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## APAS BULLETIN - COVID-19

March 25, 2020

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Dear APAS Members:

This is the first in a series of information bulletins to help APAS members stay up to date on important agricultural issues related to COVID-19.

The situation continues to evolve rapidly. **To ensure that you receive the most current regional information related to COVID-19 and agriculture, please [subscribe to this newsletter](#) and share it with your contacts.**

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### **CALL TO ACTION: Survey on the impacts of COVID-19 on Saskatchewan farmers**

COVID-19 will have both short and longer-term impacts on agricultural producers. It is crucial that APAS, as your voice to government, understands what is happening at the farmgate so that we can effectively advocate for Saskatchewan producers during this crisis. If you are unable to sell your production or purchase essential inputs, we need to know!

**APAS has created a survey to track the impacts of COVID-19 on Saskatchewan agriculture. Please take a few minutes to [complete it now](#).**

We will be updating the survey as the situation evolves and ask that you plan to complete it on a weekly basis. All responses are anonymous, and the information will be forwarded to the APAS Board of Directors, government

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## COVID-19 resources

APAS has compiled reputable COVID-19 resources related to agriculture. They are [available on our website](#) and are updated regularly.

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## Federal government economic response

On March 23 the federal government announced economic measures related to agriculture as part of its COVID-19 response plan.

These include \$5 billion to Farm Credit Canada to expand its lending capacity, and a six-month extension on Advance Payment Program loans due on or before April 30, 2020. [Read APAS's overview of the changes here.](#)

On March 23 APAS issued a media release welcoming these changes as an important first step. [Read it here.](#)

APAS has also been working with the Canadian Federation of Agriculture and other provincial farm organizations to propose additional economic support measures. We are expecting additional announcements in the weeks ahead and are strongly advocating for improved programs and supports for Saskatchewan producers. **Saskatchewan farmers are also encouraged to advise us of their financial needs during this difficult time by [completing the APAS weekly farm survey](#).**

Read the APAS press release on the crucial role of agriculture during the COVID-19 crisis [here](#).

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## Supply-chain impacts

APAS is closely monitoring the supply-chain impacts arising from COVID-19. Critical supply-chains for agriculture include rail and port infrastructure for export; the primary elevator system; livestock auction markets and processors; and the supply of essential farm inputs such as fertilizer, chemicals and veterinary medicines.

disruptions through APAS's [weekly survey](#). **Read the APAS Supply-Chain update [here](#).**

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## APAS office closure

Until further notice, the APAS office will be closed to the public and APAS staff will be working from their home offices. Please continue to contact us at (306) 789-7774 or [here](#). You can also find contact information for all APAS Board and staff [here](#).

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## APAS meeting disruptions

At this time, we will be suspending all in-person meetings indefinitely. We are investigating solutions for staying in touch and for continuing the work that would normally be done during in-person APAS Policy Committee meetings and District meetings. Stay tuned.

For now, the APAS Board of Directors has taken the important first step of appointing the 2020 Policy Committee Chairs as follows:

- Crops and Transportation – Ian Boxall
  - Land and Environment – Scott Owens
  - Rural Life – Wanda Reid/Terry Anthony (co-chairs)
  - Livestock – Donovan Block
  - Economic and Trade – Jeremy Welter
  - YAP – Steven Donald and Paige Stewart (co-chairs)
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## Tragic news to share

We are extremely saddened to share the news that APAS Board member and Representative to RM #138 (Webb) Rick Jensen passed away in a tragic house fire on his farm on March 15. Rick's son Kevin also passed away in the fire.

On behalf of the entire APAS community, our deepest condolences go out to Rick's surviving sons, Brad and Mark, their families, and everyone that was shaped by Rick's friendship and community service. Rick was a friend and mentor to many and made many incredible contributions to his community and



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## APAS Board vacancy filled

In light of Rick's passing, the APAS Board of Directors has made the difficult but necessary decision to fill the Board vacancy until the next APAS Annual General Meeting. Thank you to Don Connick, APAS Representative to RM #109 (Carmichael) for agreeing to step into Rick's role as Board member for District 3 until the next APAS Board election.

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We will continue to keep in touch as the situation evolves. Until then, take care of yourselves and your families, and let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Best regards,  
APAS Board of Directors and staff



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