

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:

Darrell Crabbe, Executive Director, SWF
306-692-8812
dcrabbe@swf.sk.ca

Adam Brougham, Strategic Communications Advisor, SARM
306-761-3729
coordinator@sarm.ca

9 LANCASTER ROAD, MOOSE JAW, SASKATCHEWAN S6J 1M8
T: 306.692.8812 F:306.692.4370 E:SASK.WILDLIFE@SWF.SK.CA W:SWF.SK.CA

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.

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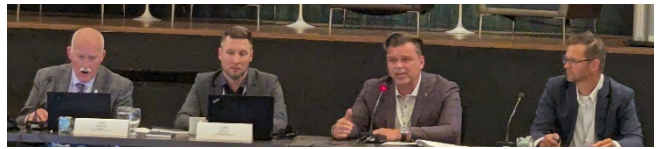
Canadian Federation of Agriculture Summer Meeting



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.
- Achieve governance training 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. The program equips participants to emerge as effective leaders at local, provincial, and national levels in agriculture.

Objectives

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

Program at a Glance

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

- Participating in APAS District meetings.
- Joining APAS Policy Committees and attending meetings.
- Attending APAS board meetings.
- Participating in the APAS Policy Conference.
- Participating in the resolution process at the APAS AGM.
- Presenting, advocating, and influencing resolutions at the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) AGM.
- Attending Federal Provincial-Territorial (FPT) Agriculture Ministers meeting.
- Completing a comprehensive governance training certificate.
- Actively engage with elected officials.

Throughout the year, participants will witness and influence the creation of current agricultural issues into actionable policy resolutions. These resolutions are subsequently transferred into formal submissions addressed to government and industry stakeholders. Participants will be immersed in formal board settings and hone their skills in presenting and advocating for resolutions during Annual General Meetings. Additionally, they will engage with elected officials from Saskatchewan and Canada, refining their ability to engage in impactful consultations 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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Young Leaders Program

Optional Additions

Tailored to each cohort based on their experience and interests:

- Tour of sponsor offices.
- Tour of the Saskatchewan legislature.
- Presence in booths at AgExpoSask, Crop Production Show, Ag in Motion.
- Public speaking/media training.
- Attendance at the Sask Young Ag Conference and Women in Ag Conference.

Continuing Benefits

The network that the participants will have built throughout their time in the program will continue to benefit them in whatever role they choose to take on in agriculture. They will also have a strong understanding of board and committee mechanisms, governance, and importance making them a fantastic candidate to be involved in other organizations or continue to work with APAS.

For participants from non-member RMs, they will be supported by one of their board members to present to their RM council the benefits of being an APAS member and their experience with the program, helping to broaden the reach and influence of the APAS Young Leaders Program and showcase their involvement in leading the agriculture sector to their local RM Council.

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Timeline

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 CFA: Attend CFA AGM in Ottawa and APAS board meeting

March APAS Policy Conference

April

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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