

APAS in Action • May 2019

CANOLA EXPORTS TO CHINA

On March 29, APAS met with Federal Agriculture and Trade Ministers in Saskatoon to discuss the suspension of canola exports to China. At the meeting, APAS proposed the following changes to the Agri-Stability program in order to support canola producers:

- An enhancement of Agri-Stability coverage to deal with export market issues,
- That the federal government waive enrollment fees for 2019 Agri-Stability applications,
- That the 2019 enrollment deadline be extended past April 30, and late enrollment penalties be dropped,
- That governments prepare for Agri-Stability interim payments should trade issues seriously reduce farm income
- That Saskatchewan Crop Insurance staff be available to assist producers with their applications.

APAS also proposed changes to the Cash Advance program to revise its program year limits to ensure that producers can receive an advance on stored grain from 2018 production with flexible repayment terms while still having access to the full \$400,000 limit for 2019 spring advances. APAS also requested an increase in the interest free portion.

The government has since announced an increase in the maximum loan limit of the Advance Payments program to \$1 million from \$400,000. The interest-free portion will also increase to \$500,000 from \$100,000.

CARBON COSTING

With the arrival of the Carbon Tax in Saskatchewan last month, APAS staff have crunched the numbers and come up with their best estimate of how much the tax will actually cost producers. According to APAS calculations, the average Saskatchewan grain farmer will see an increase of \$2 per acre in direct and indirect costs this year under a \$20/tonne federal carbon tax. That number will increase to \$4 per acre by 2022.

To read the full report, [click here](#).

APAS ONLINE SURVEY - RURAL INTERNET AND CELL SERVICE

The federal government has committed funds to bring 90% of Canadian homes and small businesses to a certain standard of internet and cell service by 2021. APAS is looking for more specific information about your experience with rural internet and cell service in Saskatchewan. Please take a few minutes to complete APAS' online survey at apas.ca/rural-survey.

APAS STAFF UPDATE

APAS would like to welcome Curtis Hemming to the APAS team. Curtis joins us from the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce. He is the Assistant General Manager and can be reached at chemming@apas.ca. Brent Kobes is another new staff member. Brent is a research intern, and can be reached at bkobes@apas.ca.

APAS MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

With the recent additions of RMs #460 Birch Hills, #250 Last Mountain Valley, #220 McKillop and #429 Flett's Springs, APAS membership is currently sitting at 135 member RMs. Welcome to APAS!

HAIL INSURANCE

APAS would like to recognize the Saskatchewan hail insurance companies that have extended their coverage periods to October 31 from October 15. APAS has written to all Saskatchewan insurance companies to request that the coverage period be extended, after [a resolution was passed at the 2018 APAS AGM](#).

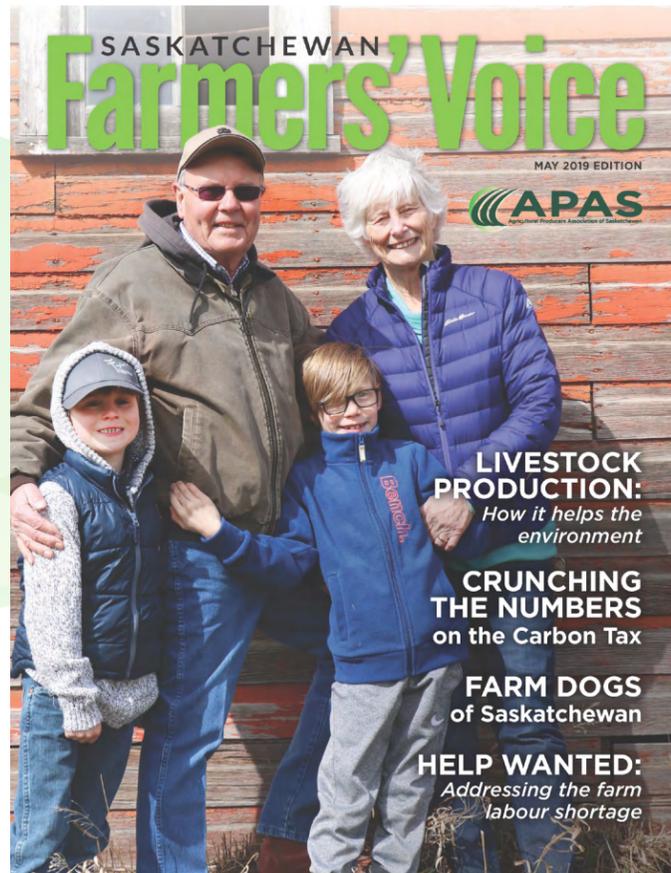
MOISTURE SURVEY

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada is collecting information from producers across the country about how weather and climate are affecting their farm operations. The information from these surveys help the government monitor areas of concern across the country, and decide who is eligible for supports such as the Livestock Tax Deferral program.

As we saw last year with the Livestock Tax Deferral program, it is critical that AAFC has accurate, up-to-date information about the weather and climate conditions that are affecting our producers. Please consider signing up for the monthly agroclimate survey email [HERE](#).

SASKATCHEWAN FARMERS' VOICE

The new issue of Saskatchewan Farmers' Voice is out. Check your farm mailbox for the May 2019 edition, or read it online at apas.ca/saskatchewan-farmers-voice.



2019 APAS POLICY CONFERENCE AND CARBON SUMMIT

APAS held its 2019 Policy Conference and Carbon Summit, April 2 and 3 in Saskatoon. The Carbon Summit presenters' slidedecks and videos of their presentations can be found at www.apas.ca/2019-carbon-summit.

CFA LOBBY DAY AND PRODUCING PROSPERITY CAMPAIGN

On April 9th, APAS President Todd Lewis joined the CFA delegation to Parliament Hill for their annual lobby day. Todd and the CFA team met with more than 45 MPs, Senators and policy makers.

The meetings coincided with the launch of the CFA's 'Producing Prosperity in Canada' campaign, which aims to request support for the Agri-Food industry from all political parties leading up to the federal election in October.

"Our goal is to convince government to treat Agri-Food policies as a national priority, regardless of whether they represent rural vs urban ridings," CFA President Mary Robinson said. To learn more, please visit www.producingprosperitycanada.ca.

NEW APAS MEMBER BENEFITS

There are several new member benefits available to ratepayers in [APAS member RMs](#). In addition to the just-launched EDGE benefits ([disability](#), [business overhead](#), [health and dental insurance](#)), [Simpli Dental](#) and [Section 25 Management](#) are now offering special pricing and discounts to APAS members. For more information about APAS member benefits, visit apas.ca/my-rewards.

APAS IN THE NEWS

- [Sask. will expand mandatory driver training to farm semis](#) - Regina Leader-Post
- ['Times are tough': farmers' net income in Canada nearly slashed in half in 2018](#) - Global Regina
- [Biosecurity at issue: APAS pleased with passage of updated civil trespass legislation](#) - Battlefords News-Optimist
- [Saskatchewan's Court of Appeal has ruled carbon tax is constitutional](#) - RealAgriculture
- [APAS reacts to new money for canola farmers](#) - CBC Morning Edition
- [Saskatchewan farmers stick to seeding plans despite trade barriers](#) - CJME
- [APAS president discusses China trade and carbon tax with federal officials in Ottawa](#) - CKRM
- [Three Canadians reflect on how climate change affects their livelihoods](#) - CBC
- [Ottawa open to helping canola growers](#) - Western Producer
- [Calculating the cost of a carbon tax](#) - Western Producer
- [APAS president details full agenda for meetings this week](#) - Discover Weyburn
- [Carbon tax worries Saskatchewan farmers](#) - Global

UPCOMING DATES

- July 16-18 - Ag in Motion, Langham SK

APAS in Action is the monthly e-newsletter detailing the activities of the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan - Saskatchewan's general farm organization. Subscribe here: <http://www.apas.ca/apas-in-action>.

If you have questions about or wish to comment on anything you have read in APAS in Action, please feel free to contact the APAS office at info@apas.ca or (306) 789-7774 ext. 6.