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Ag Matters

November 7, 2024



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APAS AT WORK

APAS travels to CFA Lobby Week on Parliament Hill

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APAS Directors and staff were recently in Ottawa for our APAS Lobby Week on Parliament Hill where they met with MPs, Senators, and government staff to raise awareness of the issues Saskatchewan's producers are facing in their farm businesses.

Some of their key meetings included John Barlow (federal Conservative Agriculture Critic), Kody Blois (Chair of the House of Commons Agriculture Committee), Senator Robert Black (Chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee), and officials from Transport Canada, the Department of Finance, and Environment and Climate Change Canada.

In addition to meetings with decision makers during their time in Ottawa, APAS also participated in the Canadian Federation of Agriculture's Lobby Day, which provided an opportunity for CFA members to advocate on behalf of Canada's agricultural sector.



[Register today!](#) APAS Annual General Meeting

Mark your calendars for the 2024 APAS AGM, in Regina on December 3 & 4 at the Conexus Arts Centre. The event promises to be the highlight of the year. Stay tuned to your Inbox for all the exciting updates we've got in store for you. Get ready to be part of something big!

AGM REGISTRATION

Join us at the AGM where a fantastic schedule of experts will address the pressing issues facing our agricultural sector. Topics include:

Rail Freight Rates



It's time to be honest about Canada's railways. Meaningful competition on either rates or service does not exist for many shippers. CN and CP have been enjoying record profits. In large measure, that is a function of rail rates for captive traffic increasing far beyond rail cost inflation over the past couple of decades.

Mr. Francois Tougas, Partner, McMillan LLP

Senate Agriculture Committee's "Critical Ground" Soil Health Report

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In April 2022, the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry began studying the status of soil health in Canada. The study examined current soil conditions in Canada and soil's effects on climate change, human health, food security and agricultural productivity, to name just a few areas.

Senators heard from more than 150 experts and undertook fact-finding missions to research labs, farms and ranches. The study culminated with a report, *Critical Ground: Why Soil is Essential to Canada's Economic, Environmental, Human, and Social Health*, with 25 recommendations to federal government to improve the state of soil health in Canada.



Senator Robert Black

Farmland Ownership Panel

Farmland Ownership and Value is a major topic of concern for Saskatchewan farmers. Saskatchewan farmland holds immense value:

- Saskatchewan farmland value has doubled in the last decade.
- In 2021, 83% of Saskatchewan's farm capital was held in the value of land and buildings.

As farmland grows more expensive it creates a larger barrier for young producers to establish their operations, and for established enterprises to reach their full productivity and potential. Alternatively, low land value jeopardizes the retirement security of retiring producers.

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Dr. André Magnan
Professor, University of Regina



Dr. Chad Lawley
Professor, University of Manitoba



Mr. Ted Cawkwell
Agriculture Specialist, Cawkwell Group

Canadian Grain Commission Update

Jon will be speaking focused on the CGC's perspectives on the evolving landscape of grain production in Canada, the regulatory environment, and the CGC's initiatives to support and protect grain producers.

Jon Friesen
Chief Operating Officer, Canadian Grain Commission



Register today!

AGM REGISTRATION

SARM Executive & Staff Join Board Meeting

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Thank you to the SARM Executive and Staff for joining our recent APAS Board meeting. Through collaborative efforts, we discussed Bill C-293's negative impact on livestock production, the contentious Bill S-243, and the ongoing supply chain disruptions impacting Saskatchewan producers and businesses.

We also delved into the pressing matters of 1A Driver Training accessibility and costs as well as having APAS present annually at the SARM convention.

These engagements are an important part of partnership building as we work towards enhancing our united actions for the prosperity of agriculture and rural communities.

The Great Train Robbery

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November 7, 1885, a historic day in Canada's economic development with the momentous completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR), marked by the driving of the last spike. This pivotal event not only symbolized the physical unification of the country but also ignited a tradition of profitable railways lobbying for governmental support that has persisted for over a century.

[READ MORE on The Great Train Robbery](#)

APAS District Meetings

APAS completed another round of District meetings across the province this week. These gatherings allow APAS to share updates on key research projects, share the status of our lobbying efforts on agricultural issues, while also reviewing policy resolutions before our upcoming AGM. Our District meetings encourage open dialogue with our members and give them an opportunity to voice their priorities and concerns on pressing issues facing agriculture in Saskatchewan. By fostering these

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grassroots connections, APAS ensures that its work is always closely aligned with the needs of its members

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Top: District 5 & 6 on Monday, November 4th in Saskatoon

Middle: District 2 & 3 Tuesday, November 5th in Assiniboia

Below: District 1 & 4 on Wednesday, November 6th in Yorkton

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APAS IN THE NEWS

- [Great Train Robbery](#) (Nov 2, 2024)
- [Provincial Election](#) (Oct 31, 2024)
- [Grain dealer licensing](#) (Oct 31, 2024)

NEW MEMBER MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE

Yes you read that right. Every APAS member plays a crucial role in shaping the agricultural policies that are vital to Saskatchewan's producers. To prove it, we are now offering a money-back guarantee to new members. [Learn more here](#) about our guarantee, and [here](#) about the benefits of joining APAS. You can also contact Assistant Executive Director Curtis Hemming by phone at 306-789-7774 or [by email here](#).

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