

APAS Concerned About 2015 Crop Insurance Changes

February 26, 2015 – For Immediate Release - For 2015 the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation are reducing premiums and eroding the long-standing multi-peril approach for coverage.

"Although premiums levels are down across the board and crop coverage has increased, de-coupling of unseeded acreage coverage from the multi-peril program represents a major change in crop insurance program coverage. These changes make the crop insurance program more complex," says Norm Hall, APAS President.

APAS has been looking for changes to crop insurance that would address risks associated with excess moisture. With this announcement, APAS is concerned that the long-standing multi-peril approach of crop insurance is starting to be eroded. Under the 2015 crop insurance program, a range of coverage levels for unseeded acreage will now be offered, from \$50 to \$100 per acre. Producers will now also have the option to increase or decrease their coverage and associated premium. A key concern is whether producers are receiving the same coverage with two premiums in 2015 as compared to former crop insurance program in 2014.

"De-coupling of unseeded acreage benefit brings the concept of multi-peril coverage into question," says Norm Hall. "APAS will be reviewing the new program and seeking a meeting with the Minister to better understand how the legitimate concerns of producers, who have faced flooding, will be addressed."

Given these significant changes, APAS will plan further communication with producers and encourages producers to closely consider and understand their options prior to the March 31 deadline.

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APAS is Saskatchewan's general farm organization formed to provide farmers and ranchers with a democratically elected, grassroots, non-partisan, producer organization based on rural municipal boundaries. As the united voice of thousands of agricultural producers in Saskatchewan, we strive to represent the views of a wide variety of agricultural stakeholders in order to form comprehensive policies that can benefit all sectors of society.