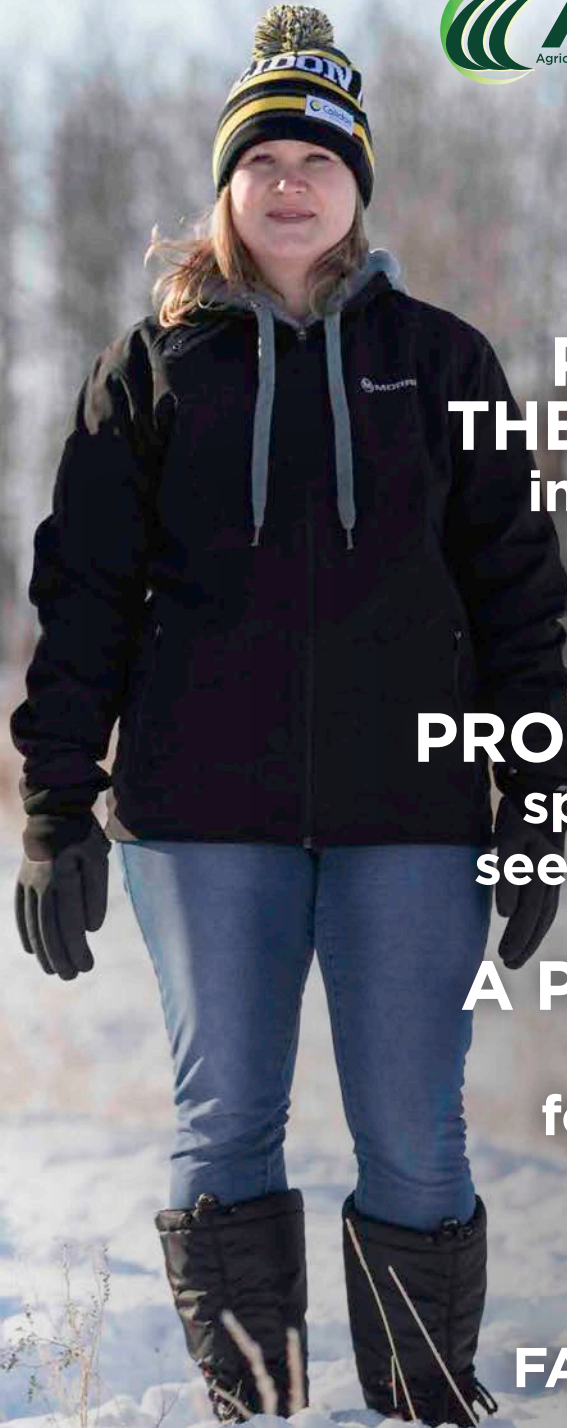


SASKATCHEWAN Farmers' Voice

WINTER 2020 EDITION



**PASSING
THE TORCH**
in Ag policy
leadership

**1000+
PRODUCERS**
speak up on
seed royalties

**A PERFECT
STORM**
for Sask Ag

**PLUS:
SASK
FARM DOGS**

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The next issue of *Saskatchewan Farmers' Voice* will arrive in your farm mailbox in June 2020. Email info@apas.ca if you are not receiving a copy of *Saskatchewan Farmers' Voice* and would like to.

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If ever there was a time when we needed a strong voice to stand up for our industry, it was 2019. It was a difficult year for farmers and ranchers in this province, and APAS worked hard at being Saskatchewan's agricultural voice at many venues and tables across Canada. In 2020 we'll dig deep to keep learning about the issues raised by our membership, have productive discussions, and offer constructive solutions to problems facing Saskatchewan producers. Here's a look back at our work in 2019.

Carbon Tax and Grain Drying

One of the major issues last year was the carbon tax. APAS was an intervenor in favour of the Province of Saskatchewan's position in the Carbon Tax reference case at the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal. We were the only agricultural group present at the court case that shared the government's position. It was a big financial and time commitment, but we felt Sask producers had a valid argument supporting the government's opinion.

We ultimately lost in a close split decision, but our advocacy on behalf of farmers continues. We have calculated estimates on increases to input costs due to the Carbon Pricing Model, and these numbers are often quoted and frequently used when showing the

A Perfect Storm

Declining income and rising costs a recipe for financial disaster at the Saskatchewan farmgate

BY TODD LEWIS

financial impacts of the carbon tax on the agricultural industry.

Producers using grain dryers were particularly hard hit by these added costs in 2019. It is both frustrating and ironic that one of the most easily recognizable adaptations to climate change – grain drying – has been targeted by the carbon tax. Without this valuable tool and innovation, many more millions of acres would be left out in Sask fields this winter, and tens of millions of bushels of harvestable crops would be at risk of spoilage or prove unsellable due to tough and damp conditions.

In 2020 we will continue to work towards carbon tax exemptions for essential farm activities such as grain drying and transportation.

Federal Election and a Minority Government

The results of the federal election make for an interesting lobbying environment at the federal level. APAS will continue to talk to all political parties at all levels of government. It is our job to talk about farm policies to the people that form government as well as to the opposition.

APAS is well situated to lobby a minority government. We are recognized and trusted as being non-partisan and look forward to working with Sask MPs as well as all federal parties to improve policies for Saskatchewan producers.

Weather

We had weather problems in 2019. Spring seeding started off with record-setting drought conditions in many parts of the province. Feed shortages were being forecast and spotty germination and crop establishment were an issue.

In mid-June, APAS called upon the federal and provincial governments to start planning for drought mitigation strategies associated with the dry weather. By the end of June, it began raining and never really stopped.

(I would like to officially apologize for asking for rain—it didn't work out so well! I would also like to take the opportunity at this time to ask for \$13.00 per



bushel canola, \$11.00 per bushel wheat, \$0.40 per pound lentils, \$4.00 per pound cattle, as well as perfect weather and a Rider Grey Cup win in 2020!)

and grading has become unpredictable. We had yet another rail service disruption. Farm income is down 45 percent from two years ago and we are seeing the results in the economy. Just talk to

between Canada and our major trading partners in India, China, Italy, and Saudi Arabia have had a negative impact on the price we receive for our products. At the same time, our input prices are being artificially supported upwards by US farm policy that is transferring billions of dollars to the American farm sector to mitigate income issues caused by US trade wars.

“ If ever there was a time when we needed a strong voice to stand up for our industry, it was this past year. ”

Business Risk Management and Trade Disruptions

There were many other issues besides the weather in 2019. China closed its borders to Canadian canola, pork, and beef imports. The carbon tax began to affect producers' bottom lines, especially those drying grain. Crop pricing

the farm machinery dealers; sales have collapsed on many types of equipment.

Business Risk Management (BRM) programming is ineffective to mitigate the current problems. We are experiencing an almost perfect storm of problems in our international trade environment. The well-documented trade disruptions

Declining income and rising input costs are a recipe for financial disaster at the farmgate here in Saskatchewan.

The problems with current BRM programming have been predicted in the past. APAS warned that the 70 percent reference margin in AgriStability would not help the industry in the event of a downturn. APAS staff have done calculations that determined that an AgriStability payment would not be triggered to an average Sask producer with canola priced at \$7.14 per bushel.

Saskatchewan producers require a better backstop from both the provincial and federal governments to address the current income shortfalls being experienced by many. APAS will continue to offer up ideas to make current programs more relevant and design new programs to help producers get past our current trade problems.


Seed Royalties

When issues arise, APAS is there to represent Sask producers. That is why, in my opinion, APAS is an essential service for Sask farmers, and why we continually prove our value for the money paid by our members.

One example is the seed royalty proposals put forward by the federal government this past year. There was a lot of concern and push back from producers during the consultation process last winter. APAS led and joined other provincial groups in Western Canada to survey producers about the proposed changes.

The survey was taken by 1,136 producers from across Canada. The questions asked were fair and have given a statistically significant base of farmers' opinions on both proposed models. (For more information on the survey results, see page 26.)





“ It is both frustrating and ironic that one of the most easily recognizable adaptations to climate change – grain drying – has been targeted by the carbon tax. ”

This is exactly the information that can be used in arguments against the proposed changes that are being heavily supported by seed industry groups. Farmers will be paying the bill and have been heard, and we will continue to ensure that any changes have farmers' interests in mind and not just industry players.

The proposed changes could significantly increase the seed cost per acre. An APAS membership (\$0.06 per acre) is a good investment to ensure added costs from seed royalties go to research and development on new varieties that have the farmers' interest in mind.

Priorities for 2020

This year will be challenging. Commodity prices are low and input costs continue to rise. There are many ongoing and emerging issues in agriculture, and poorly designed policy can cost farmers tens of thousands of dollars. Just look at the carbon tax as an example.

I, like all producers here at APAS, am looking forward to working towards a more successful year for Saskatchewan agriculture in 2020. It has been an honour to represent you all this past year, and to have been re-elected to my fourth term as President of APAS at the Annual Meeting in December. APAS members passed 54 resolutions at the AGM, and these will guide our priorities throughout the coming year. (For more information about 2019 resolutions and our democratic process, see page 18.)

In 2019, APAS retained 98 percent of participating RMs and welcomed nine more transitional members, for a total of 137 RMs. As we prepare to celebrate 20 years as Saskatchewan's general farm organization in July 2020, these numbers mark an all-time membership high. APAS has never been a stronger voice for Saskatchewan producers, and there is no better time to join us.

Todd Lewis farms in Gray, SK.

Pest monitoring in Saskatchewan

Why it is important and how you can get involved

CONTRIBUTED BY CROPS AND IRRIGATION BRANCH, SASKATCHEWAN MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

The Government of Saskatchewan and its partners monitor for crop pests, including insects, diseases and weeds because:

- Crop pests hurt the bottom line of growers.
- Pest monitoring programs provide valuable information and are used to create forecast maps, guide research decisions, detect and track new or emerging pests, and support management decisions.

We need your help to build a robust pest-monitoring system.

- Please sign up to allow us access to your land to continue this valuable work and provide you with valuable and timely information on these pests.
- Your help is much appreciated by us and the entire growing community in Saskatchewan.
- To participate, sign up via our online form (see link and QR code below). It will only take a minute or two.

Why we monitor for crop pests

We use this information to build forecast maps and make recommendations for control. This information is freely available and can be used by growers to make informed seed purchases and pest management decisions. Pest surveys also enable early detection of pest issues. Several of our most important pests of field crops in Saskatchewan are invasive. This means that the locations where these organisms are found can expand quickly and need to be tracked.

Information gathered during pest surveys is also used in many other ways, such as providing information to support pest-related trade discussions. Pest-related research is also



supported through pest surveys via the collection of samples used by researchers in studies.

Agencies that monitor for pests in Saskatchewan

The Ministry of Agriculture collaborates with many partners to make pest monitoring in Saskatchewan possible. These partners include Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, the University of Saskatchewan, grower groups, the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities, and contractors and volunteers. All partners are experienced with pest identification and follow strict biosecurity protocols to prevent the introduction of crop pests when working in producers' fields.

All producer identification, land location and contact information is only used for the purpose of contacting producers and is kept confidential. It is not shared outside of the network.

How you can get involved

The Ministry of Agriculture is adopting a permission-based survey system. This means that we need the help of growers to get this important work done. We are requesting that you sign up to allow us access to your land so that we can conduct this monitoring.

Please fill in your name, email, the best phone number to reach you during the day, and your rural municipality via our online form at:

<https://ca.surveygizmo.com/s3/50060966/Pest-Monitoring-Sign-up>





A Letter to the Prime Minister

The following was sent to the Right Honourable Justin Trudeau on November 6, 2019



Dear Prime Minister,

On behalf of the 200,000 farms the Canadian Federation of Agriculture represents from coast to coast, I want to congratulate you and your party on your election win. Canada faces challenging times ahead, but our country is blessed with an abundance of untapped natural and human resources, offering the potential to turn these challenges into opportunities.

One important issue that arose during the election was the lack of support for the Liberal party across many regions in Western and rural Canada and the subsequent lack of federal representation from these regions. While the media has defined this divide as a result of different viewpoints on the future of oil and energy production, we believe that this is a simplistic characterization of the issue.

As you know, Western Canada is largely a resource-based economy, which besides energy includes significant agriculture and agri-food production. Whereas oil production occurs predominantly in the West, agriculture forms the foundation of rural communities in all regions of Canada, from coast to coast.

Yesterday's news of the reopening of Chinese markets to Canadian pork and beef was welcomed by Canadian farmers and producers. While this is good news for these sectors, we are mindful of the continued uncertainty and tangible hurt our canola producers, as well as other commodities, are feeling as a result of being shut out of international markets, a fallout that is not of their doing. As we well know, this economic hurt is felt by our entire country.

At our board meeting last week, we heard Western farmers and producers express frustration that the Liberal government does not appreciate or fully take into account the dire consequences that farmers and producers are facing in light of the volatile international trade dynamics that have resulted in lost market access and depressed commodity prices for many Canadian farmers, including a significant number of export-dependent Western Canadian farmers. Another frustration expressed is the lack of federal recognition of the contribution agriculture continues to make in mitigating and sequestering carbon emissions and the significant potential the sector has, with the appropriate support and recognition, to further help our country reduce and sequester its carbon emissions.

“ The volatile international trade dynamics have resulted in lost market access and depressed commodity prices for many Canadian farmers. ”

As a result, we believe that placing a renewed emphasis on Canadian agriculture and agri-food will allow your new government to lower the isolation that many Western Canadians feel. We see this as an effective strategy to bridge the divide between your government and those Canadians in the Prairies whose priorities are not related to oil and gas. Innovations in agriculture can help all regions of Canada reduce carbon emissions and improve Canada's environment, which we know is a priority for your government, our members, and the majority of the Canadian population.

Following this, the CFA has some suggestions as to the type of actions that would prove to farmers and producers this government believes in and supports Canadian agriculture. These suggestions are the priorities that farmers and producers across the country have identified over the past year:

- Officially mandate the new Minister of Agriculture to build on the work done through the Advisory Council on Economic Growth and the Agri-Food Economic Strategy Table. Both of these reports identify Canadian agriculture as having multi-faceted and significant potential for all Canadians, while also identifying critical obstacles to realizing that growth as well as a general lack of the supports needed to get us there. Farmers and producers would like to see progress on these obstacles specifically identified in the mandate letter of the Minister of Agriculture.
- Capitalize on the opportunities outlined by the CFA's Producing Prosperity in Canada campaign, which focuses on three critical benefits provided by Canadian agriculture: environmental stewardship, economic growth, and food security.
- Fully leverage the sector's potential in providing these benefits. We believe the following areas must be identified as key mandates for the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-food, and their respective counterparts around the Cabinet table:
 - Develop policies and programs that recognize the value farmers and producers continue to contribute to our country, through national valuation of Ecological Goods and Services (EG&S), including carbon sequestration.
 - Address chronic labour shortages constraining growth in Canada's agri-food value chain in its entirety. Successful value-added efforts rely on successful primary production.
 - Work closely with farm groups to enhance and modernize Business Risk Management program effectiveness, committing to enhance federal program support.
 - Create a long-term, rolling infrastructure plan for rural Canada.
 - Aggressively reduce interprovincial barriers.
 - Make Canada a leader in regulatory harmonization and modernization, both domestically and in international fora.

We at CFA believe that movement on these issues will signal to farmers and producers in Canada, particularly those in the West, that they are being heard and that you are working on their behalf. In our recent Board meeting, many of our Western members expressed the sentiment that they felt left behind and ignored while facing some of the toughest circumstances they have experienced in their decades of farming and their voting patterns reflected this sentiment.

CFA is eager to work with your new government to ensure we effectively harness Canadian agriculture's impressive potential: potential identified specifically by your government. Canadian agriculture not only brings benefit to everyday Canadians by providing affordable food, ensuring the land it farms is used sustainably and providing 1 in 8 jobs in Canada, but it also offers an ideal vehicle to enhance national unity. With the right collaboration, tools and investment, think of what we could achieve on so many fronts.

Sincerely,



Mary Robinson, President
Canadian Federation of Agriculture

If you're feeling symptoms of stress, help is available 24/7.

Call the Farm Stress Line
1-800-667-4442



Passing the Torch

Building on ag policy leadership across generations

STORY BY DELANEY SEIFERLING | PHOTOS BY MICHAEL BELL



Angela Jones and Mervin Kryzanowski at Angela's farm near Wadena, SK

Farmers know how important it is to have a plan in place to transition their farms to the next generation.

Mervin Kryzanowski retired from his own farm back in 2010 at the age of 65, and two of his grandchildren now farm the land. But the community leader, who has served as the Reeve of RM #337 (Lakeview) for the past 25 years, knew that succession planning was critical for his work with the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS) as well.

That's why he recruited his own replacement as an APAS representative

(rep) before he officially stepped down in 2018.

It's also why he helped found APAS two decades ago – to set in motion a long-term plan to help Saskatchewan farmers have more control over the policies that affect them.

"It's very important to get young people involved to carry on the work we started," he says.

Laying the foundation

That work began nearly 20 years ago, when Mervin was one of a handful of Saskatchewan farmers who came together with the goal of forming an orga-

nization aimed at giving Saskatchewan farmers more of a voice and say in policy making.

"Things were quite tight in rural Saskatchewan at that time and a lot of farmers were financially strapped," he says.

"There's not that big of a margin in farming at any time, but some of the policies at the time were just not in our favour."

Mervin worked with his peers to help organize a meeting for all the RMs to gauge their interest in forming such an organization. They had no idea how much traction the idea would have, so

they were quite surprised when 170 other RMs showed up to the meeting.

"The message we received was, 'definitely go for it.' And that's where it started."

“ Mervin helped found APAS two decades ago – to set in motion a long term plan to help Saskatchewan farmers have more control over the policies that affect them. ”

Mervin and his peers then got to work researching similar successful organizations in Ontario and Quebec and attending meetings across the province to communicate what they were doing and to solicit support.

They found that their reception was very positive.

"Everyone seemed to agree – decisions were being made for farmers, about farmers, without farmers there," he says.

Now, after nearly 20 years of service to APAS, Mervin is proud of the progress that has been made.

"We have people at the table when policy is being formed," he says.

He has also come to believe even more strongly in the need to have farmers giving direct input into conversations about the policies that will directly affect them.

"When you have things kicked around in a bigger group you might change the idea several times but then everyone adds their bit and you come up with better ideas," he says.

He says he has seen some of the greatest evidence of this progress in the ways that farmer feedback has helped drive improvements and changes to farmer insurance and Agri-stability programs, trade policies, and transportation issues.

But he also believes there is more work to be done, especially in the area of

transportation for Western Canadian agriculture.

"We are completely dependent on moving our product out of the country in rural Saskatchewan and we've outgrown our railroads," he says.

He believes more investment is needed right now into the Churchill line to build capacity and efficiency at the Port of Churchill in northern Manitoba.

"That is the key for us – infrastructure to move our product. You can grow a great crop but if you can't get it out of the country it's not a good picture."

This is just one of the issues that will fall to the next generation, he says.

Passing on the torch

That is why Mervin approached Angela Jones a couple years ago after she gave a presentation at their local RM meeting.

The two weren't strangers: Angela grew up on a farm about five miles away from Mervin's land, and they've attended the same community church since Angela was a child.

Seeing her enthusiasm for the agriculture industry, Mervin encouraged her to get involved with APAS.

"He approached me because he was thinking of getting someone new on board," says Angela, who now farms with her husband near Wadena.

Angela wasn't too familiar with APAS at the time, but as she looked into it she realized her goals aligned with those of the organization.

After attending university in Saskatoon and working in banking for more than a decade, Angela found herself back on the farm with a passion for communicating the ag story to consumers.

"Through interacting with people in the city and online, and just seeing the misinformation out there, I really noticed the lack of connection between producers and consumers," she says.

Because of this, she started blogging and sharing stories of agriculture with broader audiences and soon learned what a challenge she had taken on.



Angela Jones on her farm near Wadena, SK



Angela Jones and Mervin Kryzanowski outside the RFM #337 (Lakeview) office in Wadena, SK

"It's hard for agriculture to get outside its bubble and reach people that aren't already interested or involved, so the reception was either extremely positive or extremely negative," she says.

But slowly, she began to see progress being made.

"I found that if you just stay the course and keep telling your story, you will get the message to some of those bystanders that maybe don't have an existing opinion. If we keep talking about agriculture eventually people will start to hear us."

Angela's blogging activities died down as she became busy with work, family and the farm, but her interest in speaking up for agriculture never wavered, which is why the idea of becoming involved with APAS appealed to her.

With Mervin's encouragement, she became an APAS representative in the fall of 2018.

Challenges and rewards

So far, Angela has found her experience with APAS to be both rewarding and challenging.

The greatest struggle for her is feeling like she is adequately representing producers in her area by bringing forth relevant challenges and proposing valid solutions.

But the greatest reward to date is seeing tangible progress being made.

“ Everyone seemed to agree – decisions were being made for farmers, about farmers, without farmers there. ”

For example, she has seen issues go from being mere ideas discussed at the APAS boardroom table, to being picked up by mainstream media through APAS efforts, to being agenda items for discussion in APAS meetings with provincial and federal government representatives.

"In my short time with APAS I have actually witnessed laws being changed directly because of the efforts of the

organization. Watching that happen really affirms to me that the process works," she says. "And it's really rewarding to be part of it."

She encourages other younger farmers to get involved and to understand the benefits of membership.

"One of my personal goals with APAS is to accurately convey to other producers the value the organization provides to RMs and ratepayers," she says. "I really want people to understand how important it is to have a seat at this table."

Mervin likes to use a farm analogy to emphasize just how important being around the table is, joking that the person who's away in town is generally the one that gets stuck cleaning the chicken coop.

But there are still obstacles to getting involved. Mervin says one of the major barriers for young people is the time commitment, which he remembers struggling with himself. In the early days, when he was busy trying to get the organization off and running, he recalls his farming partners asking him if he planned to do any on-farm work at all that summer.

His response to them was that the time investment was critical.

"I said if something isn't done here there's no use in farming because things are just going downhill. People have to realize that policy has a lot to do with keeping you going on the farm."

Nowadays, APAS has become extremely adept at minimizing the time constraints on their reps, ensuring meetings are held during quieter times of the year and are accessible remotely.

Angela says she has been impressed by the efficiency of the organization.

"Because everyone in the organization is involved in agriculture, they are very empathetic," she says. "The time spent is extremely productive and not consuming."

In fact, because she found the initial time commitment to be less daunting than expected, she has already been able to join a sub-committee and is considering signing up for another in the upcoming year.

Going forward

Mervin hopes that these types of solutions will continue so that more bright young farmers like Angela will get involved.

In his view, the next generation is one of the reasons APAS was formed in the first place.

"We didn't form it for the older people, we formed it for the generations to come," he says. "And if it would have been done 20 years before we got there we probably would have had a lot better life on the farm as far as policy was concerned."

Angela is grateful for pioneers like him and for the opportunities he has helped carve out for her generation.

"Mervin has been a great champion for the organization all the way through. I think it's really important to acknowledge those people while also acknowledging that some young people need to step up and take ag in the direction we want it to go."

What is an APAS Representative?

Each Saskatchewan Rural Municipality can choose to participate in APAS. Member RMs elect an APAS representative from among their ratepayers, and it is this rep's job to participate in APAS policy development and governance on behalf of their RM.

APAS representatives perform a crucial role in advancing agriculture in Saskatchewan. APAS is a non-partisan voice that advocates for all Saskatchewan producers and rural communities. APAS reps are part of a team of dedicated farmers and ranchers that actively contributes to the agricultural community and industry in our province.

What do APAS Reps do?

- **Create Agricultural Policy:** APAS reps gather input from producers in their communities and use it to inform and develop Agricultural Policy through democratic process. APAS representatives participate in policy development through:
 - District meetings
 - APAS Annual General Meeting
 - APAS Policy Conference
 - Policy Committees (including Crops and Transportation, Livestock, Land and Environment, Economics and Trade, Rural Issues, and Young Agricultural Producers)
- **Communicate:** APAS reps ensure that key information flows between APAS, RM Councillors, and ratepayers.
- **Represent:** APAS reps give a voice to their communities by participating in APAS meetings and keeping local RM Councillors and producers informed of APAS activities, policies, and current agricultural issues.
- **Build Community & Expertise:** APAS reps build relationships with other producers across Saskatchewan and develop expertise on a wide range of agricultural and governance issues.

What is the commitment?

- APAS representatives are elected at the same time as RM elections. (The next APAS rep elections take place in November 2020.)
- Full Member representatives are reimbursed for APAS business expenses, including per diem, mileage, meals, accommodations, and registrations for APAS Mid-term and Annual General Meetings.

For more information, contact us at info@apas.ca or (306) 789-7774, or visit our website at www.apas.ca.

Beef's place in a healthy environment

Beef production in Canada has often been the focus of important discussions around sustainability, including factors like greenhouse gas production, water consumption and management of different landscapes for ecosystem health. Topics worthy of a closer look include the relationship between raising cattle and biodiversity, and the types of feed that cattle consume. Research shows that cattle grazing is a major contributor to the conservation of native grasslands and endangered species, and that most of the plants cattle eat aren't suitable for human consumption and would otherwise be waste products. This document takes a closer look at these two important topics and sheds light on key facts related to beef production in Canada.

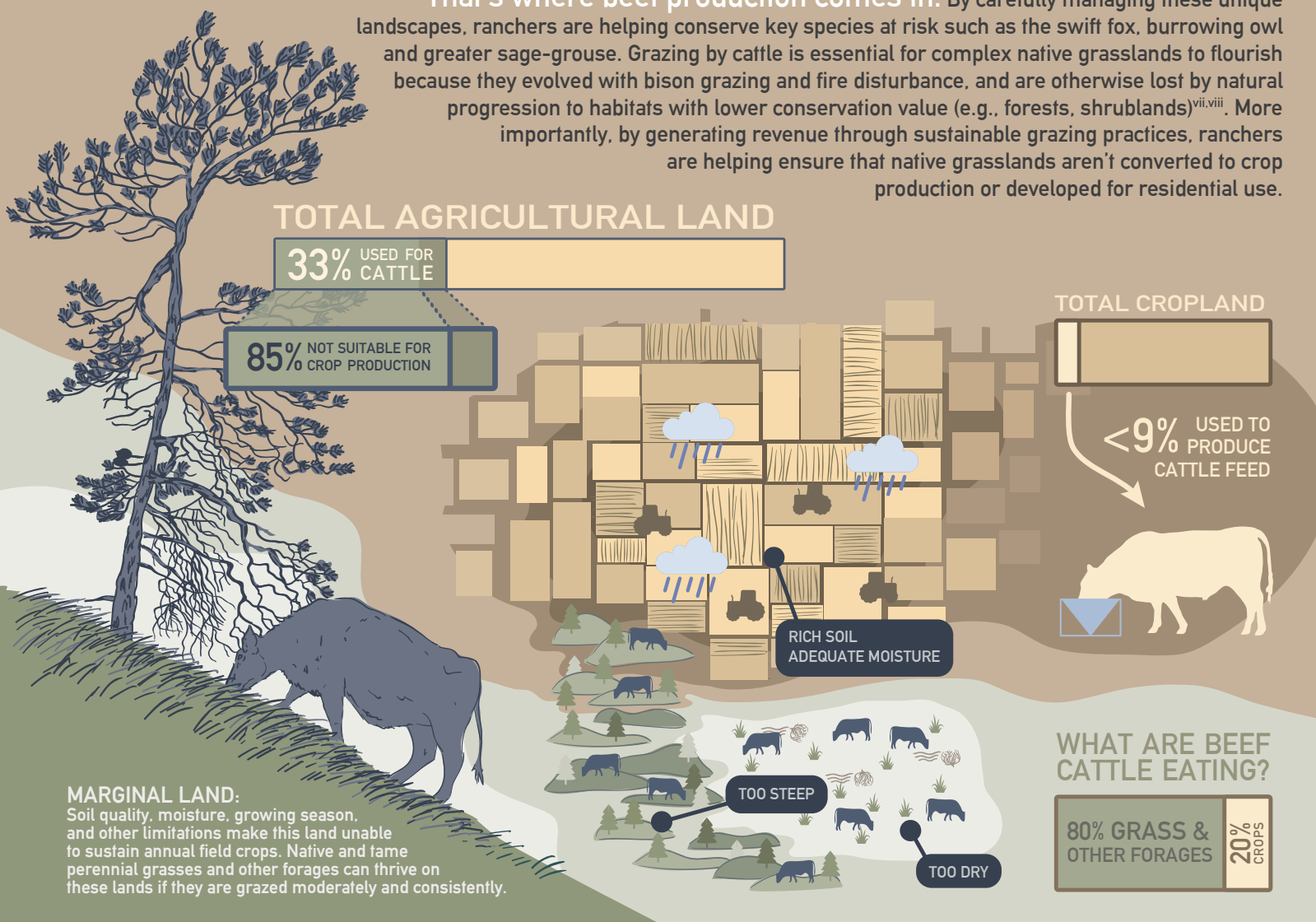
- Conservation of species that depend on native grasslands, like burrowing owls and many songbirds, is supported by cattle grazing and the continued presence of livestock on the landscapeⁱ. Without beef production, these native grasslands (home to over 60 Canadian species at risk^{iv}) are often converted into fields for growing crops like barley, potatoes and other foods.
- Cattle don't require high-quality feeds and consume a lot of products that would otherwise go to waste. These include by-products left over from the production of food for humans and grains that don't meet the high-quality standards for human consumptionⁱⁱ.
- 80% of the feed required for beef production in Canada is grass and other plants that are inedible to humansⁱⁱⁱ. Much of this is grown on land that is too dry, rocky, forested or steep for crop production.

Cattle and native grasslands: a natural fit

Native grasslands, like those found in the Canadian prairie provinces, are one of the most threatened ecosystems in the world — more threatened than rainforests^{vi}. Conversion of native grasslands to croplands resulted in the loss of over 97% of tall grass prairie and 71% of mixed grass prairie by 2003^v. The disappearance of native grasslands has led to an overall loss of nearly half the populations of grassland species since the 1970s, with some species declining by as much as 87%^{vi}. When grasslands are lost to cultivation, species that depend on that grassland for survival suffer.



That's where beef production comes in. By carefully managing these unique landscapes, ranchers are helping conserve key species at risk such as the swift fox, burrowing owl and greater sage-grouse. Grazing by cattle is essential for complex native grasslands to flourish because they evolved with bison grazing and fire disturbance, and are otherwise lost by natural progression to habitats with lower conservation value (e.g., forests, shrublands)^{vii,viii}. More importantly, by generating revenue through sustainable grazing practices, ranchers are helping ensure that native grasslands aren't converted to crop production or developed for residential use.



Beef production makes use of what's left behind

Throughout much of Canada there are privately owned landscapes that are not well suited to crop production. Many of these areas are too steep, rocky, forested or susceptible to erosion for production of agricultural crops. Cultivating these lands often increases soil erosion, releases stored carbon and nutrients into the atmosphere and requires greater use of fertilizers and other inputs to make them productive^{ix}. By grazing cattle on these lands, high-quality beef protein can be produced from land that cannot, or should not, be used for growing crops to feed the human population.

It's also important to recognize that people and cattle do not compete for the same foods. Cattle are fed by-products from the production of human foods like margarine, beer, and corn syrup. In cases where grain is fed directly to cattle, it's because it hasn't met the high-quality standards required for the production of bread, pasta, rolled oats, beer and other foods. Beef production, therefore, makes use of what's left behind - not food that can go straight to the table of a growing human population.



Canadian beef and you

The nutrients of Canadian-grown beef protein are produced in a way that supports grassland habitat conservation and sustainable food production. Sustainable grazing practices and the use of by-products and low-grade feeds makes our beef herd an important part of our thriving prairie communities.

ⁱ CRSB. 2016. National Beef Sustainability Assessment and Strategy – Environmental and Social Assessments. Calgary, Ab. Canfax Research Services. |ⁱⁱ Mottet et al. 2017. Livestock: On our plates or eating at our table? A new analysis of the feed/food debate. Global Food Security. |ⁱⁱⁱ Legesse et al. 2012. Greenhouse gas emissions of Canadian beef production in 1981 as compared with 2011. Animal Production Science. |^{iv} Kraus. 2016. Why Canada's prairies are the world's most endangered ecosystem. [NCC blog post] <http://www.natureconservancy.ca/en/blog/archive/grasslands-the-most.html#:~:XMn4SHdFyP8> |^v Federal Provincial and Territorial Governments of Canada. 2010. Canadian Biodiversity: Ecosystem Status and Trends 2010. Canadian Councils of Resource Ministers. |^{vi} Downes et al. 2011. Landbird trends in Canada, 1968-2006. Canadian Council of Resource Ministers. |^{vii} Morgan. 1980. Bison Movement Patterns on the Canadian Plains: An Ecological Analysis. Plains Anthropologist. |^{viii} Fuhlendorf and Engle. 2001. Restoring Heterogeneity on Rangelands: Ecosystem Management Based on Evolutionary Grazing Patterns. BioScience. |^{ix} BCRC. 2019. Is beef Canada's ultimate plant based protein? [BCRC blog post] <http://www.beefresearch.ca/blog/>

Farm Dogs of Saskatchewan

Dogs are special members of farm families across the province. In every issue we spotlight some of the most special and beloved farm dogs in Saskatchewan. If you have a Good Boy or Good Girl on your farm that you would like to see featured in *Saskatchewan Farmers' Voice*, send one or more photos and a little bit about them to info@apas.ca. (For best results, please ensure that photos are 300 dpi or 1+ mg!)

Name: Duke

Age: passed away on October 8, 2019 at 19 ½ years

Home Quarter: RM of Coulee #136

Breed: Purebred Blue Heeler Cattle Dog

Family: The Andres'

About Duke: We bought Duke as an eight-week old puppy in 2000, and within days of his arrival he was very sick with parvovirus. He pulled through and besides annual vaccinations was a healthy dog; he dealt with illness early in life!

Duke shared the yard with nine-year old Patches (a son) and one-year old Molly, a Jack Russell Terrier who thinks she is a cattle dog, too. Duke sired four batches of puppies with our other purebred Blue Heeler Kylie, who passed away four years ago. The dogs loved to ride in the Gator or farm fuel truck, and as long as everyone had the right seat, it was a peaceful ride.

Duke was always an outdoor dog, so his open-front doghouse with a heating mat was the perfect place to watch the world year-round. Yard access was often announced by his gruff bark, which you had to heed if wanting to approach the house without owner approval. In his younger days he didn't necessarily follow his breed namesake in working cows, as he would sooner nip the nose of any cattle that challenged the travel direction or gate. His rare but greatest trick was to get a hold of the tail of a cow who had just been told to turn around, which would often lead to a circle or two of dog fully air-borne with the cow now alarmed at an additional 40 pounds gained.



Duke

At 19 years old (133 dog years), he required some glucosamine supplements in his diet, but Duke still rarely missed daily chores, and an occasion to help work cows melted away the years for a short time. Rest in Peace, Duke. You were a Very Good Boy!



Louise

Name: Louise

Home Quarter: RM of McLeod #185

Age: 6 years

Breed: Great Pyrenees

Family: The Chutters

About Louise: Louise pulls double duty as a working dog, guarding a flock of 2,000 sheep and goats while grazing leafy spurge and controlling invasive weeds all summer. She works with two other dogs on the coyote protection team and lives with the sheep 24/7. Louise is friendly and approachable and has been with her human since she was eight weeks old. Louise is a Very Good Girl.

Name: Zena

Home Quarter: RM of Corman Park #344

Age: 9 years

Breed: Pyrenees

Family: The Robertsons

About Zena: During the day, you can usually find Zena sleeping in the garage in her big dog bed after a night of barking at the coyotes to stay away from the farm. Zena protects her farm, especially the chickens, day and night from predators. She loves going on walks in the back bush and exploring in the woods. Zena is a very Good Girl!



Name: Chev

Home Quarter: RM of Bengough #40

Age: 3 years

Breed: Collie cross

Family: The Petersons

About Chev: Most days you can find Chev choring in the Gator, checking on her cows, chasing her cows, hauling bales and grain, or riding along in the equipment. When you can't find her there, it's because she is busy patrolling the yard or watching over her brother (our four-month old son). Chev is a big part of our farm and a very important member of our family! She is one amazing dog! What a Good Girl!

Name: Gus

Home Quarter: RM of Turtle River #469

Age: 8 years

Breed: Great Pyrenees and Bernese Mountain

Family: The LaClares

About Gus: Gus is a great protector to our children and, of course, his beloved cats! Gus always keeps a close eye and paw on us when anyone from our family is outside. He watches our kids closely as they play, keeping anything out of our yard and away from the kids. He is a gentle soul but is a fierce chaser and barker when it comes to coyotes, deer, and bears. Gus is extremely attached to our family and will sometimes follow us to town



hoping we will take him along on our trips. Gus spends cold winter days in our heated garage keeping warm and cuddly in his bed. We have welcomed two younger dogs to help Gus guard our yard so he can enjoy retirement and live his remaining years more relaxed and inside! Gus is a Very Good Boy!



Name: Flynn

Home Quarter: RM of Corman Park #344

Age: 3 years

Breed: Australian Shepherd

Family: The Wesselingshs

About Flynn: Flynn loves to guard the yard against magpies. He will chase and bark at the birds all day. He loves to go for truck rides and rides in the tractor. He is a great dog and loves to greet all the farm guests with a tail wag. Good Boy, Flynn!

Sask producers gather for 19th APAS Annual Meeting

The Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan held its Annual General Meeting from December 4 to 6, 2019 in Regina. It was an opportunity for representatives from across the province to guide the direction and priorities of APAS over the coming year.

Fifty-four resolutions were adopted by the APAS membership, including a unanimously approved motion calling for a federal rebate of carbon tax collected on propane and natural gas used for grain drying.

In addition, APAS members elected six Board members for two-year terms, including four re-elected members, one returning member, and one new member. (A complete list of the 2020 APAS Board appears on the opposite page.)

The new APAS Board re-elected Todd Lewis, APAS representative for RM of Lajord #128, as President for the 2020 year. Todd, who farms with his family at Gray, SK, has served as APAS President since 2016. Ian Boxall of Tisdale and Bill Prybylski of Wil-lowbrook were re-elected as Vice Presidents for 2020.

Heartfelt thank yous go out to outgoing Board members James Vogt (RM of Francis #127) and William Warrington (RM of Antelope Park #322) for their service.



The newly elected APAS Board

2020 APAS Board of Directors (2019 elected members in bold)

DISTRICT ONE	Wanda Reid Steven Donald	RM of Golden West #95 RM of Martin #122
DISTRICT TWO	Todd Lewis Terry Anthony	RM of Lajord #128 RM of Baidon #131
DISTRICT THREE	Rick Jensen Devin Harlick	RM of Webb #138 RM of Piapot #110
DISTRICT FOUR	Ian Boxall Bill Prybylski	RM of Connaught #457 RM of Garry #245
DISTRICT FIVE	Donavon Block Mickey Palfy	RM of Leroy #339 RM of Viscount #341
DISTRICT SIX	Scott Owens Jeremy Welter	RM of Eldon #471 RM of Mariposa #350

Democracy Drives APAS Success

Resolutions are a central part of the APAS policy development process. They guide the work of APAS on an ongoing basis and are used to influence policy decisions at both provincial and national levels.

Throughout the year, APAS representatives participate on policy committees focused on various areas that are crucially important to Saskatchewan producers, including Crops and Transportation, Economics and Trade, Land and Environment, Livestock, Rural Life, and Young Agricultural Producers.

These committees identify priority issues and begin the resolution development process. Proposed resolutions are sent on to the APAS Resolutions Committee for further development, before finally being brought forward to the full APAS membership for discussion, debate, and decision.

This rigorous democratic process ensures that APAS is a respected voice at all levels of government.

2018 resolutions had a direct impact on these 2019 APAS successes:

- Distribution of a comprehensive set of proposals for all candidates leading up to the 2019 Federal Election;
- Original research into the cost of the carbon tax to Saskatchewan producers;
- Successful advocacy leading to changes to *The Trespass to Property Act*;
- Establishment of a provincial clubroot monitoring program;
- Facilitation of a large scale, nationwide mobilization of producers on the subject of Seed Royalties (see page 26 for more information);
- Representation of Sask producers at over 50 external meetings and consultations, and in over 1,500 news stories in 2019;
- Ongoing pressure on federal and provincial governments to improve Business Risk Management programs, resolve trade disputes, improve grain transportation, and ensure carbon tax exemptions for producers.

2019 APPROVED RESOLUTIONS

Transportation & Marketing

Port Capacity – Target Growing Capacity for Future Needs – Advocate for the federal government to accelerate its export growth strategy to ensure that public/private investment in grain handling and transportation infrastructure keeps pace with increasing production forecasts

Rail Costing Review – Renew the request for the Minister of Transport to instruct the Canada Transportation Agency to conduct a costing review of railway grain shipments

Cash Advance Increase – Advocate for a permanent \$1,000,000 total advance payment limit, and an increased \$250,000 interest-free portion for all commodities

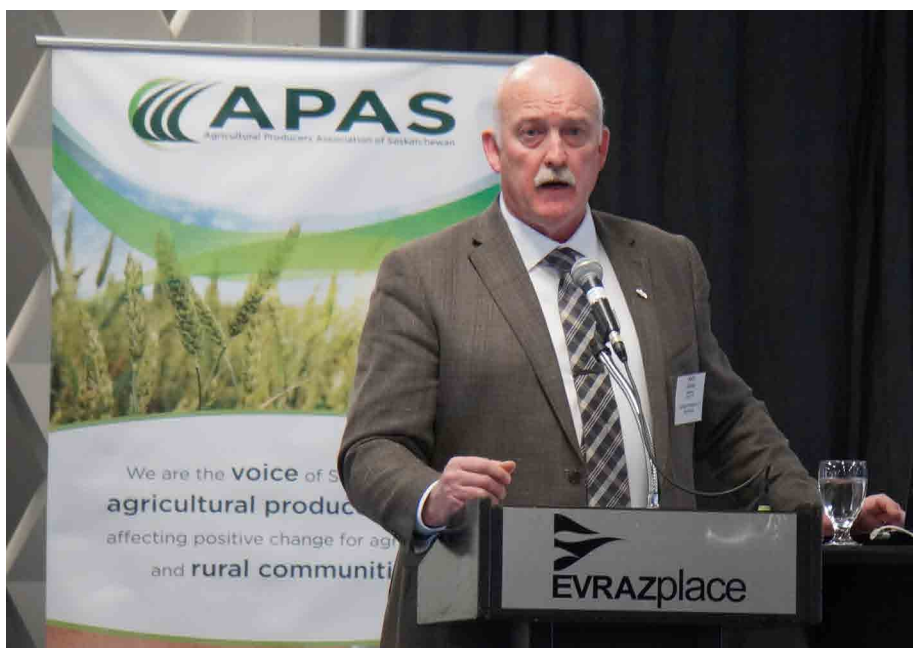
Expanded Crops under Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC) – Request SCIC to review its programs for new and expanding crop types, including fruits and vegetables

Responding to Canada Grains Act (CGA) Review – Advocate for the following to be included in the upcoming review of the CGA:

- Retention of mandatory outward inspection of grain exports
- Continuation of three commissioner governance model
- Creation of new insurance fund to replace bond-based system of producer payment protection
- Clear legislative mandate for the CGC to work in the interest of grain producers

Canada Grain Commission (CGC) Grain Grading – Work with the CGC to improve grain grading transparency at primary elevators through the following changes:

- Falling number be added to grading factors for 2020 crop year
- Immediate review of all visual grading factors
- Mandatory grain grading certification requirements for all grain graders at primary elevators
- Increased onsite CGC inspections and auditing of grain handling facilities and equipment, with better reporting and accountability to producers



Keith Currie, Vice-President of Canadian Federation of Agriculture

Crop Production

North American Registration System for Crop and Animal Protection Products – Request that the Government of Canada initiate discussions to establish a North American registration system for crop and animal protection products under the new Canada United States Mexico Agreement on trade (CUSMA)

Seed Royalties / Value Creation – Request Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada to immediately withdraw further consideration of the two proposed seed royalty collection models, and to only proceed with changes that:

- Enhance public funding for research
- Maintain public role in developing and finishing varieties
- Are transparent with producer involvement
- Maintain farmer's privilege and unencumbered use of farm saved seed

- Are administered in a fair and equitable manner
- Maximize producer returns in an international marketplace

Statement Recognizing the Importance of Glyphosate – Develop a firm policy statement recognizing the importance of glyphosate to no-till production systems, carbon sequestration and food security

Mandatory Maximum Residue Limits (MRL) Testing for Glyphosate – Examine the potential for grain deliveries at primary elevators to be subject to mandatory MRL testing for glyphosate

Pesticide Applicators and 1A License Training as CAP Eligible Funding – Request the Ministry of Agriculture to add Pesticide Applicator and 1A License Truck Driver Training as eligible cost-shared programs under the Agricultural Skills and Knowledge Program (ASK)

Biosecurity Planning & Education – Work with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) to develop public education material aimed at ensuring hunters and others accessing farmland are aware of the biosecurity risks posed by clubroot and other soil-borne diseases

Carbon Policy and Climate Change

Increased Biodiesel & Ethanol Mandates – Advocate for governments of Canada and Saskatchewan to increase their biofuel mandates to 5% for biodiesel and 10% for Ethanol

Carbon tax exemption for grain drying and reimbursement for 2019 costs – Request the federal government to exempt the propane and natural gas used for grain drying, and to reimburse the tax incurred by drying the 2019 crop

Cost of carbon tax – Educate consumers and general public about the effects of the carbon tax and its impact on the cost of living

Water Management

Water Management Feasibility Studies – Support Western Economic Diversification Canada's research and feasibility studies of water development opportunities in Saskatchewan

Disclosure of Water Advisory Committee Recommendations – APAS President to request permission from the Minister of Environment to disclose the recommendations he made to the Water Security Agency Advisory Committee

Water Infrastructure and Supply – Urge the federal and provincial governments to increase investment in water infrastructure for rural residents and farm operations

Irrigation Strategy for Saskatchewan – Work with the Saskatchewan Irrigation Projects Association (SIPA) to support federal and provincial governments' development and implementation of an irrigation strategy for sustainable food production



Patti Miller, Chief Commissioner of Canadian Grain Commission

Land and Wildlife

Relocation of SaskTel Pedestals – Request SaskTel to relocate their pedestals to the edge of the road allowance

Tag Allocation System – Advocate for the Ministry of Environment to re-evaluate its approach to tag allocation for the hunting of wildlife such as elk, moose, and deer, with focus on areas of significant crop damage and overpopulation

Orphan Well Fund – Request the Minister of Energy and Resources increase the size of its orphan well fund to adequately cover the costs of reclamation

Active Management of Protected Lands – Advocate for the active management of protected lands to reduce the risk of fire, flood, invasive weeds, and disease

Livestock

Maximum Contamination Levels for Mycotoxins Within Feed Regulations

Advocate the federal government to set maximum contamination levels for mycotoxins such as Deoxynivalenol (DON) and Ergot Alkaloids within the Feed Regulations

Reserving Word “Meat” for Products Produced from Non-Lab Based Animal Products

Request the federal government to enforce requirements that cultured or manufactured protein products be labelled to reflect that they are simulated, contain no meat products and are not meat replacements

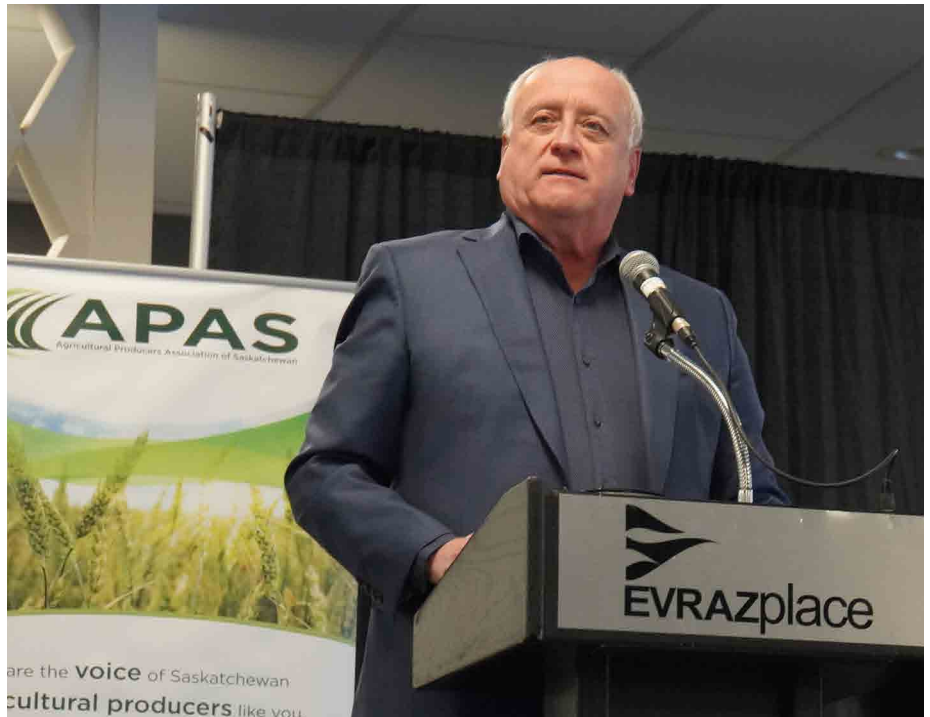
Criminal Trespass on Livestock Operations

Request the Government of Canada to expand the definition of criminal trespass to include trespass on livestock facilities

Notification of Western Livestock Price Insurance (WLPIP) Coverage Levels – Encourage the WLPIP administrators to give producers the option of receiving daily price coverage and premium quotes via email or text message

Country of Origin Labelling Exemption for All Canadian Livestock – Lobby the federal government to have all Canadian livestock exports removed from discriminatory US COOL requirements

Price Insurance for Sheep and Other Livestock Species – Request that sheep, and potentially other livestock species, be eligible to receive coverage through the WLPIP



Labour and Training

Reinstate General Farm Worker Category in Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program – Request the Saskatchewan Ministry of Immigration and Skills to reinstate the General Farm Worker Category for foreign agricultural workers

Temporary Foreign Worker Program's (TFWP) Agricultural Stream – Encourage the Government of Canada to create a new TFWP Agricultural Stream to reduce administrative burden on employers and ensure that eligible commodities meet the production needs of Saskatchewan agriculture

Agricultural Apprenticeship Program – Encourage the Government of Saskatchewan to develop and promote an agricultural apprenticeship program, similar to the Green Certificate offered in Alberta

Risk Management and Trade

Immediate Changes to Agri-Stability – Support the Ag Growth Coalition's request for restored margin coverage and the establishment of an advisory committee of farm organizations to develop replacement programming

Margin Coverage Levels through Saskatchewan Crop Insurance – Encourage SCIC to develop and administer “top-up” margin coverage programs

Trade War Mitigation Program – Request that the federal government work with trade-exposed sectors to develop a “trade war mitigation” program that is federally funded and designed to compensate for market losses owing to trade disruptions

Market Access – Advocate for the federal government to resolve market access disruptions and undertake concerted efforts to secure and maintain new markets for Saskatchewan products

Young Agricultural Producers

Interim Payments under CAP for Beginning Producers – Encourage the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture to allow for interim payments under Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program and the Farm Stewardship Program, based on achieved project milestones

Cash Advance Security for Beginning Producers – Request the federal government to develop alternative eligibility and security requirements to ensure beginning producers can access the advance payment program in their first year of operations

Canadian Federation of Agriculture Young Agricultural Producer Policy Advisory Group – Work with other provincial farm organizations to encourage the CFA to form a Young Producer Advisory Group to help guide the CFA's policy discussions

Finance

Creditor Flexibility – Ask that creditors work with producers facing financial difficulties

Single Use Plastics Strategy for Agriculture – Request the federal government to work with stakeholders on the development of a strategy to assess opportunities and mitigate potential harms on agricultural sectors resulting from the phase-out of single use plastics

Rural Infrastructure and Services

Rural Natural Gas Infrastructure Program – Request the provincial government to develop a subsidized natural gas program for grain drying and other agricultural uses

On Farm Storage of Natural Gas – Encourage Sask Energy to examine options for on-farm storage of natural gas for grain drying

Standardized Rural Road and Address Signage – Encourage municipalities to proceed with the installation of rural road signage and request training for emergency responders to improve understanding of rural signage and navigation when responding to emergencies

Four-Wheel Drive Ambulance Vehicles – Request the Province of Saskatchewan to provide additional funding for the purchase of four-wheel drive ambulances

Development of Rural Renewable Energy – Encourage the Saskatchewan Power Corporation and the Government of Saskatchewan to increase opportunities to further develop renewable energy projects in rural areas

Definition of "Underserved" Areas – Request the Canadian Radio and Telecommunications Commission to review its definition of underserved areas to ensure funding programs for internet and cell phone coverage meet the economic and public safety needs of rural Saskatchewan



APAS representatives at the APAS Annual Meeting in December 2019

APAS MEMBERS AND REPRESENTATIVES

Get to know your APAS Rep

DISTRICT ONE

- #1 **Argyle** – Brenda Ryckman
- #2 **Mount Pleasant** – Terry Macfarlane
- #3 **Enniskillen** – Barry Fitzpatrick
- #31 **Storthoaks** – Elissa Henrion
- #33 **Moose Creek** – Reed Gibson
- #37 **Lomond** – Ryan McKenzie
- #63 **Moose Mountain** – Jack Wilson
- #65 **Tecumseh** – Thomas Breault
- #91 **Maryfield** – Jeffrey Chambers
- #93 **Wawken** – Trevor Branvold
- #94 **Hazelwood** – Kyle Kish
- #95 **Golden West** – Wanda Reid
- #96 **Fillmore** – Cam Hart
- #97 **Wellington** – David Beach
- #121 **Moosomin** – Marion McBride
- #122 **Martin** – Steven Donald
- #123 **Silverwood** – Robert Dodd
- #124 **Kingsley** – Greg Pusch
- #125 **Chester** – Lee Sluser
- #126 **Montmartre** – Cory Stringer
- #127 **Francis** – James Vogt
- #151 **Rocanville** – Herb Park
- #152 **Spy Hill** – Corinne Delmage
- #153 **Willowdale** – Kenneth Aldous
- #155 **Wolseley** – Jim Ross
- #156 **Indian Head** – Lorne Scott
- #181 **Langenburg** – Mike Mitschke
- #183 **Fertile Belt** – Arlynn Kurtz
- #184 **Grayson** – Danny Ottenbreit
- #187 **North Qu'Appelle** – George MacPherson
- #211 **Churchbridge** – Cameron Wiebe
- #214 **Cana** – Janette Reinson

DISTRICT TWO

- #11 **Hart Butte** – Louis Paradis
- #38 **Laurier** – Bev Piro
- #71 **Excel** – Ron Daviduk
- #72 **Lake of the Rivers** – Chris Bates
- #73 **Stonehenge** – Vince Topola
- #74 **Wood River** – Duane Filson

- #98 **Scott** – Tim Devereaux
- #100 **Elmsthorpe** – James Beingessner
- #101 **Terrell** – Vacant
- #103 **Sutton** – Richard Nagel
- #104 **Gravelbourg** – James Bateman
- #128 **Lajord** – Todd Lewis
- #129 **Bratt's Lake** – Gregor Beck
- #131 **Baildon** – Terry Anthony
- #162 **Caron** – Ray McBride
- #163 **Wheatlands** – Kurtis Hicks
- #191 **Marquis** – Glen Steinhauer
- #193 **Eyebrow** – Dean Thiessen
- #220 **McKillop** – Glen Munholland
- #221 **Sarnia** – Carl Erlandson
- #222 **Craik** – Rodney Obrigewitsch

DISTRICT THREE

- #49 **White Valley** – Daryl Allemand
- #76 **Auvergne** – Dale Davidson
- #79 **Arlington** – Kevin Gilbert
- #106 **Whiska Creek** – Kelly Williamson
- #108 **Bone Creek** – Rick Rouse
- #109 **Carmichael** – Don Connick
- #110 **Piapot** – Devin Harlick
- #135 **Lawtonia** – Sterling Dayne
- #136 **Coulee** – Greg Targerson
- #138 **Webb** – Rick Jensen
- #167 **Sask Landing** – Dan Barber
- #228 **Lacadena** – Megz Reynolds
- #257 **Monet** – James Myers
- #259 **Snipe Lake** – Glen Collins
- #261 **Chesterfield** – Leah Cooper

DISTRICT FOUR

- #241 **Calder** – Roy Derworiz
- #244 **Orkney** – Randy Trost
- #245 **Garry** – Bill Prybylski
- #275 **Insinger** – Willy Zuchkan
- #277 **Emerald** – Norman Hall
- #304 **Buchanan** – Don Skoretz
- #307 **Elfros** – Gwen Burko

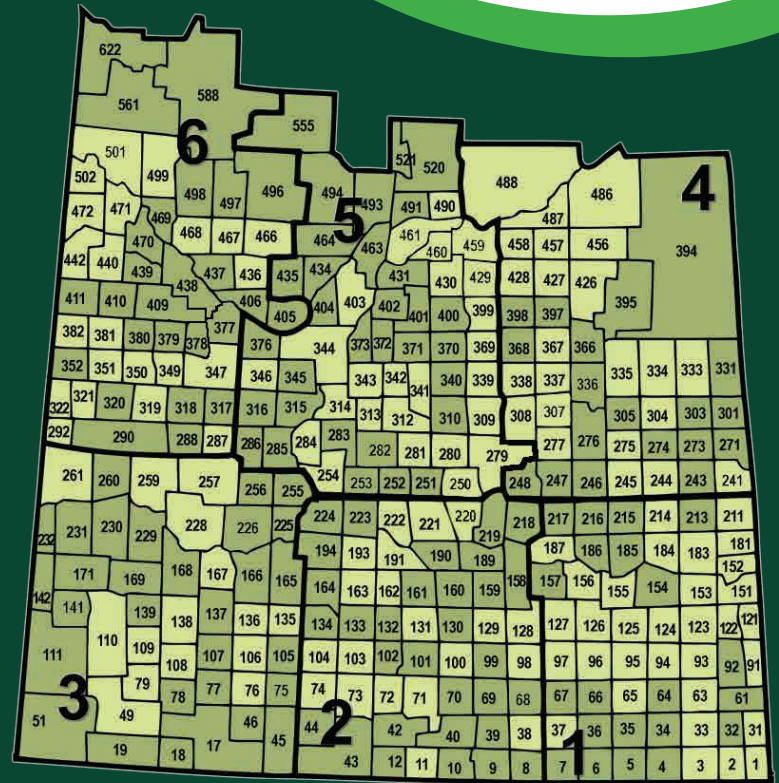
- #308 **Big Quill** – Ernest Hall
- #333 **Clayton** – Lorne Ball
- #334 **Preeceville** – Dale Parkin
- #335 **Hazel Dell** – Jim Ashworth
- #337 **Lakeview** – Angela Jones
- #338 **Lakeside** – Jason Friesen
- #367 **Ponass Lake** – Rick Sunderland
- #426 **Bjorkdale** – Glen Clarke
- #427 **Tisdale** – Ian Alan
- #428 **Star City** – Shawn Mooney
- #456 **Arborfield** – Robert Reavie
- #457 **Connaught** – Ian Boxall
- #458 **Willow creek** – Brent Freedman
- #486 **Moose Range** – Spencer Maxwell
- #487 **Nipawin** – Brandon Perkins
- #488 **Torch River** – Jerry Kindrat

DISTRICT FIVE

- #250 **Last Mountain Valley** – Kelly Holbrook
- #254 **Loreburn** – David Vollmer and Douglas Taylor
- #279 **Mount Hope** – Ian McNichol
- #280 **Wrexford** – Vacant
- #281 **Wood Creek** – Glen Busse
- #284 **Rudy** – Jan Konst
- #309 **Prairie Rose** – Garth Burns
- #312 **Morris** – Jason Johns
- #313 **Lost River** – Ivan Carpenter
- #314 **Dundurn** – David Aldred
- #339 **Leroy** – Donavon Block
- #341 **Viscount** – Mickey Palfy
- #342 **Colonsay** – Marvin Lang
- #343 **Blucher** – Blair Cummins
- #344 **Corman Park** – Ken Rosaasen
- #346 **Perdue** – Curtis Lammers
- #369 **St. Peter** – Paul Ulrich
- #399 **Lake Lenore** – Mark Schemenauer
- #403 **Rosthern** – Glenn Braun
- #429 **Flett’s Springs** – Vacant
- #430 **Invergordon** – Wayne Bacon
- #459 **Kinistino** – Vacant
- #460 **Birch Hills** – Vacant
- #461 **Prince Albert** – Richard Wilson
- #490 **Garden River** – Ryan Scragg

DISTRICT SIX

- #287 **St. Andrews** – Kevin Sinclair
- #292 **Milton** – James Loken



MEMBER NON-MEMBER

- #319 **Winslow** – Martin McGrath
- #321 **Prairiedale** – Tim Richelhoff
- #322 **Antelope Park** – Bill Warrington
- #347 **Biggar** – Robert Danychuk
- #349 **Grandview** – Allen Turk
- #350 **Mariposa** – Jeremy Welter
- #351 **Progress** – Kim Herbst
- #381 **Grass Lake** – Bentley Sperle
- #382 **Eye Hill** – Greg Rissling
- #436 **Douglas** – Nick Partyka
- #440 **Hillsdale** – Lawrence Olson
- #442 **Manitou Lake** – Karl Koch
- #466 **Meeting Lake** – Morris Prescesky
- #467 **Round Hill** – Gordon Moore
- #468 **Meota** – Glenn Tait
- #471 **Eldon** – Scott Owens
- #472 **Wilton** – Devon Walker
- #499 **Mervin** – Tom Brown
- #501 **Frenchman Butte** – Leonard Larre
- #502 **Britannia** – Jonas Hoegl

1,000+ Farmers Speak Up on Seed Royalties

Producers send a clear message through western farm organizations' Seed Royalty Survey



Recent proposals on seed royalties have generated a great deal of interest among Canadian farmers. In late 2018, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency launched consultations on the future of crop breeding in Canada. A series of public meetings were held across the country where federal officials sought feedback on new models to collect royalties on saved seed.

The proposed models included a "trailing contract royalty" that would see producers sign a contract stipulating that a royalty is paid when farm-saved seed is used, and an "end point royalty" in which a royalty is paid when delivering harvested grain from farm-saved seed.

The consultations were put on hold in the spring of 2019 but are expected to resume in 2020.

The Alberta Federation of Agriculture (AFA), the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS), and the Keystone Agricultural Producers of Manitoba (KAP) have been working together to ensure the viewpoints of producers are heard in these discussions.

In July 2019, the three farm organizations launched the Producer Survey on Seed Royalties. The purpose of the online survey was to:

- Gauge awareness of the consultations and the two models that have been presented;

- Measure satisfaction with how crop varieties are currently developed and funded;
- Gather opinions on the two options presented and determine if there is support for investigating other options;
- Seek input on the principles that should guide changes to how plant breeding is funded.

The survey was open from July to October 2019 and received 1,136 responses. Fifty-three percent of respondents were from Saskatchewan, with 25 percent from Alberta, 20 percent from Manitoba, and two percent from other provinces. The results were clear: **Canadian farmers do not support the two seed royalty models under consideration.**

Growing awareness amongst farmers

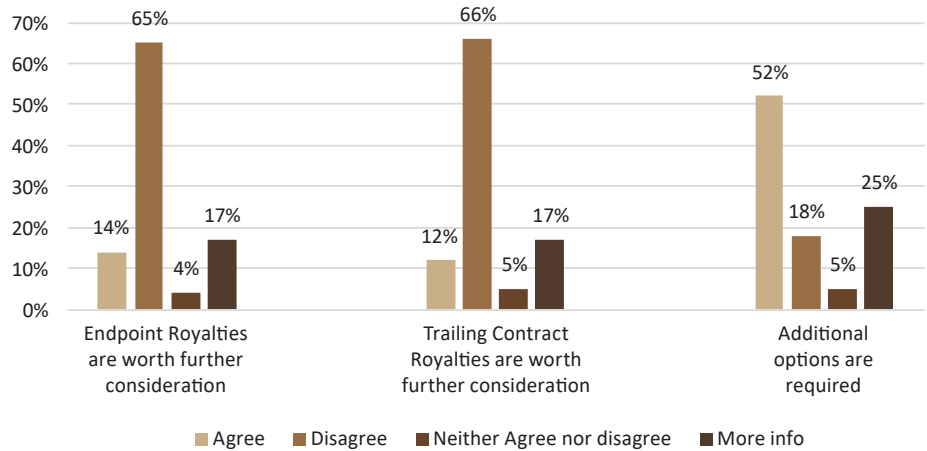
Result #1: There was broad awareness of the consultations and the two specific options that have been presented.

Eighty percent of respondents said they were aware of the consultations on seed royalties/value creation. When asked to rate their familiarity with the proposed models, only 13 percent reported being unfamiliar with the end point royalty proposal, while 17 percent were unfamiliar with the trailing contract royalty option.

Overall satisfaction with current approach

Result #2: Respondents reported an overall level of satisfaction with how new crop varieties are developed and funded in Canada.

The survey listed eight crop types and noted that these crops have different models for funding and commercial-



izing new varieties. Respondents were asked to rate how satisfied they were that these models would meet their future needs (both economic and agronomic).

The majority of respondents expressed satisfaction with the funding models for all crop types. At the high end, 75 percent of producers responded that they were satisfied or very satisfied with the existing approach to varietal development for wheat/durum. On the lower end, 57 percent indicated satisfaction with the approach to canola development.

Lack of support points to need for additional options

Result #3: A large majority of respondents disagreed that the trailing contract royalty and end point royalty models should be pursued further. There was strong support for the need to investigate additional options.

The survey used descriptions from government consultation materials to briefly describe the trailing contract royalty and end point royalty proposals. Respondents were then asked if these models were worth further consideration or whether additional options were required.

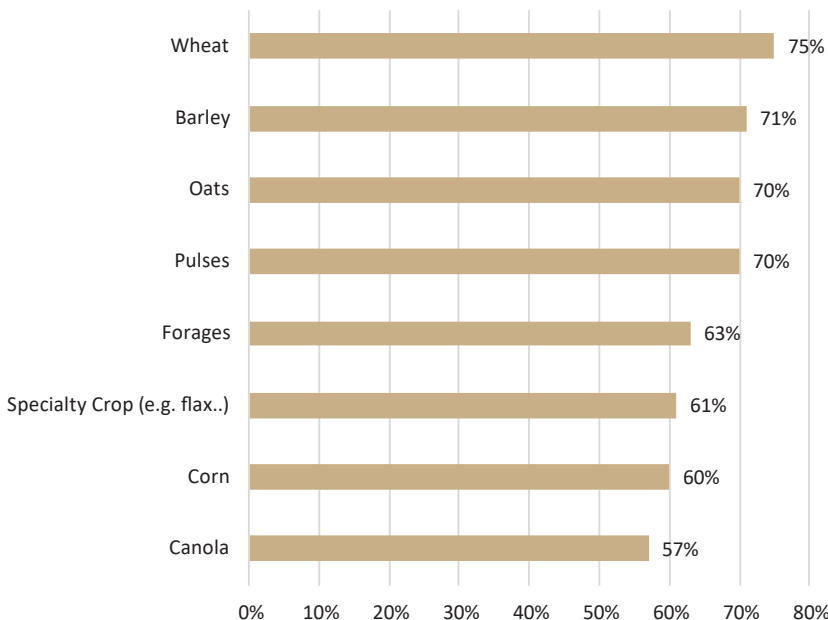
Responses to both proposals were consistent: 65-66 percent of respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed they should be pursued further, with 52 percent of respondents agreeing that additional options were required.

The future of plant breeding

Result #4: Responses were more varied when it came to the future direction of plant breeding.

Respondents were asked to agree or disagree with various statements about the future of crop breeding in Canada. At the high end of support, 68 percent

LEVEL OF SATISFACTION WITH CURRENT APPROACH TO PLANT BREEDING





“What we heard from producers is that they are not in a position to absorb extra costs,” said Todd Lewis, president of APAS. “As price-takers, farmers have little room in their margins for added expenditures. There is little support for yet another expense to add to our bottom lines.”

“ Plant breeding needs to be funded in a manner that is fair and driven by the interests of farmers. ”

— Bill Campbell, KAP President

of respondents expressing an opinion agreed that increased investment in crop development is required provided it ensures long-term stable funding for public and university breeding programs.

Sixty-four percent supported increased investment provided that producers have oversight into how much is collected and what the funds are used for. Fifty-two percent supported increased investment that ensures Canadian producers have access to improved varieties in order to remain competitive in international markets.

On the low end, 47 percent of respondents agreed that increased investment in crop development is required provided it encourages competition and higher levels of private sector investment in plant breeding.

Farmers want to be consulted

Result #5: Respondents expressed a strong interest and desire for further producer engagement in the seed royalty consultations.

The survey results reflected strong opinions about seed royalties and a general awareness that the changes under con-

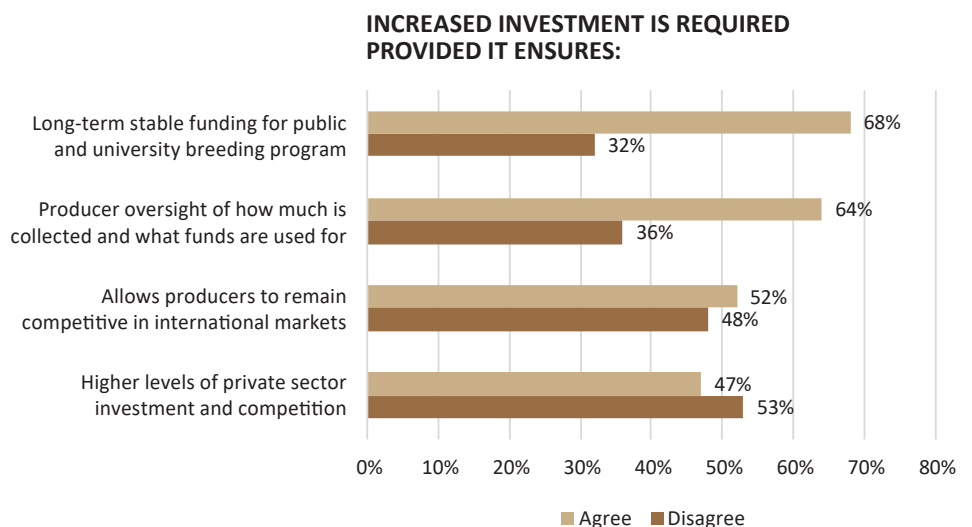
sideration will affect farmers and the agricultural industry for decades. Nearly half of respondents supplied their contact information and asked to be kept informed as the consultation process moves forward.

What next?

APAS, in cooperation with its provincial counterparts in Alberta and Manitoba, has presented the survey results to the new federal agriculture minister and will continue to use them to advocate for more and better producer consultation going forward.

Additionally, in December 2019 APAS members adopted a resolution calling on the federal government to withdraw consideration of the two proposed models and consult with producers on funding models that align with six principles. To read the full resolution and principles, see page 20.

For a more detailed analysis of the survey results, visit seedroyaltysurvey.com.



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APAS Activities

A look at some of the things APAS has been working on over the past few months

Rural Connectivity Survey results are in

Between May 2019 and January 2020, APAS received over 500 responses to our Rural Connectivity Survey. Residents from across Saskatchewan completed the survey online or in person, and the findings were clear: **rural Saskatchewanians are largely dissatisfied with their access to reliable mobile phone and internet services.**

Sixty-three percent of respondents indicated that they were dissatisfied with existing mobile service levels. When asked about internet services, dissatisfaction was even higher at 75 percent.

Sixty-two percent of respondents indicated that they experience internet service disruption at least once a day, with a further 31 percent reporting multiple service disruptions per day. When asked about mobile service, 65 percent reported service disruptions on a daily basis.

Through the survey, 890 individual comments pointed to a wide range of concerns including safety, access to education, and business development. Connectivity is crucial for rural communities to thrive, and existing service levels leave much to be desired.

APAS members passed a resolution at the APAS Annual General Meeting in December 2019 requesting the CRTC to review its definition of underserved areas to ensure that funding programs for internet and cell phone coverage meet the economic and public safety needs of rural Saskatchewan. For a list of all 2019 resolutions, see page 20.



Paige Stewart, 2019 participant

APAS selects participants for 2020 Youth Leadership and Mentorship program

APAS is pleased to announce the six successful applicants for the 2020 APAS Youth Leadership and Mentorship Program (YLMP):

Reid Daley | RM of Laurier #38 (Radville)

Jocelyn Velestuk | RM of Elcapo #154 (Broadview)

Michelle Ross | RM of Wolseley #155 (Grenfell)

Kirk Lishchynsky | RM of Fish Creek #402 (Wakaw)

Devon Walker | RM of Wilton #472 (Lashburn)

The YLMP aims to help Saskatchewan producers between the ages of 18 and 40 gain valuable experience, take advantage of networking opportunities, and develop the skills necessary to become future industry leaders. Participants are matched up with a farm leader over the age of 40 in a mentee-mentor relationship, and attend APAS meetings, the APAS AGM in Regina, and the Canadian Federation of Agriculture AGM in Ottawa.

"I am very grateful for the time I spent as a mentee," says Paige Stewart, a 2019 YLMP participant. "The exposure to ag policy was a first for me, and I am amazed at the breadth of issues that APAS is tackling on a daily basis. My greatest takeaways from the program were the efforts of the organization to be non-partisan, the people I met, and the new network of friends and resources I have. They have all enriched my life."

Twenty-eight young Saskatchewan producers have completed the program since its inception in 2014. The 2020 YLMP is sponsored by Can-Am.

can-am

APAS Photo Contest

In December we invited APAS Facebook and Twitter followers to submit their most beautiful and dramatic Saskatchewan photographs as part of our first-ever photo contest!

We received an incredible number of submissions in the categories of Farm/Rural Life, Landscape, Livestock, and Wildlife, and are excited to present some of our favourites here and in upcoming issues of *Saskatchewan Farmers' Voice*.

Do you have a beautiful image of rural Saskatchewan that you would like to see published in our pages? If so, we're happy to receive your submissions. Just email high quality (300 dpi or 1+ mg) images to info@apas.ca.



Photographer: Becky Johnson

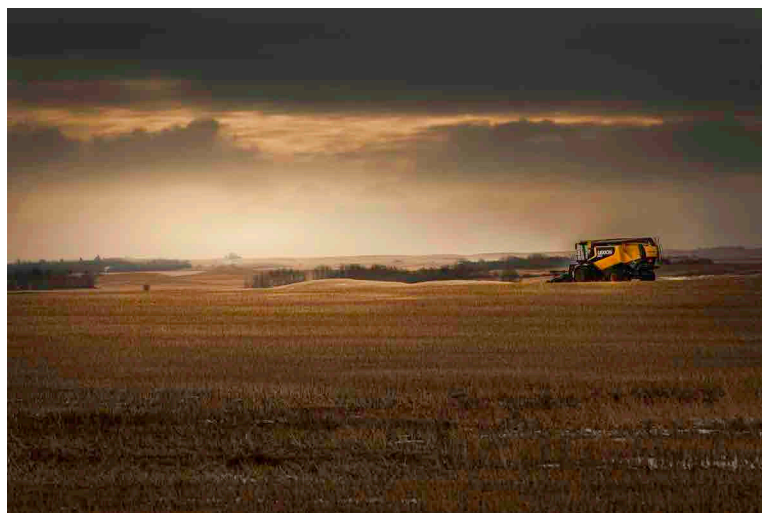
Location: Prince Albert, SK

Description: This photo was taken on a cold December morning during a routine herd check out in one of our pastures. We loved the photo for a few reasons: it shows the amazing beauty of the animals we put so much care into raising, the heartiness of a bison in our cold climate, and the amazing sunrise that is so common in our land of living skies.

Photographer: Deanna Kitzul

Location: Langham, SK

Description: "Yellow Brick Road."
A trail through a flowering canola crop.



Photographer: Jackie Gartner

Location: Clone Rd, SK

Description: Fall image taken on a weekend drive.



STARS provides vital care and transport to people when they need it most

INFORMATION AND PHOTOS SUPPLIED BY STARS

STARS H145 in flight, photo courtesy Airbus Helicopters Canada

Saskatchewan is known for a lot of things – the Roughriders, beautiful sunsets, pristine lakes and agriculture are just a small part of a big list.

The province also has a large and far-reaching rural population, which can present challenges when it comes to immediate access to emergency care. That's why since its arrival in 2012, STARS has been an invaluable part of the chain of survival in Saskatchewan.

Adair O' Grady discovered the importance of STARS' world-class critical care and rapid transport when he was injured in an accident on the family farm near Neilburg in 2015.

"My dad didn't realize I was on the ground in front of him calibrating our new air drill, and he inadvertently drove our pickup onto my body," Adair said.

Although he was stable, Adair suffered a number of injuries that had the potential to become life-threatening if he didn't get to a hospital fast. Fortunately STARS was able to rendezvous with EMS in Cut Knife and get Adair to Saskatoon's Royal University Hospital.

His recovery was difficult, but one year after his accident Adair was back farming with his dad. "I'm amazed by the gifted individuals at STARS who put their hearts and lives into their jobs," he

said. "As I watch my children and my crops grow, I'm incredibly grateful."

Emergency medical care for farmers and ranchers across the province

In a different part of Saskatchewan, Milt Mastad and his family were STARS supporters long before Milt needed STARS' help.

"Where we live, we don't have easy access to medical attention," said Milt, who ranches near Glentworth. "I was looking at [donating to STARS] as insurance: if I support it, maybe I won't have to use the service."

Unfortunately, Milt did require a flight

in the helicopter air ambulance when a dusky ride home took a turn for the worse. Unexpectedly, his horse bucked hard many times, severely injuring him before he could make his way to the ground. Luckily two of his daughters were riding close by, and one went back to the ranch to call for help.

Milt was in critical condition, and he needed to get to a major trauma centre quickly. STARS was able to rendezvous with the local ground ambulance, and the flight nurse and paramedic continued his care in the back of the helicopter en route to Regina General Hospital, where he underwent several surgeries and began the long road to recovery.

One year later, Milt was back in the saddle on the same horse, something that wouldn't be possible without STARS and the donors who make the non-profit organization soar. "Everybody in the province either already knows someone or they are going to know someone who needs the service," he said. "I take com-

fort in the fact that if something happens, STARS might be there to give me medical attention again."

Beyond the helicopter, STARS provides donor-funded mobile critical care training at no charge to rural emergency care

“ STARS has highly trained critical care nurses, paramedics and transport physicians available 24/7 to care for some of the sickest and most critically injured patients throughout the province. ”

Providing more than emergency care in the air

STARS has highly trained critical care nurses, paramedics and transport physicians available 24/7 to care for some of the sickest and most critically injured patients throughout the province on the way from an accident scene or rural health care facility to a major trauma centre.

STARS' helicopters are outfitted like hospital intensive care units with specialized tools including ultrasound, blood, ventilator, and point-of-care testing at patient side (i.e. portable lab).

providers throughout the province in a motorhome retrofitted with an emergency medical simulation room. The Rawlinson Mobile Education Unit was the first of its kind in North America and has provided training to more than 650 individuals in communities across Saskatchewan in the last year alone.

Community education programs are designed and led by STARS crew for first responders and municipalities to assist in landing zone safety, integrated operations support and safety in radio communications.

Every day, STARS also monitors thousands of registered remote sites, improving emergency preparedness for those working in a variety of industries, including agriculture. In the event of an emergency at a registered site, one call connects you to a STARS Communication Specialist who immediately begins to coordinate the appropriate medical response.

New helicopter fleet an investment in the future

STARS unveiled in June 2018 its multi-year plan to replace its fleet of BK117 and AW139 aircraft with nine new medically equipped Airbus H145 helicopters, at a cost of CAD \$13 million each.

"The bulk of our aging fleet are no longer being built and are becoming costlier to maintain," said STARS president and CEO Andrea Robertson. "Additionally, independent assessments of the sustainability of our fleet told us we needed to move from two aircraft types to one."

To learn more about how to register your farm with the STARS Emergency Link Centre, call 1-888-888-4567.



STARS Very Important Patient Milt Mastad



STARS H145 training mission

An extensive review resulted in the selection of the Airbus H145 aircraft as the best option for STARS' new fleet. It offers cutting-edge technology, advanced safety features, and an updated version of the medical interior found in STARS' existing helicopters.

Thanks to the generous support of federal and provincial government allies and early fleet supporters, STARS is well on its way to achieving its fleet renewal goal. A capital campaign continues to raise funds to replace the rest of the fleet.

The first of three new helicopters in Saskatchewan entered service in the fall of 2019, and the remaining two aircraft will be delivered by 2022.

"Our supporters ride along with us on every mission, and now they are helping us build the next STARS fleet," said Robertson. "These new aircraft are an investment in our ability to serve the people of Western Canada for decades to come, and we're incredibly grateful to the community for helping us get closer to our goal."

Your crop could save lives

STARS is a non-profit, charitable organization that receives 50 percent of its annual operating budget from the Government of Saskatchewan. It fundraises for the remaining \$10.5 million required annually to run its Saskatoon and Regina bases.

There are many ways to support STARS. From locally-organized fundraisers to private donations, to bequests in a will, to purchasing STARS calendars or STARS lottery tickets, to attending major STARS events like the Regina Night With STARS Gala or Field of STARS at Ag in Motion, ongoing support is needed to keep the red helicopters in our living skies.

Another way for farmers to get directly involved is through the Growing for STARS program. In 2019, nine farm families in Western Canada pledged the proceeds from their crops to support STARS life-saving operations.

"STARS is fortunate to enjoy incredible support from the agriculture industry and this is another great example," said Lori Derksen, development officer, events. "We've had farm families come forward to donate crops of canola, soybeans and navy beans in 2019 and we are excited to see the results."

"Our rural areas don't have access to a lot of amenities and immediate access to primary health care is one of them," said Joe Lawson, one of the producers who grew a crop for STARS in 2019. "STARS is a group that is trying to bust that trend and get care to this part of the Prairies. I really believe in STARS; they save lives."

Due to the late harvest across much of Western Canada in 2019, it's too early to know how much will be donated. "We are so fortunate to have a community of supporters that understands the need for the services STARS provides," Derksen said. "It's because of them that the next time someone is need of critical care and transport STARS will be there."

If you are interested in Growing for STARS in 2020, please contact info@stars.ca for more information. All donations are tax deductible.

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