

Dear APAS Members:

APAS in Action, the newsletter of the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan, keeps you up to date with our most current work on agricultural research, policy, and advocacy. **Please [subscribe now](#).**

What's the way forward on rural cell and internet service?

Poor cell and internet service in rural communities is a well-known problem facing Saskatchewan residents, and positive change is long overdue.

APAS continues to tackle the issue of rural connectivity on behalf of our members, and are proud to announce the release of a new report called "[Out of Range: Internet and Cell Service in Rural Saskatchewan.](#)"

The report analyzes data collected by APAS between May 2019 and January 2020, and clearly shows that we should all be concerned about poor access to cell and internet service: **it is affecting the economy, education, and safety of rural residents.**

Over the next few months we will be advocating to the Canadian Radio and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) to change their criteria for defining "underserved areas." **It's a necessary first step towards improving connectivity in rural Saskatchewan.**

We know what needs to happen, and now we need to back up our recommendation with the best, most current data available!

That's where you come in. **We are launching a new connectivity survey and we invite you to [take 3-4 minutes to complete it now](#).**

We'll continue collecting responses over the summer, so please share the survey link with other rural residents including farmers, ranchers, and those living in small towns, villages, and First Nations communities.

We can fix this longstanding rural problem by working together!

**START
SURVEY**



75% of survey respondents aren't satisfied with their rural internet service.

63% aren't satisfied with their mobile phone service.

Take the survey now!



APAS addresses House of Commons Agriculture Committee

On June 12, **APAS President Todd Lewis addressed the House of Commons Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food.** He presented APAS's recommendations for changes to Agri-Stability, including an increase to AgriStability coverage levels and an elimination of the Reference Margin Limit.

APAS has released updated research that demonstrates the limitations of the AgriStability program. The APAS example shows that **there would have to be a catastrophic drop of over 40% in the price of canola (a decrease of \$11/bushel to \$6.35/bushel) before it would trigger AgriStability coverage under the current model.** [Read more here.](#)

- Read our news release: ["APAS to address House of Commons Agriculture Committee"](#)
- Dig in to our background research by reading our [Agri-Stability Coverage Backgrounder](#)
- [Watch the webcast of the APAS presentation](#) to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food



Carbon tax NOT insignificant

Despite federal Minister of Agriculture Marie-Claude Bibeau's recent comments that the carbon tax applied to grain drying is not significant enough to warrant exemption, APAS is standing by our numbers, which demonstrate the opposite.

Back in February, APAS released updated estimates on the financial impacts of the carbon tax to Saskatchewan producers. The costing review took into consideration **all major farm expenses** not currently exempt from the carbon tax. These include grain drying, rail transportation, heating and electricity, and truck hauling of crops off the farm.

The evidence was stark: on average, **Saskatchewan farmers can expect to lose 8% of their total net income in 2020 to the carbon tax.** For a household managing a 5,000-acre grain farm in Saskatchewan, this will take the form of a \$8,000-10,000 bill.

In less than two years, when the carbon tax increases to \$50/tonne in 2022, this bill will go up to \$13,000-17,000 for the same household – **the equivalent of a 12% decrease in net income.**

Didn't have a chance to review our numbers? [Check out our backgrounder on the cost of the carbon tax.](#)

The new issue of Saskatchewan Farmers' Voice is now out!

A new edition of Saskatchewan Farmers' Voice magazine is hot off the presses!

The Summer 2020 issue of *Farmers' Voice* is packed full of important agricultural information ranging from profiles of local producers to ways that APAS has been advocating for good agricultural policy ... to everyone's favourite: our regular feature on Saskatchewan farm dogs!

In this issue, make sure to check out:

- An interview with Angela Bedard-Haughn, the newly appointed Dean of the College of Ag and Bioresources at the University of Saskatchewan. Angela tells us all about the most **cutting edge research currently taking place at the U of S**, and how it promises to transform agriculture for all of us!
- A profile of young producer and APAS Board member Devin Harlick. We visit Devin's farm to learn about his take on **sheep, technology, and the future of Saskatchewan ag.**
- A special policy feature that dives deep into the work that APAS has been doing to advocate for **better Business Risk Management programs and emergency relief** for the province's producers.
- PLUS COVID-19 resources for ag, farm dogs, and plenty more!



Saskatchewan Farmers' Voice is sent out (FREE!) to all Saskatchewan farm mailboxes three times per year. You can also read every issue online at apas.ca. And if you are receiving *Farmers' Voice* and would like to, just drop us a line at info@apas.ca, and we'll be happy send you your free copy.

Stay safe and keep in touch about any specific issues you are facing in your own operations and communities!

Best regards,
APAS Board of Directors and staff