



APAS Supports 2015 Provincial Agriculture Budget

March 18, 2015 – For Immediate Release - The Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS) is pleased that the Saskatchewan Government has recognized the importance of agriculture within the provincial economy and has maintained or minimized reductions for many important agricultural programs in today's provincial budget.

"Today's budget confirms agriculture as a primary growth engine of the province, providing stability in light of collapsing oil prices," says Norm Hall, APAS President. "Agriculture has been dealing with its own obstacles as we continue to deal with unreliable grain movement, flooding and reduced grain prices. The government obviously recognized those factors and we are appreciative of their efforts to keep agriculture moving forward."

APAS recognizes that today's budget maintained agricultural funding for agricultural business risk programs including Crop Insurance, AgriInvest and AgriStability. As well, APAS commends government for confirming their ongoing commitment to agricultural research and innovation, which are keys to ensuring Saskatchewan producers remain internationally competitive.

As well, APAS welcomes an ongoing commitment by the Province to continue to educate our youth, develop farm leaders and create a more informed consumer population about agriculture to maintain and enhance the industry's credibility and reputation among residents and taxpayers. "These are key investments to ensuring we have an informed consumer base and maintaining our social license as responsible producers," says Hall.

"By providing both the tools and investment environment to compete internationally and grow our economy, Saskatchewan has set the stage for agriculture to be the cornerstone of the economy in the decades to come" says Hall. "APAS welcomes this support and we look forward to working with the Saskatchewan government to contribute to the economic growth and prosperity in this province and enhancing the understanding of agriculture for those not directly involved in farming."

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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.