



## APAS and Young Farm Leaders Attend CFA

*February 16, 2016 – For Immediate Release* - The Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS) Board members and five young farm leaders will be attending the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) Annual General Meeting as part of an APAS development curriculum to encourage the next generation of producers to take on leadership roles with financial support from the Youth Leadership and Mentorship Program through Growing Forward 2.

“The Government’s Youth Leadership and Mentorship Program allows potential young individuals to better understand the skills, knowledge, tactics and strengths of being a leader in the farming community,” says Norm Hall, APAS President. “As one generation retires, the farming community needs to find individuals from the next generation to come to the forefront and take up the leadership challenge. It is essential to ensure our industry is well represented and I see this program has been a great step to ensure that succession occurs.”

Successful applicants must be involved in farming, be under the age of 40 years and have demonstrated an interest in farm leadership. As part of the Youth Leadership & Mentorship Program (YLMP), the participants are to be mentored by knowledgeable, experienced farm leadership individuals. Five of the APAS Board of Directors has been paired with the program participants. The majority of the YLMP program runs over the winter season. Each mentee chose an APAS Policy Committee to understand grassroots concerns and how they are the foundation of farm concerns to be forwarded to key decision makers. The mentees have been or will be attending APAS Annual General Meeting, APAS Board meetings and CFA Committee, Annual General and Board meetings. The mentees will also be involved in meetings with Federal Ministers, MPs and with current and former farm leaders at the provincial, national and international levels.

“APAS was extremely pleased with our involvement with the 2014 mentees,” says Hall. “Being involved in the 2015 YLMP program provides APAS a chance to improve APAS’ program and more importantly, to encourage more youth to come forward and provide new ideas, ingenuity and energy. The bottom line is for mentees to better understanding leadership and apply that knowledge to farming organizations. That is the strength of this program as leadership succession is vital to ensure agriculture and its producers are well served in future years.”

The 2015-16 APAS Youth Leadership and Mentorship candidates are Devin Harlick from Eastend, Daniel Ottenbreit from Grayson, Matthew McKinnon from Eatonia, Daryl Fransoo from Meota and Spencer Maxwell from Nipawin. APAS Mentors are Todd Lewis, Dorothy Weetman, Don Connick, Mickey Palfy and Jeff Simpson.



The project is made possible thanks in part to the Youth Leadership and Mentorship Program, which provides funding to industry associations in Saskatchewan to co-ordinate 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.

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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.