



APAS Hosts Young Farm Leaders at CFA

February 18, 2015 – For Immediate Release - The Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS) will host five young farmers at the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) Annual General Meeting as part of the leadership development curriculum established by APAS with financial support from the Youth Leadership and Mentorship Program through Growing Forward 2, a federal, provincial, territorial policy framework for Canada's agriculture and agri-food sector.

"Young farmers entering into the agriculture business today have skills, knowledge and a wealth of information at their fingertips," says Norm Hall, APAS President. "What's needed is support for young farmers to bring their new perspective, knowledge and energy to the Board room. The Government's Youth Leadership Program is a step in the right direction."

All applicants are actively engaged in farming, are under the age of 40 years and are interested in seeing their industry advance. APAS Board of Directors and Representatives, as knowledgeable farm leaders or mentors, were paired with the young farmers to guide their leadership development journey. Each mentee became a member of one or two APAS committees who are the link to the grassroots farmers in identifying policy topics. Youth Leadership candidates attended the APAS Annual General Meeting and an APAS Board meeting. They will be attending the CFA committee and Annual General Meeting in Ottawa on February 24-25 and be participating in meetings between the APAS Executive and various politicians. The mentees have access to on-line resources that provides guidance on how to communicate effectively and to organize and chair meetings. The candidates will be meeting with current and former farm leaders at the provincial, national and international levels.

"We would welcome these candidates to join APAS as Representatives and encourage them to seek Board positions," says Hall. "However, APAS' objective is to create an understanding that the industry needs their enthusiasm, their viewpoint and new eyes on current and future policy issues as potential leaders for any organization that looks to improve the business of farming and enhance rural communities."

"We encourage industry organizations to provide young people with valuable experiences that will help establish them as future leaders in our industry," Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister Lyle Stewart said. "Incorporating the knowledge of our mentors and further developing the skills of young producers will ensure our industry remains strong."

"Our Government is proud to support Canada's young agricultural leaders," said Federal Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz. "With their new ideas, fresh perspectives and optimism, young farmers are the key to a dynamic agricultural industry in the future."

140 4th Avenue East, Regina, Saskatchewan S4N 4Z4

Tel: 306.789.7774

Fax: 306.789.7779

www.apas.ca



This project is made possible thanks in part to the Youth Leadership and Mentorship Program, which provides funding to industry associations in Saskatchewan to coordinate and support mentorships between young producers and industry leaders. The Youth Leadership and Mentorship Program is one of Saskatchewan's Growing Forward 2 programs, which are funded jointly by the federal and provincial governments.

-30-

For More Information,
Norm Hall, APAS President
306.530.3886
President@apas.ca

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.