



## APAS in Action – March 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 by email at: [info@apas.ca](mailto:info@apas.ca) or phone: (306) 789-7774

### Spring APAS District Meetings:

APAS invites you to attend APAS's Spring District meetings. Please find the attached agenda which contains details for our upcoming District meetings. These meetings are a perfect opportunity for you to bring forward your agricultural concerns. All meetings start at 10 AM.

#### Agenda

1. APAS Major Policy Initiatives
  - a. APAS Priorities
  - b. Federal/Provincial Budgets
  - c. Federal/Provincial -Next Ag Policy Framework
  - d. Canadian Grain Commission Surplus Consultation
  - e. Agricultural Carbon Policy
  - f. Young Ag Producers Committee
2. Other District Issues – roundtable and feedback
3. APAS Events: July 13 – 14, 2017, APAS Midterm/ Carbon Summit

District 5

**Tuesday March 28 Saskatoon Hampton Inn Hotel (10:00am)**

105 Stonebridge Blvd, Saskatoon, SK S7T 0G3

District 4

**Monday April 3 Wadena Golf Club (10:00am)**

546 6<sup>th</sup> Street NE Wadena

District 6

**Wednesday April 5 Unity Legion Hall (10:00pm)**

312 Main Street Unity

District 3

**Thursday April 6 Swift Current Home Inn and Suite Hotel (10:00am)**

1411 Battleford Trail E, Swift Current, SK S9H 5N5

District 2

**Monday April 10 Assiniboia Canalta Hotel (10:00am)**

601 1 Ave W, Assiniboia, SK S0H 0B0

Please let us know if you're coming to the meeting. This information will help with our preparation.

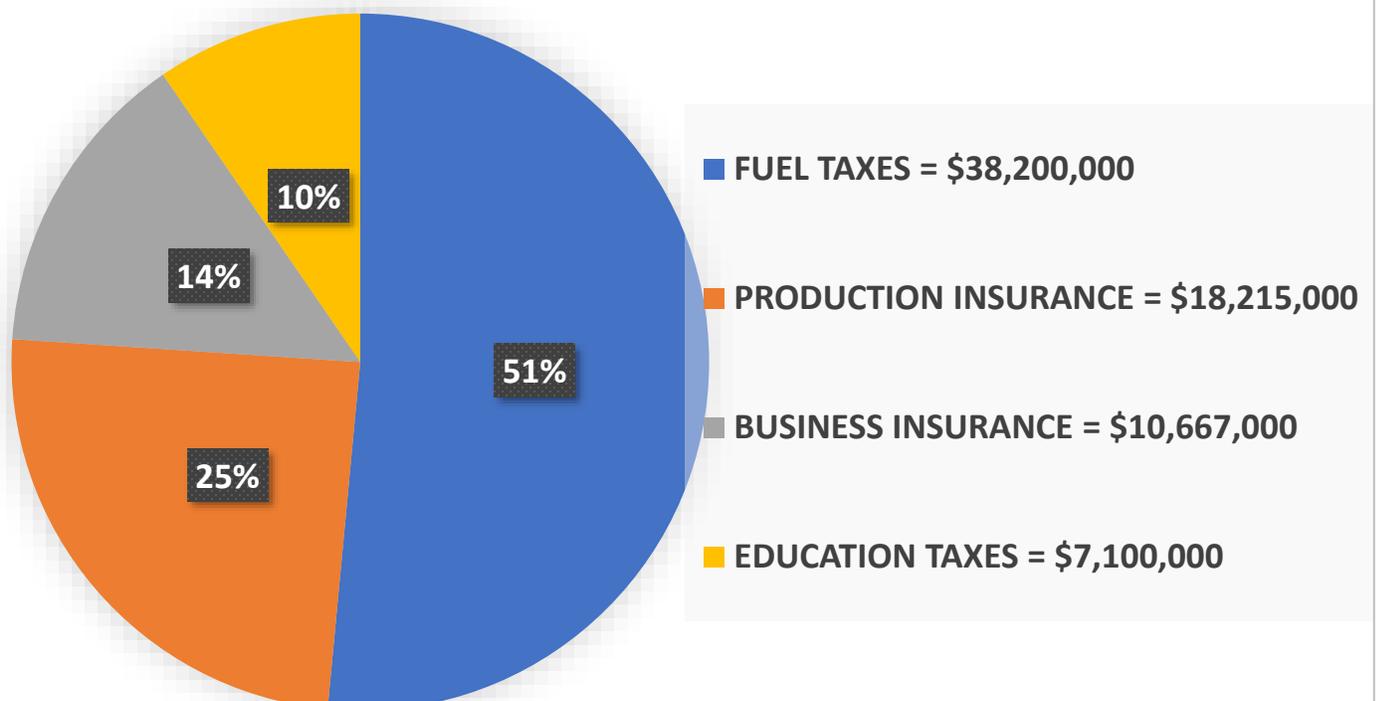
- text your name and RM to 306-596-9905a and location
- email: [Brendamcbride@apas.ca](mailto:Brendamcbride@apas.ca)
- call 306-789-7774 ext 5

## APAS Budget Brief - 2017-2018 Provincial Budget

- Provincial Sales Tax will increase to 6% and be expanded. PST will apply to insurance premiums, including crop insurance. PST exemptions for machinery and farm inputs will continue.
- Farm fuel tax measures- Farm diesel exemption decreased from 100% to 80%. Farm gasoline exemption is ended
- Provincial Community Pasture Program is ended. 50 pastures with 780,000 acres will be transferred to patrons. The final system for transfer will be developed through consultations that start on March 27.
- Education property tax will be linked to 40% of total education funding.
- The Saskatchewan Grain Car Corporation will be wound up. Saskatchewan's 13 shortline railways will be given the first opportunity to purchase the 900 Sask grain cars.
- Irrigation bridges program will end.
- All other budget allocations under Growing Forward 2 will continue, including Business Risk Management and research.
- The Ministry of Agriculture is consulting on extension services with a view to making changes after April 1, 2018.

### 2017/18 Sask Budget (APAS Estimates)

**New Farm Expenses = \$74,182,000**



## **Federal Budget 2017**

There is one major initiative contained in the Federal Budget affecting Saskatchewan producers. The Federal Minister of Finance is holding consultations on ending deferral of cash grain tickets. The APAS Board will be responding vigorously in defense of this important tool.

### **Carbon Summit - Save the Date!**

**July 14, 2017**

APAS will be hosting an Agricultural Carbon Summit July 13 and 14 in conjunction with the APAS Midterm meeting. This event will focus on the 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 at the Saskatoon Inn on July 13 -14<sup>th</sup>. Please save the date as this will be a very informative discussion. Reservations can be made at the Saskatoon Inn under the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan room block please call 306-242-1440.

### **Consultations**

#### **PMRA Neonicotinoid Reviews**

APAS recently submitted a brief to the Pest Management Regulatory Agency's consultation on the neonicotinoid seed treatments, imidacloprid (e.g. Gaucho, Sombrero), and the special reviews of Clothianidin (e.g. Prosper, Poncho) and Thiamethoxam (e.g. Helix, Cruiser). The PMRA is reviewing these ingredients to assess the potential risk to aquatic invertebrates.

Together, these seed treatments are widely used in Saskatchewan grain production. The APAS submission highlights the importance of reviewing farm chemicals to the highest science, risk-based standards, which should include consideration of the health and safety risks posed by the increased use of alternative chemicals. In the immediate term, APAS has requested the PMRA provide industry enough time to gather and submit data during the 2017 growing season. Longer term recommendations include support for a Canada-wide water monitoring program.

To request a copy of the APAS submission, please contact: [mailto: policy@apas.ca](mailto:policy@apas.ca)

### **Survey Request**

#### **Submit Comments to Ministry Review of Extension Services**

The Ministry of Agriculture is reviewing the delivery of Extension Services. Please take a few minutes to complete their online survey. Extension Services include the Agriculture Knowledge Centre, Regional Offices, and a variety of print and electronic publications. Access the survey here: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/public-consultations/help-us-improve-agricultural-extension-services>

## CFA Annual General Meeting February 2017

APAS attended the 2017 Annual General Meeting February 21 – 24 in Ottawa. For the third year in a row we brought our members from the Youth Mentorship Program which provided them with opportunity to see policy development at a National level.

During the week APAS attended question period, participated in additional consultations, networked with people around the county, represented Saskatchewan Agricultural Producers at the CFA meeting and had a meeting with the Saskatchewan caucus.

We additionally have a group of people meet at the office to watch the CFA presentation and vote on CFA resolutions remotely. This is third year we have participated in the remote voting. Two other provinces participated in the remote vote this year.



## 2017 APAS Resolutions Passed at CFA

### *PROGRAM FUNDING*

#### **3. Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program APAS**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the CFA lobby the federal government to return the administration of the Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP) to the provincial organizations.

### *BRM PROGRAM DESIGN*

#### **6. Cash Advance Repayments - APAS**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the CFA support policy changes to ensure grain elevator companies making a cash advance repayment on behalf of producers provide repayment in a timely manner well in advance of payment deadlines.

#### **7. Advance Payment Limits -APAS**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the CFA lobby the federal government to provide mixed farms with separate Advanced Payment Program limits for grains and livestock products.

#### **8. Agri-Invest Commodity Purchases -APAS**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the CFA lobby the federal government to allow producers to exclude those chemical costs and technology use agreement costs bundled with seed purchases when reporting their allowable commodity purchases for Agri-Invest purposes.

#### **9. Agri-Invest Allowable Net Sales APAS**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the CFA support an Agri-invest program that would increase the level of government matching contributions for producers reporting lower allowable net sales.

### *ENVIRONMENT*

#### **17. Carbon Sequestration in Agricultural Landscapes APAS**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that CFA lobby the federal government to increase support for research into carbon sequestration potential of native pastures, tame forage crops, all other crops and their practices, forested lands and wetlands.

### *FOOD SAFETY/ SPS*

#### **19. Research on Fungal Diseases APAS**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the CFA call on the federal governments to prioritize publicly funded research on fungal crop diseases such as fusarium.

#### **20. Monitoring of Wild Ungulates APAS**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the CFA lobby the federal government to ensure that managed herds of wild ungulates on federal Crown lands are monitored for infectious diseases, such as Bovine Tuberculosis and Chronic Wasting Disease.

## *GRAINS AND OILSEEDS*

### **23. Grain Grading System APAS**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that CFA lobby the Canadian Grain Commission (CGC) to revise its grading system to ensure Canadian grades align with the quality requirements now demanded by grain buyers.

### **24. Port of Churchill (KAP/APAS)**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that CFA lobby the Government of Canada to facilitate the transition of the Port of Churchill and the Hudson Bay Railway to alternative ownership in a time frame that is sufficient to ensure the operation of the Port of Churchill for the 2017 grain shipping season.

### **25. Payment Protection Fund APAS**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the CFA investigate whether the CGC accumulated user fee surplus should be used to establish a payment protection fund to provide producers with transparent and cost effective protection against payment default.

## **2017 VP CFA – Norm Hall Elected**

We would like to congratulate Norm Hall on becoming the newest CFA executive member. It has been many years since we have had a Saskatchewan representative on the CFA Executive. The executive for the next two years will be Ron Bonnett President, First Vice -President Norm Hall and Second Vice – President Marcel Groleau.



## **Young APAS Producers Needs your Input**

As a new entrant into the farming or ranching profession you have faced, and will continue to face, many challenges to establish yourself in the industry. Because young producers have a unique viewpoint on Ag issues, the Young APAS Producers (YAP) want to hear your challenges and any potential solutions that you may have by April 4, 2017.

Young APAS Producers was set up at the 2016 APAS Annual General Meeting. The reason for YAP was to focus on the younger ranchers and farmers who face both new and similar obstacles as the previous generation, and to help young ag producers become productive members of their profession.

Land and equipment prices, input costs, the multitude of technological advancements, everchanging regulations, value chains, growing links between farmers/ranchers and food consumers, public interest, and many other factors were not as apparent when your fathers and grandfathers entered farming. The ag world has changed. Commodity prices have remained generally constant. Staying on top means producers have adopted efficient, leading edge, environmentally-sensitive means of increasing farm and ranch production through operational and managerial advancements.

The reason for the formation of Young APAS Producers is to provide a voice for Young Producers that positively influence agriculture policy for today and tomorrow.

### **YAP's purpose is to:**

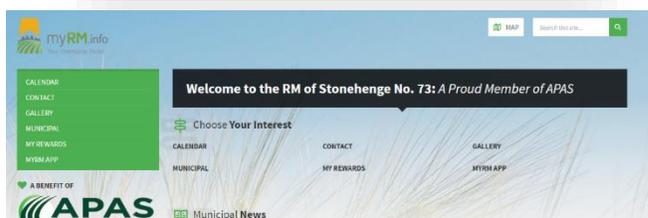
- Passionately represent Young Producers on current issues and policy development to better the agricultural industry for current and future producers
- Take an innovative and future thinking approach to opportunities
- Be a trusted advisor to APAS and the province
- Be ambassadors for agriculture and positively influence public perception
- Seek the wisdom of the producers who came before us to help guide us into the future

Any young producer under that age of 40 years is welcome to submit their comments.

Committee members are: Spencer Maxwell, Nipawin, Chairman Jasmine Dreger, Ebenezer Steve Donald, Moosomin Trewett Chaplin, Craik Daniel Ottenbreit, Grayson Jeremy Welter, Kerrobert Young producer input can be forwarded to Don Ross, APAS (dross@apas.ca or 306-789-7774 ext. 3) and your comments will be forwarded to Committee members for further discussion.

Please provide your name, email address and phone number should any follow up be required.

### **MyRM Website**



As you may be aware the myRM website has gone through some changes lately and that's a good thing! MyRM has a new look and domain name (myRM.info) but it still features the same great information as before. Visit myRM.info and you will still have an experience specific to your RM which includes such information as local weather, community news/events, road closures and emergency notices. So, take a look today and you will see that change can be a good thing!

## **Gift Card Winners**

Congratulations to Kevin Sinclair of District 6, the winner of a \$50 Mark's Work Wearhouse gift card from our Producer Survey giveaway.

APAS would like to thank all participants who completed the survey. The feedback we received is critical in determining producer opinions on the current environmental programming available through Growing Forward 2.

The winner of the CO-OP gas card from the APAS booth at SARM is Darrel Tangen who farms outside of Stewart Valley and has been the manager of the Stewart Valley CO-OP for 31 years! Congratulations Darrel!

## **Acklands-Grainger Catalogue now available!**

Do you need welders, acetylene, power tools, lighting, replacement hand tools, safety equipment, or replacement parts for worn or broken pieces? Acklands-Grainger can meet your needs on a wide range of products to keep you safe and productive. Before you begin the next busy season, spend time to take inventory of your shop and safety needs, and peruse the Acklands-Grainger catalogue.



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