

Ag Matters
July 17, 2025



APAS Requests Emergency Use of Strychnine to Battle Gophers!



APAS has submitted a request to the Honourable Heath MacDonald, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food and the Honourable Marjorie Michel, Minister of Health to urgently consider the reinstatement of strychnine under the Emergency Use Registration of the Pest Control Products Regulations.

This request is driven by the significant and uncontrolled increase in Richardson's ground squirrel populations, which is inflicting economic damages estimated to average nearly \$9M annually.



The Request:

- Temporarily approve immediate strychnine use.
- Ensure safety and environmental protection measures.
- Encourage collaboration for innovative, effective, and environmentally safe pest control alternatives.
- Foster open communication with all parties for transparent decision-making.

APAS recognizes and respects the previous cancellation of strychnine's uses but underscores the current methods available for ground squirrel management are largely ineffective, impractical, or too costly.

Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation Offers Support for Gopher Management.



**SASKATCHEWAN
WILDLIFE
FEDERATION**

To ensure the wild life legacy we leave to our children surpasses that which we inherited.

SASKATCHEWAN WILDLIFE FEDERATION OFFERS SUPPORT TO LANDOWNERS FACING GOPHER OVERPOPULATION

June 25, 2025 – With escalating gopher populations causing increasing concern for landowners across Saskatchewan, the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation (SWF), with the support of the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM), is stepping up to offer practical assistance.

Gophers are a significant cause of crop loss and land degradation, impacting the livelihood of Saskatchewan producers and landowners. In response, the SWF is connecting landowners with trusted SWF members who are ready to assist in controlling gopher numbers in a responsible and ethical manner.

Landowners experiencing challenges with gophers are encouraged to contact the SWF Office at 306-692-8812. The SWF will then work to identify available SWF members in that area to coordinate arrangements directly with the landowner.

All SWF members participating in this initiative carry an additional \$5 million in liability coverage, and are expected to uphold the highest standards of safety, conduct, and landowner respect.

“We recognize the growing frustration gophers are causing in rural areas, particularly as they damage crops and create hazards for livestock,” said Darrell Crabbe, SWF Executive Director. “We’re proud to support our members in being part of the solution—helping our landowners while maintaining ethical hunting practices.”

For more information or to request support, please contact the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation at 306-692-8812.

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For media inquiries, please contact:

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The Barley Benchmark Survey



Every farmer has a story. The Barley Benchmark turns your hard work and expertise into meaningful data—showcasing the care, precision, and expertise behind Canadian malting barley production.

With transparent data, international customers and decision-makers gain a clearer understanding of Canadian barley's value proposition. This builds trust, creates new opportunities, and reinforces Canada's reputation as a global leader.

By participating, you're supporting today's farmers while paving the way for tomorrow's opportunities.

[Take the Survey](#)

Canadian Federation of Agriculture Summer Meeting



CFA Board Meeting



L-R Keith Curry, CFA President, Senator Lewis, Senator Robinson, Senator Black



L-R - Keith Curry, CFA President, Scott Ross, CFA Exec Director, David Hunt, Chief Commissioner, Canadian Grain Commission, Nathan Gerelus, Canadian Grain Commission



The CFA Board Meeting and Policy Summit, dove deep into some of the pressing issues of Canadian agriculture:

Managing Rising Input Costs - Strategies on securing essential farming inputs amidst escalating prices and supply constraints.

Navigating Regulatory Landscapes - Balancing economic competitiveness with health, safety, and environmental standards through regulatory optimization and innovation in farming technologies.

Addressing Farm Finance - With a focus on the looming retirement of 60% of farmers by 2030, topics included succession planning, access to financing, and leveraging digital investments for the next generation.

Building Trade Resiliency - Strategies to handle global trade uncertainties, including diversification, reducing barriers, and improving infrastructure.

The policy panels offered insights into securing the long-term viability of Canadian agriculture.

Senator Robinson Shares Vision for Boosting Canada's Agriculture Sector



Senator Mary Robinson shares her thoughts on how Canada can make the most of its incredible agriculture sector. From investing in technology and infrastructure to tackling labor shortages, there's huge potential to boost productivity and cement our place as a global leader in sustainable, high-quality food production. Check out her vision for growing Canadian agriculture and unlocking new opportunities for farmers and exports.

[Read Senator Robinson's Article](#)

Applications Open for the APAS Young Leaders Program

Young Leaders Program



Overview

The APAS Young Leaders Program brings together interested young farmers between the ages of 18 and 40 to:

- Enhance leadership skills.
- Deepen understanding of agriculture policy development and advocacy.
- Understand how policy decisions are influenced.
- Expand professional networks.
- Obtain governance credentials.
- Enhance understanding of the socioeconomic impacts of agriculture within the Canadian context.

Participants will learn and contribute to various agricultural policy avenues, including grassroots policy development and advocacy, program delivery, and the ability to engage in effective leadership at local, provincial, and national levels in agriculture.

Objectives

- Enhance participants' leadership skills.
- Provide board governance credentials.
- Provide experiential learning in governance processes and procedures.
- Demonstrate methods to influence government and industry decisions.
- Provide networking opportunities for broader agricultural insights in Saskatchewan and across Canada.
- Cultivate the next generation of agricultural and community leaders.

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Young Leaders Program



Program at a Glance

In collaboration with the APAS Young Leader participants, and other young producers, participants will engage in grassroots policy development by:

- Participating in APAS District meetings.
- Joining APAS Policy Committees and standing meetings.
- Attending APAS Board meetings.
- Participating in the APAS Policy Conference.
- Participating in the resolution process at the APAS AGM, preparing, advocating, and delivering resolutions at the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) AGM, Canadian Agricultural-Food and Agri-Food (CFFA) Agriculture Ministers meeting.
- Completing a comprehensive governance training module.
- Activity engage with elected officials.

Throughout the year, participants will witness and influence the translation of current agricultural issues into accountable policy. Participants will learn how to take their policy concepts and transform them into formal submissions addressed to government. Participants will also have the opportunity to be involved in formal board settings and hone their skills in presenting and advocating for resolutions during Annual General Meetings (AGM) and Board meetings. Participants will also have the opportunity to meet with elected officials from Saskatchewan and Canada, refining their ability to engage in effective advocacy and conversations to maximize influence and build relationships.

These activities offer a unique opportunity for participants to actively contribute to policy development and gain firsthand experience in agricultural governance and advocacy.

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Timeline



Month	Event
August	Applications close August 31
September	Successful applicants announced
October	Onboarding with district meetings and board meeting
December	AGM: Welcome mixer and attendance at AGM and board meeting
January	Board governance certifications, policy committee selection and engagement
February - March	CFA: Attend CFA AGM in Ottawa and APAS board meeting
March - April	APAS Policy Conference
June	Board, District and Committee Meetings
July	CFA Board and FPT Agriculture Ministers meeting

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[Apply Here](#)

APAS in the News

9 Years of Drought (July 6) Canadian Press

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