



Agriculture is Everyone's Business

APAS meeting in Moose Jaw to discuss recommendations to federal government on Carbon Pricing

June 19, 2017 – For Immediate Release - The Board of Directors of the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan are meeting at the Grant Hall hotel in Moose Jaw June 19 and 20th for their annual Board Retreat.

One of their most pressing issues to discuss is APAS's upcoming submission to the Federal Government's technical paper on carbon pricing. The Federal Government paper outlines a carbon pricing system for Provinces that don't voluntarily sign on to the national carbon pricing scheme.

APAS President Todd Lewis says APAS members are very concerned about the potential impacts of carbon pricing on the Ag industry. "Agricultural producers do not set the prices for our products, and we have no way to pass along additional costs."

The technical paper proposes a carbon tax exemption for agricultural fuel, but Lewis says this fails to take into consideration the substantial cost impact from other agricultural fuels. "All of our other farm inputs and costs would increase with a carbon tax, including fertilizer, rail transportation, and even natural gas for drying our grain," he explained.

Lewis added that agriculture is playing a large role in sequestering carbon through farming and ranching practices. "Crop production sequesters over 8 million additional tonnes of carbon annually, and more is stored by native pastures," he says. "With 40% of Canada's total farmland, Saskatchewan producers need recognition from the Federal Government for their efforts in solving the carbon problem. And with proper research and incentives, there is even greater potential in the future. Rather than penalize producers, let's find ways to maximize our potential contributions."

APAS is holding a two-day Prairie Agricultural Carbon Summit in Saskatoon next month. For more information on speakers, topics and registration, visit <http://www.apascarbonsummit.com>.

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Background: APAS is Saskatchewan’s general farm organization – formed to provide farmers and ranchers with a democratically elected, grassroots, non-partisan, producer-run organization based on rural municipal boundaries. As the united voice of thousands of agricultural producers and ranchers 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.