and communicate existing policies and positions. The manual was developed over the summer of 2016, and reviewed by the Board and policy committees, and contains a summary of the resolutions and policy positions that APAS has adopted since 2010. It will be updated yearly. To view the manual, go to the APAS website and look in the Advocacy tab.

2016 APAS AGM Resolutions Summary

Business Risk Management

- Lobby Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation to implement an advance payment program for unharvested crops similar to the program offered through the Alberta crop insurance program.
- Lobby the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC) to grade crop samples to current industry standards, over and above Canadian Grain Commission grades, to ensure that quality coverage remains consistent with the quality requirements now demanded by grain buyers.
- Support the establishment a payment protection fund to provide producers with transparent and cost effective protection against payment default.
- Lobby the federal government to provide mixed farms with separate Advanced Payment Program limits for grains and livestock products.
- Lobby the federal and provincial governments to increase the government matching contribution levels under Agri-Invest and to structure the program as a tax-free investment.

- Support policy changes to ensure that grain elevator companies making a cash advance repayment on behalf of producers provide repayment in a timely manner well in advance of payment deadlines.
- Lobby the federal government to allow producers to exclude chemical costs from seed purchases for the purposes of calculating Allowable Net Sales under the Agri-Invest program.

Transportation and Marketing

- Lobby the federal government to immediately conduct a full railway costing review as part of its ongoing review of the grain handling and transportation system.
- Investigate options to replace the aging government owned hopper car fleet, including the feasibility of ensuring the replacement cars are manufactured in Saskatchewan.
- Lobby the Canadian Grain Commission (CGC) to revise its grain grading system to ensure Canadian grades better align with the quality requirements now demanded by grain buyers.
- Lobby the Ministry of Highways to provide all agricultural delivery points access through the primary weight highway system.

Grains & Oilseeds

- Lobby the federal and provincial governments to prioritize publicly funded research on fungal crop diseases such as fusarium.
- Lobby the GGC to change its grading system to better align with the quality factors now demanded in the marketplace.
- Call on the Provincial Government to maintain consistent standards with neighbouring provinces for the monitoring and measurement of clubroot contamination.

Livestock

- Lobby the federal and provincial governments to ensure that managed herds of wild ungulates on public lands are monitored for infectious diseases like tuberculosis that pose a potential risk to the livestock industry.

- Call on the CFIA to protect Canada's reputation as a safe supplier of meat products by continuing to monitor and contain tuberculosis while ensuring full cooperation and open communication with affected producers, provincial authorities, and industry groups.
- Lobby the federal government to provide immediate financial relief to producers affected by the tuberculosis quarantines through the use of programs like the Advanced Payment Program.
- Request the provincial government to provide technical and financial support to increase the number of beef, pork and poultry slaughter facilities in Saskatchewan.
- Lobby the Provincial Ministry of Agriculture to restore cross fencing as a Beneficial Management Practice (BMP) eligible for cost shared funding under Farm Stewardship programming.

Land and Environment

- Lobby all levels of government to undertake research and education programming around rodent control in agricultural land, particularly for pocket gophers (moles)
- Lobby for increased research on carbon sequestration in hay land, pasture, and environmental acres such as trees and wetlands.
- Conduct a study on provincial weed management legislation and policies, which would take particular notice of the current definition of noxious weeds and the training and funding of weed inspectors.
- Call on the provincial government to work with retailers to fast track the establishment of a cost recovery grain bag recycling program to take effect in 2017.

Economic Trade and Strategic Growth

- Lobby the provincial government to restore the Saskatchewan farm input price survey.

- Explore options for a new agricultural training and certificate program for farm employees that includes an off-season in-class component, as well as on-site training provided by the owner/operator producer as the licensed instructor.
- Write Members of Parliament in support of private member's Bill C-274: Transfer of small business, family farm or fishing operation.
- Strike an APAS Committee to develop a policy document on Young and Beginning Producers, which would examine such issues as access to capital for new entrants, intergenerational transfers and the adequacy of risk management programs for beginning farmers.
- Support a cost effective and efficient delivery model for municipal and social services that does not include the forced amalgamation of rural municipalities, health regions and school divisions.
- Host a roundtable of producers, commodity associations and government officials to discuss right to farm legislation and the increased regulatory burden that many Saskatchewan farm operations are facing in the province.

Youth Mentorship Program

With many agricultural producers either at or near retirement it is increasingly important to have the younger generation involved in agricultural business. The Youth Mentorship program does just that by training agricultural leaders for tomorrow. APAS pairs mentees with experienced mentors who show them what it means to make a difference in agricultural policy.

This year APAS is happy to introduce four new youth mentorship participants: Jasmine Dreger (Yorkton), Kim Keller (Melfort), Steven Donald (Moosomin), and Scott Owens (Maidstone).



Survey on the Next Ag Policy Framework

The Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture is seeking input on the next generation of farm programs. The online survey asks a series of questions about priorities for the next framework's strategic initiatives. Separate consultations will be conducted for business risk management programs like Agri-Invest, Agri-Stability and crop insurance. The survey closes on January 31, 2017. Producers can access the survey at:

www.saskatchewan.ca/growingforward2

Save the Date!

APAS will be co-hosting an Agricultural Carbon Summit with the Western Producer, the Global Institute of Food Security at the University of Saskatchewan and Ag West Biotech. 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. The Carbon Summit takes place in Saskatoon at the Saskatoon Inn on March 29th and March 30th. Please save the date as this will be a very informative discussion. Details to follow.

Welcome to Our New Staff

Amber Bassett- Member Relations/Communications



Amber is originally from Moose Jaw and currently living in Francis, SK with her fiancé and their four kids. Amber convoked from the University of Regina with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English in 2014. Shortly after she began a Communications internship at SaskPower before joining our team at the end of November just in time for our AGM. Amber has a passion for the written word and enjoys everything from reading and writing to editing and in her spare time manages to make time for artistic pursuits such as painting. Amber will be handling Member Relations and Internal Communications at APAS.

Richard Boulding- Climate Change and Carbon Researcher



Richard Boulding was born and raised on the family farm north of McLean, Saskatchewan. He studied geosciences at the University of Regina where he received his Bachelor of Science with Honours in Geology and is currently enrolled in a Masters of Science program set to be completed in spring of 2017. Richard possesses more than 10 years of experience in geoscience including employment with the Saskatchewan Geological Survey, Royal Saskatchewan Museum, and Peace Region Paleontology Research Centre. He also holds valuable teaching experience in Environmental Geology and Soil Science from the University of Regina. In his free time, Richard pursues his passions of farming, earth science, and paleontology, often looking for any excuse to get outside and learn more about the world around him. He is particularly fond of his volunteer efforts with the Royal Canadian Legion and The Terry Fox Foundation for which he was the recipient of the Terry Fox Humanitarian Award.

APAS Saskatchewan Farmer's Voice

Lastly, please take a look at our latest issue of our magazine, Saskatchewan Farmer's Voice available in the Western Producer or online at www.apas.ca featuring articles directly related to APAS business and key agricultural issues.