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Ag Matters

March 5, 2026



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**There was a lot of work in February ...
So Let's Get Started!**



February was a busy month for APAS, culminating in a whirlwind week in Ottawa at the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) AGM. APAS tackled agricultural issues face-to-face with federal leaders, MPs, and stakeholders, advocating for Saskatchewan producers.

From the halls of Parliament to meetings with the High Commission of India, Competition Bureau, and industry leaders, APAS drove forward the message that farmers need fair markets, ambitious trade policies, and practical solutions to the challenges they face daily.

We discussed everything from tackling corporate consolidation and boosting pulse and canola trade opportunities, to ensuring livestock traceability systems are effective—not intrusive. Add in updates on strychnine for pest control, and AAFC research cuts, and it's safe to say February left us no time to hibernate!

Grab a coffee (or something stronger), buckle up, and dive into this packed issue of Ag Matters—you'll find details, insights, and a dose of optimism in this issue!

High Commission of India

APAS met with India High Commissioner
Dinesh K Patnaik, focused on
agricultural trade ties between Canada

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its agricultural policies, such as the Minimum Support Price (MSP) to aid subsistence farmers. Key takeaways from the meeting:



L-R Scott Hermus, Brett Spray, Chris Procyk, Anyka Faucher (Young Leader), High Commissioner Patnaik, Roseanna Stendall (Young Leader), Jeremy Welter, Mackenzie Seidle (Young Leader), Caitlin Filipowich (Young Leader), Dion McGrath.

- **Pulse Demand** - India's need for pulses is poised to double in the coming decade, opening significant avenues for Saskatchewan growers.
- **Tariffs** - To stabilize the market, India would like to explore Tariffs Rate Quota's for Canadian pulse imports.
- **Canola** - With India as the world's largest cooking oil consumer, Canadian canola seed exports hold tremendous potential.

India's appreciation for Canada's sustainable, high-quality agricultural products sets the stage for an optimistic future in food security and bilateral trade.

APAS confronted corporate consolidation at the Competition Bureau, advocating for Saskatchewan farmers.

The organization passed resolutions urging investigations into anti-competitive practices by agricultural implement manufacturers and input suppliers.

These measures address rising costs and dwindling competition critical for farmers' survival.

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In discussions with the Bureau, APAS pinpointed the adverse effects of small mergers and retail changes in rural areas, which inflate prices and limit access to essential farming needs.



Targeting ag implement manufacturers and input suppliers, APAS aims to combat unfair practices and market distortions that restrict access to affordable inputs.

Consolidation poses a severe threat to competition, reducing farmers' choices and bargaining power. APAS's efforts seek to ensure a balanced marketplace where farmers' livelihoods are safeguarded against monopolistic practices.



APAS met with Saskatchewan Members of Parliament Cathy Wagantall, Jeremy Patzer, and Steven Bonk, discussing pressing issues for Saskatchewan agriculture.

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Back Row - Steven Bonk, Jeremy Patzer, Cathy Wagantall

Front - APAS Young Leaders - Caitlin Filipowich, Anyka Faucher, Roseanna Stendall, Mackenzie Seidle

Highlights of the conversations include:

- **AAFC Research Budget Cuts** - MPs are reviewing Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) cuts through the agriculture committee's efforts—APAS will seek further insights.
- **Strychnine** - Discussions highlighted optimism that a solution for strychnine access is still being explored, with hopes for a positive outcome.
- **Export Sales Reporting** - MPs expressed interest in APAS's calls for better reporting to maintain transparency on export sales.
- **Farm Tax Rollover** - Discussions supported APAS's efforts to ensure tax rollover policies benefit farmers for generational transitions.

The MPs voiced their strong support for keeping critical agriculture issues top of mind in Ottawa.

Minister MacDonald

APAS met with Minister MacDonald to discuss practical solutions for farmers on critical concerns. The primary focus was research cuts, export sales reporting and strychnine access, where the Minister committed to continuing work to identify relief for producers managing pest issues.



The discussion reinforced optimism that the government is moving forward on agriculture-related issues, working toward solutions that benefit the sector.

L-R Bill Prybylski, Roseanna Stendall, Anyka Faucher, Minister MacDonald, Caitlin Filipowich, Mackenzie Seidle, Chris Procyk

MP Kody Blois, Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister



APAS met with MP Kody Blois to discuss an array of issues.

Key topics include:

The development of a **National Food Security Strategy**, with a focus on stabilizing food costs: The strategy will prioritize cost control for Canadian consumers, recognizing the vital role of primary producers and the agricultural supply chain.

Strychnine Access - Blois stressed the need for a science-based approach, balancing environmental concerns with practical rural realities.

AAFC Research Cuts - acknowledgment of deferred maintenance issues resulting in tough budget decisions but expressed optimism about resolving agricultural challenges.

The conversation emphasized commitment to addressing farmers' needs while ensuring Canadian food security grows sustainably.



CFIA - Traceability

APAS met with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) to discuss its livestock traceability initiative, aimed at protecting herds and maintaining global market trust.

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Vice-President, Science	Tower 2
Vice-President, Public Affairs	Tower 1
Vice-President, Human Resources	Tower 2
Vice-President, Corporate Management Branch	Tower 2
Executive Director, Audit and Evaluation	Tower 2
Legal Services	Tower 2
Vice-President, Information Management and Information Technology	Tower 2

Key takeaways:

1. Disease Prevention, especially for Foot and mouth disease and other fast-moving threats remain focal points for Canada's livestock security.
2. Producer Concerns were expressed and CFIA acknowledged confusing information surrounding proposed traceability measures and promised better communication and updated resources.
3. APAS extended an invitation for CFIA to engage with the APAS Livestock Committee in March, ensuring meaningful producer input.

The agency committed to continuing respectful engagement with producers while balancing the requirements of trading partners and global audits.

CFA AGM

Export Sales Reporting: A Necessity for Canadian Farmers

The APAS resolution advocating for the creation of a Grain Export Sales Reporting Program was moved and spoken to by APAS Young Leader Anyka Faucher.

This important resolution was subsequently adopted by the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA). The resolution addresses the up to \$57 million Canadian farmers are losing annually due to lack of transparency in export sales data.

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who benefit from real-time data, Canadian farmers are working with outdated information. Implementing this reporting program would provide them with timely data, enabling significant improvements in basis timing and ensuring millions in retained revenue.



Additionally, the program promises to enhance supply chain efficiency—allocations for rail and port would be based on actual sales, reducing speculative estimates that lead to bottlenecks and inflated costs. With implementation authority already existing under the Statistics Act and Canada Grain Act, this proposal is both practical and cost-effective.

This resolution stands to enhance transparency, boost competitiveness, and solidify the economic foundation of Canadian agriculture.

APAS Young Leader Roseanna Stendall, seconds the APAS resolution on Export Sales Reporting.

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APAS Young Leader Advocates for Domestic Ag Input Production

Caitlin Filipowich moved and spoke to an APAS resolution urging the federal government to support increased domestic production of agricultural inputs, such as fertilizer and crop protection products.

This resolution highlights Canada's heavy reliance on imported inputs—particularly nitrogen and phosphorus fertilizers, which are largely sourced from the United States.

This dependence poses significant risks, as global trade disruptions directly impact farm costs and Canadian food security. Strengthening domestic production not only mitigates these vulnerabilities but also aligns with federal priorities, such as the “Buy Canadian” initiative and the goal of fostering a resilient economy.

The resolution was overwhelming adopted by CFA delegates!

Filipowich's advocacy emphasizes the need for strategic investments that reduce reliance on imports, lower costs for farmers, and enhance Canada's agricultural self-sufficiency.



Supporting domestic input production is a critical step toward ensuring the long-term sustainability and security of Canadian agriculture.



L-R Brodie Berrigan, CFA, Lori Robinson, PEI Federation of Ag, Mackenzie Seidle, APAS, Florence Lefebvre, Quebec Organic Vegetable farmer, Chris Bodnar, Organic BC.

Mackenzie Seidle knocked it out of the park on the panel discussion with farmers from across Canada!

MP John Barlow, CPC Ag Critic and Vice Chair, Standing Committee on Agriculture



APAS Discusses Agricultural Issues with Conservative Ag Critic John Barlow

APAS met with Conservative Party Agriculture Critic John Barlow to address several issues impacting Saskatchewan producers.

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- **AAFC Budget Cuts** - APAS expressed concerns about the proposed reductions to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), highlighting potential negative impacts on the agricultural sector during challenging times. They urged for a reassessment of these reductions.
- **Livestock Traceability** - The need for improved livestock traceability was emphasized, with APAS advocating for federal support to enhance systems that track livestock, vital for market access and public trust.
- **Strychnine Ban Decision** - APAS challenged the recent ban on strychnine used for gopher control, citing significant crop damage and economic losses for farmers. They requested a reconsideration of the decision based on practical, science-based alternatives.
- **Export Sales Transparency** - The delegation stressed the importance of real-time data in export sales, advocating for a Grain Export Sales Reporting Program to help farmers make informed marketing decisions and improve competitiveness.

MP Barlow acknowledged the issues raised by APAS and addressing them with policymakers to support a sustainable future for Canadian agriculture.

MP Buckley Belanger, Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Development



During discussions with Buckley Belanger, APAS raised key concerns regarding ongoing access to strychnine. Belanger reassured producers that the issue remains under active review, with efforts continuing to find viable solutions.

United States Department of Agriculture

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In a productive meeting, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) expressed interest in biofuels and renewable energies within Canadian agriculture. They sought APAS's perspective on advocacy of Canadian farm groups regarding these opportunities versus the leadership of US farm groups promoting more renewable fuels.



This conversation revealed the potential for amplified collaboration on renewable fuel innovations, emphasizing the importance of a Canadian voice in driving renewable energy initiatives forward.

Senate Standing Committee Agriculture and Forestry

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L-R Senator Sharon Burey, Senator Rob Black, Senator Marnie McBean, APAS Young Leaders Mackenzie Seidle & Anyka Faucher, Senator Tracy Muggli, Senator Mary Robinson, Alberta Sugar Beets Young Leader Kevin Cramps, Senator John McNair.

Young Leaders were invited to attend the Standing Committee Agriculture and Forestry as they study **Bill S-230 National Strategy for Soil Health Act**.

Young leaders sitting directly behind the witnesses being welcomed by the Committee Chair, Senator Robinson.



This Bill requires the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food to develop a national strategy to support and promote efforts across Canada to protect, conserve and enhance the health of soil. This Bill is sponsored by Senator Robert Black.

What a Month!

With February wrapped up, APAS celebrates a period rich in advocacy, policy discussion, and the nurturing of emerging agricultural leaders.

Our engagements, particularly with key policymakers have reinforced our commitment to representing Saskatchewan farm families effectively. February also served as a platform for our emerging leaders, intertwining hands-on experience in agricultural policy and advocacy.

APAS in the News

Global News - Premier in India
- February 26

SaskToday - 2026 Crop
Insurance, February 23

SaskToday - AAFC Research
Cuts, February 4

Global News - Pest Control
February 4



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