



APAS releases results of survey on government business risk management programs

April 20, 2016 – For Immediate Release - The Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS) has released [the results of its survey of producer experiences with three business risk management programs under the Growing Forward 2 Federal-Provincial suite: Agri-Stability, Agri-Invest and Agri-Insurance \(Crop Insurance\)](#).

The survey polled Saskatchewan farmers and ranchers about their use of these farm programs and how well the programs meet their needs.

“The survey results indicate serious problems with Agri-Stability, which the federal and provincial governments need to address,” said APAS President Norm Hall.

Agri-Stability scored lowest among the programs in terms of both adequacy of program coverage and design. Only 18% of respondents felt the program benefitted their operations now or would in the future. Another 55% of respondents could not predict the level of coverage provided at the start of each production season. Furthermore, 35% of respondents indicated they had withdrawn from the Agri-Stability program.

Agri-Invest ranked most favourably among survey participants, with 73% of respondents strongly agreeing that they would recommend the program to other producers, while Crop Insurance received moderately positive responses. Only 30% of respondents agreed that coverage provided through Crop Insurance is adequate. However, the program scored well with respondents in terms of providing predictable and timely support, with 73% of respondents being able to predict their coverage at the start of production season.

“These results surrounding the Agri-Stability program support what APAS members have been saying since the changes to business risk management programs took effect under Growing Forward 2 in 2013,” said Norm Hall, President of APAS. “The reintroduction of a reference margin limitation that caps a producer’s Agri-Stability coverage made an already complex program even more complicated. This reduced the likelihood of meaningful support which caused farmers to exit the program.”

“If Agri-Stability is to be relied upon as a key income stabilization component within the next agricultural policy framework, governments will need to sit down with farm organizations and fix these issues.”



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[Click here to read the results of the 2015/16 Farm Program Survey.](#)