



Rural residents dissatisfied with internet service

Without service, APAS warns rural residents will be left behind.

June 19th, 2020 (Regina, SK) – The Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS) is raising concerns about the continued lack of adequate telecommunications services in rural Saskatchewan.

From May to December 2019, APAS conducted a survey on rural internet and cell service and found a high level of disruption, dissatisfaction, and disinvestment in rural communities. Reliable internet and cellular coverage are critical for rural communities to support their businesses, students, health services, and overall quality of life.

“When you’re out harvesting you have no time to waste, so when slow service keeps you from getting your parts, bidding on equipment, or signing your contracts it can mean the difference between a profit and loss that day,” said APAS President and farmer Todd Lewis. “It’s not only the difference between making and losing money. If I get stuck out in the field and I can’t call for help it can be a potentially dangerous situation.”

The complete survey report is published at apas.ca. To further understand this issue and how COVID-19 is affecting the agriculture sector, APAS has launched a follow-up survey and invites Saskatchewan residents living on farms, First Nations, and in small towns to share their experiences with rural cell phone and internet service. The survey can be found at apas.ca/survey.

For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact:

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Background: The Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan – or APAS – gives a strong, unified voice to Saskatchewan’s farmers and ranchers. Founded in 2000 by farmers, APAS is a democratic, non-partisan non-profit organization that advocates for the province’s agricultural producers. We tackle agriculture’s most important problems and offer practical, forward-thinking solutions to provincial and national decision makers.