

SASKATCHEWAN Farmers' Voice

WINTER 2017 EDITION

The Official Publication of the
Agricultural Producers Association
of Saskatchewan



MEMBER PROFILE

CAM WIEBE

*A passion for agriculture and a commitment
to sustain the industry*



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and a commitment to
sustain the industry

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We have a great team at APAS

BY NORM HALL



"HI, MY NAME IS NORM HALL and I'm the president of APAS..."

Oops, as of December 1, I don't say that anymore.

After five years in the job, I did not let my name stand for the position again this year. But I'm not leaving; I just won't be leading the APAS team. It's time to let someone else

take the reins.

There are several levels of people that make up the APAS team.

Our municipality members are divided into six districts — and each RM has a representative at their district level. These reps bring forward information and resolutions, or make specific requests to one of the APAS policy committees.

Each district elects two representatives, and it's these 12 people that become the APAS board of directors. Their main responsibilities are to help create agricultural policies, guided by the views of their districts, and to create policy to direct the operations of APAS. They also are involved with the policy committees, along with municipal reps, and they represent APAS at external functions.

The board of directors elect the APAS executive — consisting of a president and two vice-presidents. They work with the APAS general manager, also a member of the executive, to oversee the day-to-day, week-to-week decisions that are made between board meetings. The president and VPs represent APAS at external functions, and are official spokespeople for our organization.

Everyone on the APAS team is a rep first, meaning they are responsible for taking information back to their membership bases.

I have always been very proud of our APAS team. Back when our organization began, our first president, Terry Hildebrandt, laid down the law for the organization. One of them was that since we are non-partisan, we do not talk about partisan politics — everyone checks their hats at the door. That rule is still in effect today, and it has helped define us as the organization we were and continue to be.

I'm also very proud of our organization. As president, I have had the privilege of representing APAS in travels across our great province and country. I've met so many interesting people, hearing their concerns and issues. These experiences have added many shades of colour to decisions that were once black and white.

I'll still be representing APAS on a scaled-back basis because, as I said, I'm not leaving — just not leading.

Let's talk soon. *FV*

Important work to continue in 2017

BY TODD LEWIS



THIS IS MY FIRST MESSAGE in *Saskatchewan Farmers' Voice* as the newly elected president of APAS. I want to thank the board of directors for their support, and I also want to thank our former president Norm Hall for his years of service at the helm. I look forward to his guidance in his new role as vice-president.

As well, I thank former vice-president Donavon Block for his service, and welcome Ian Boxall to his new position as VP. Finally, I thank former board-of-director member Dorothy Weetman of District 3, and wish her well on her retirement. Rick Jensen from the RM of Webb No. 138 will be taking over her position.

We've got a lot of work ahead of us this winter on many issues, but I think our two most urgent concerns are the carbon tax and grain transportation. Our province has taken a position on the carbon tax, and now we must see how this will play out. If there is to be a carbon pricing scheme, we must do our best to get the best deal for Saskatchewan producers, as well as the province as a whole.

I believe we must work together with our counterparts in other provinces to illustrate the work that farmers do in sequestering carbon. We must get recognition for that, and also for the fact that we operate in an export market and our farms must remain competitive.

We must also continue our efforts to address grain transportation. We work together with Western producer groups, industry, provincial governments and the Canadian Federation of Agriculture.

Our common message was received well by federal Transport Minister Marc Garneau and Agriculture Minister Lawrence MacAulay. This was evident in Minister Garneau's report on the Canada Transportation Act review, given in late October, in which he indicated he will be pursuing legislation that will allow reciprocal penalties in service level agreements between railway companies and their customers — one of our key requests.

This will require a lot of work to ensure that they get it right.

The minister was less clear on the government's intentions for the maximum revenue entitlement and the future of inter-switching, saying only his government would address these two issues. He promised to consult with us this winter, and we are preparing for that. Any legislative changes on grain transportation will have long-term ramifications — they will affect our industry for the next decade.

I welcome your feedback on these two important issues — as well as on any other concerns affecting your farm or the agriculture industry. I look forward to working as your president over the coming year. *FV*



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Cam Wiebe

A passion for agriculture and a commitment to sustain the industry

BY DELANEY SEIFERLING

SOME PEOPLE CAN'T DECIDE what they want to be when they grow up, but Cam Wiebe was never one of them. He knew from an early age that he wanted to farm.

"I had a permit book before I had a driver's license," he says. "It was something I never actually questioned. I'm passionate about ag and I absolutely love farming and wouldn't want to have to consider doing anything else."

Wiebe started farming with his dad at age 15, renting land from his grandpa. His operations have since evolved into a 12,000-acre farm in the RM of Churchbridge, which he operates with his wife and four boys, his brother, his sister-in-law and her family, his aunt and uncle, and other business partners. Together they grow canola, wheat, canary seed, alfalfa seed, and more.

Wiebe's farm operation isn't the only thing that has evolved. So, too, has his involvement in another part of the Saskatchewan agriculture industry, although this did not happen on purpose.

Almost a decade ago, Wiebe got a call from the APAS representative for Churchbridge, asking him to become involved with the organization.

"I can't say that I pursued APAS," Wiebe says. "I showed up there without really having much interest in it."

But once he learned more about the organization, he soon found that this was a new channel for him to help strengthen the industry he loved.

"I became aware of a lot more of the policy issues that affect us, and learned that in many



cases APAS is the only group addressing these issues," he says.

Wiebe was also attracted to the unique role that APAS plays in Saskatchewan, as a farm organization that is solely focused on policy from a non-partisan, grassroots perspective.

"You have to be a general farm organization to bring a balanced and neutral approach to some of these issues," he says. "I see it as a tough job sometimes to be the ones who are considering policy that best suits all producers."

As part of his current role as the representative for the RM of Churchbridge, Wiebe sits on APAS's land and environment committee — and this allows him to address some of the issues he feels are currently the most important for farmers in Saskatchewan.

One that is especially close to home for him is water management. >>



All four of Cam Wiebe's sons — Jon, 7, Jamie, 11, Robbie, 12, and Tommy, 14 — are active on the farm.

“It’s in our best interest to see this industry continue into the next generation. One of the reasons I do what I do is that I’m trying to create as good an opportunity as I can for my sons to carry on the business.”

“This is a major issue on the east side of the province, has always been a major issue in the northeast and now has become a major issue in the southeast.”

The government has long been trying to come up with a legal and organized strategy for water management, one that also addresses issues such as proper water retention, flood management, and defining how much land needs to be set aside for wildlife, Wiebe says.

And this is critical because many farmers are currently concerned about the threat of potentially losing the existing water management infrastructure, as well as their ability to continue to develop land as needed for their operations.

“As producers, our business is based entirely on the landscape,” he says. “There’s quite a bit of uneducated opposition to us being able to have our land in shape in order to progressively and economically farm.”

Also related to public opinions about farming is another area of increasing importance for the agriculture industry, Wiebe says.

“When I started farming, we never heard the term ‘social license,’” he says. “Now we are seeing a growing need to

tell our story and to advocate for our industry.”

Part of the work that the land and environment committee does plays into the social license area as well, Wiebe says, as it is constantly looking for ways in which farmers can improve their business management practices in areas related to the environment. These include recycling programs for grain bags, chemical jugs, and other farm products.

“We know that recycling part is only a small part of social license, but all the small things count and we know that we constantly need to do be doing more.”

Another major concern that Wiebe has for the future of farming in Saskatchewan is engaging young people to become involved with the policy side of agriculture.

“Many of the older generation farmers are awesome leaders for our industry, but we can’t continue to fill the room with retired farmers. The 30, 40 and 50-year olds need to be there, too.”

Wiebe admits that farming with partners allows him to take time off for APAS meetings and events, while it’s not always that easy for other young farmers operating their own businesses.

“We focus so much on our own business and I understand that has to be primary. But maybe a few of us just need to set the example and I’m trying to do that. We need to be a positive example and hopefully one or two people pay attention.”

Wiebe is also trying to set a good example closer to home, where he is nurturing his own next generation of farmers. All four of his sons — Tommy, 14, Robbie, 12, Jamie, 11 and Jon, seven — are active on the farm.

“They’re all very interested in farming and the older they get the more their interest increases,” he says.

And for Wiebe, this is really what it’s all about.

“It’s in our best interest to see this industry continue into the next generation. One of the reasons I do what I do is that I’m trying to create as good an opportunity as I can for my sons to carry on the business.” *FV*

Fusarium = vomitoxin

What to do with affected wheat

BY DELANEY SEIFERLING

Reprinted from the December 2016
SaskWheat newsletter



Above: In wheat the fusarium-damaged kernels tend to be lighter, more shrivelled.

“PRETTY BAD,” “VERY BAD,” “a nightmare” — these are all expressions that have been used to describe the fusarium problem Saskatchewan grain producers are facing.

And samples so far are confirming that these expressions are not too far off, says Daryl Beswitherick, program manager of quality assurance standards for the Canadian Grain Commission.

“It’s a major grading factor this year,” he says.

The CGC’s samples from Saskatchewan have shown 65 per cent of spring wheat and 36 per cent of durum has been downgraded due to fusarium, compared to last year’s 17 per cent and 13 per cent respectively.

Neil Townsend, senior market analyst with FarmLink, estimates the amount of Western Canadian wheat graded No. 1 and 2 this year will likely be closer to 50 per cent, down from the average 70 per cent it usually is.

“Fusarium is probably the No. 1 downgrading factor out there for Western Canada, with Manitoba and Saskatchewan the most adversely affected,” he says. “For wheat itself it’s pretty bad, for durum wheat very bad.”

This is why it’s critical for producers to get

their grain tested this year, Beswitherick says, so they are better positioned to make marketing decisions.

“When they know what their quality is prior to going to market their grain, they know if they are getting a good deal or not.”

At low levels of fusarium, there’s often a fairly consistent correlation between fusarium-damaged kernels and vomitoxin content, but at higher levels that relationship isn’t always consistent, says Mitchell Japp, cereal crops specialist with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture. So it’s important to get a good sample for testing.

“Take it to your buyer to do the testing,” he says. “DON [vomitoxin] is not a grading factor for the grain commission, but grain buyers need that information to meet market requirements.”

Producers may also want to get their grain tested privately, as some grain companies do not release the grading specs after they’ve tested the grain. Either way, knowing your vomitoxin levels is crucial even if your marketing plans are still undecided, Townsend says.

“You can have vomit [vomitoxin] that is higher than what is ideal but you still want to >>

keep it segregated and not mixed in with any higher vomit wheat because there may be some blending opportunities available.”

MARKETING OPTIONS

Overall, producers who are experiencing downgrading due to vomitoxin levels may need to adjust their marketing expectations.

The general consensus is that samples falling below two parts per million, or PPM, will be considered acceptable levels to have clear marketing options for human-consumption markets. Those that fall in the two-to-five PPM range will have a tougher time, Townsend says, and opportunities will be even harder to find for samples that test higher.

“Essentially I think the one piece of advice we’re giving is the order of which you do the marketing,” he says. “The higher the vomit, the sooner you should try to move it. The opportunities, if there are opportunities, will be better the lower the vomit is.”

Feed is one of the options for grain with higher vomit levels, says Jonathan Meyer, merchandiser for AGT Foods, and he is currently buying grain testing up to 10 PPM for feed markets. But he cautions that prices will be lower for these markets.

“The problem right now is that the world’s just awash with feed products like corn, regular wheat, and feed barley so the price has to compete,” Meyer says. “When you’re trying to compete with \$2.50 feed barley, then obviously the price to the producers has to come pretty cheap.”

Durum is also an adjustment for the feed manufacturers, he says, making it a harder sell.

“A lot of these feedlots are feeding regular feed wheats or barley so for them to switch to durum they have to make sure it all makes sense money-wise, and if they’re going to switch they are going to want to buy as much as they can for as cheap as they can,” Meyer says.

“Durum is also the hardest of all wheats, compared to feed wheats, so for

some of these animals it will be an adjustment.”

Ethanol markets are another option, Townsend says, but these manufacturers are also still particular about what levels they’ll take.

“Even the ethanol plants are going to be sensitive about the vomit level because in order to be profitable they need to sell both components, the ethanol and the DDG [distillers dry grain], so that’s not always a starter there,” he says.

The general consensus is that samples falling below two parts per million will be considered acceptable levels to have clear marketing options for human-consumption markets.

“Do they need to take zero PPM? No, but they’re not also going to be as interested in your seven-to-eight PPM stuff.”

For producers holding grain with vomit levels of 10 PPM or higher, there are still options for feed and other markets, but they are much more limited, says Meyer.

“We’re also looking for export markets that will buy a max level of 10 PPM when the price makes sense and put it into their feed programs — markets that are more concerned about their price than quality,” he says.

Townsend also says new markets will likely slowly open up.

“There are countries, export programs, that will take some of this. One we’re hearing about is some aquaculture demand from Thailand, Vietnam, these kinds of places. Again their preference would be to have lower vomit levels, but it’s a price trade-off.”

Overall, it may benefit producers to sit tight for awhile while they review their options, Japp says.

“Patience is No. 1,” he says. “I think to some degree the grain companies may

be waiting to see what’s out there. They’re looking at these indicators, too, but they have their own samples that they’re testing and they want to get a sense of what’s out there before they buy too much lower quality stuff.”

OTHER OPTIONS

There are some opportunities for cleaning fusarium-infected grain, but if you’re considering this option there are a few things to keep in mind.

First, ensure that cleaning is going to make economic sense in the long run, Townsend says.

“I wouldn’t clean anything on spec, unless you knew that you’d end up with really clean wheat. People have to be very careful to ensure they understand the cost of what they’re trying to do and whether or not they can recoup the cost down on the other end.”

Producers are also cautioned to start small with cleaning, Japp says.

“Get a good representative sample, then take a truckload in to a cleaner, get it cleaned aggressively, and then get it tested again,” he says. “Don’t start with a bin, don’t start with a whole yard of it. Just see what the cleaner can do.”

And just like with marketing, the higher your vomit levels, the more limited your options, Townsend says.

“Trying to clean 12 to 13 [per cent] vomit down? Probably not to an acceptable level for human consumption. If you’re in the four-to-five range, it might be worth cleaning.”

Japp also cautions being realistic with your goals.

“We’ve seen examples where there’s been pretty good success at cleaning it to remove enough of the fusarium, even at very high levels, to make it a manageable product,” he says. “It still might not be great but maybe just moving from sample to a feed and maybe from a feed to a three.”

Another option may be mixing the grain, Japp says.

“Nobody wants to, but waiting a year, storing this grain, and having a good crop next year, you can do your own blending to improve it.”

Finally, another thing to keep in mind is that crop insurance may cover some of your losses.

“Talk to your local crop insurance office because there are quality adjustments that they make,” Japp says. “It’s good to have conversations with them.”

STORAGE

One more thing for farmers to keep in mind is to be careful with post-harvest management of infected grain, as it’s likely more susceptible to loss of condition in storage, Japp says.

“It’s just that much more important that it is dry to at least 14.5 per cent, and a little drier is probably better when it’s damaged,” he says.

“Fusarium is not going to increase when it is stored dry — vomit content isn’t going to increase or decrease. Damaged grain is more at risk from infection, and moist conditions can promote fungal growth.” ^{FV}



About Sask Wheat

This article has been re-printed courtesy of the Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission, a producer-led organization established to grow the province’s wheat industry.

Check-off dollars administered by Sask. Wheat go toward research, market development, communications and promotion initiatives that will lead to improved wheat varieties, improved marketability, and higher value for producers.

Sask. Wheat’s producer-elected board ensures that producers have the resources, leadership and provincial, national or international representation to strengthen Saskatchewan’s competitive advantage and to ensure producers’ — and Saskatchewan’s — interests are protected.

Fusarium risk maps, resources on Sask. Wheat website

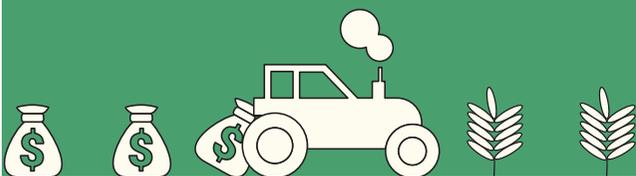
Starting in early June, Sask. Wheat publishes daily fusarium risk maps on its website to assist farmers in monitoring their crops and determining if and when to spray fungicide.

The FHB risk maps and other fusarium resources can be found at saskwheatcommission.com.

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APAS activities

See what APAS is doing for all Saskatchewan farmers

BY DELANEY SEIFERLING

LOBBYING FOR CONCESSIONS DUE TO LATE HARVEST

In light of the harvest difficulties many Saskatchewan producers faced this year due to rain and snow, APAS submitted four requests to the provincial government in late October to address this situation.

They include extending the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance account deadline, and prioritizing the creation of accurate and transparent quality factors for crop insurance claims this season.

“With the fusarium issues, there’s going to be grain that is next to worthless,” says Norm Hall, who was president of APAS at that time. “That grading factor is going to be very important and so is the timing of that grading factor.”

After the 2013 crop year, when durum crops were heavily affected by fusarium, the grading factor didn’t come out until April, which was too late, Hall says.

The final two requests were for the implementation of an Advance Payment Program for crop that cannot be

harvested until spring, and an extension to wildlife damage claims.

“Many producers have crop out in the field later than usual, and there has been considerable additional wildlife damage as a result,” Hall said in a letter to Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister Lyle Stewart. “Not all producers have experience with these claims or are necessarily aware that they are entitled to coverage.”

GRAIN TRANSPORTATION VICTORY

In early November, federal Transportation Minister Marc Garneau announced the government’s new, overarching transportation strategy. It includes new legislation, which will be introduced this spring, to define adequate and suitable rail service, and to provide Canadian shippers with the ability to negotiate reciprocal penalties with Canadian railways.

APAS has been lobbying for this measure for a very long time now, and this is a major victory.

Garneau also said that announcements will be made in the new year regarding the maximum revenue entitlement and extended interswitching distance. Then-president Norm Hall had a phone conversation with the minister’s office after the announcements, and feels confident that Saskatchewan farm organizations will be further consulted on upcoming changes.

“He said we need to stay in contact on this one and keep working together,” Hall says.

This attitude of collaboration is a change, he notes. After the report on the Canada Transportation Act review was tabled in Parliament last February, many provincial farm organizations felt their input was rejected.

“The Emerson committee heard us but they ignored what they heard,” he says. “The whole grain industry said the same thing to Emerson as we did to Garneau two years later. Now we feel not only heard, but listened to — our efforts have paid off.”

These efforts include several meetings with government representatives over the summer, and a submission to the CTA consultation, in conjunction with Sask Wheat and SaskBarley. The joint submission reiterated what has been said in the past — the maximum revenue entitlement must stay, a full costing review is needed, and longstanding service complaints must be addressed.

The coalition’s submission was also one of few that highlighted the important role of producer-car shippers and other small shippers, and the need to support the expansion of shortline rail in Western Canada.

MONITORING RECENT CORPORATE MERGERS

APAS has been monitoring the major agriculture corporation mergers that



have been announced so far this year, including Bayer-Monsanto, Potash-Corp-Agrium, and ChemChina-Syngenta, to assess how these changes will affect Saskatchewan producers. If potential conflicts of interest are found, APAS will submit a report to the federal Competition Bureau, which is an independent law enforcement agency that ensures that Canadian businesses and consumers prosper in a competitive environment.

PROVIDING IMPORTANT INPUT INTO NEXT AG POLICY FRAMEWORK

This past summer, Norm Hall represented APAS at the Canadian Federation of Agriculture's annual meeting, where the next agricultural policy framework was the focus. It will replace the current framework, Growing Forward 2, in 2018.

The meeting was an opportunity for

APAS and the CFA to present their recommendations for the next framework to federal, provincial and territorial agriculture ministers. The recommendations, says Hall, were the product of much advance work and forward planning by APAS.

"We were well ahead of the curve with our recommendations as we had done the consultations within our membership," he says.

Because this advance work was done, APAS was able to lead the discussion around the topic, Hall says.

"They [ag ministers] heard us and we are seeing them take our recommendations into consideration," he says.

"We're also seeing some of our language in their reports back to us."

APAS's recommendations revolved around several principles. The shorter-term priorities include ensuring the business risk management suite is meeting the needs of all Canadian

producers. Longer-term priorities include making Canadian agriculture a world leader in sustainability, investing in agricultural research, developing a national food policy, optimizing trade for Canadian agriculture, investing in agri-food value-added activities; and addressing Canada's rural infrastructure deficit.

2016-17 YOUTH MENTORSHIP GROUP SELECTED

APAS is pleased to announce the 2016-17 participants for our Youth Mentorship Group, which is sponsored by the Government of Saskatchewan's Youth Leadership Program. We gratefully acknowledge the provincial government's support, and welcome our newest participants — Jasmine Dreger of Yorkton, Kim Keller of Melfort, Karlah Rudolph of Gull Lake, Steven Donald of Moosomin, and Scott Owens of Maidstone. **FV**

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APAS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

New president and two VPs elected

The 2016 APAS annual general meeting was held November 29 to December 1 in Regina, where Todd Lewis was elected president by the board of directors. Todd, who farms at Gray with his family, is the APAS rep for the RM of Lajord #128.

He replaces Norm Hall, who retires after serving five years as president. However, Norm is not leaving because the board elected him as vice-president — along with Ian Boxall of Tisdale.

“APAS is very much a team, and I am very honoured to take over from Norm as leader,” Todd said. “Norm has done a tremendous job to raise the profile of our industry and our organization, and that is essential work that we plan to continue.”

At the meeting, APAS representatives elected the following board of directors:

District 1	Arlynn Kurtz	RM of Fertile Belt #183
	Marion McBride	RM of Moosomin #121
District 2	Todd Lewis	RM of Lajord #128
	Terry Anthony	RM of Baildon #131
District 3	Don Connick	RM of Carmichael #109
	Rick Jensen	RM of Webb #138
District 4	Norm Hall	RM of Emerald #277
	Ian Boxall	RM of Connaught #457
District 5	Donavon Block	RM of Leroy #339
	Mickey Palfy	RM of Viscount #341
District 6	Jeff Simpson	RM of Grandview #349
	Jeremy Welter	RM of Mariposa #350



BOARD OF DIRECTORS — Back row: Rick Jensen (left), Norm Hall, Mickey Palfy, Todd Lewis. Middle row: Jeremy Welter, Ian Boxall, Marion McBride, Terry Anthony. Front row: Donavon Block, Arlynn Kurtz, Don Connick.



RESOLUTIONS PASSED TO MAINTAIN A SUCCESSFUL AND PROFITABLE INDUSTRY

Business risk management

- Lobby Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation to implement an Advance Payments Program for unharvested crops, similar to the program offered through Alberta Crop Insurance.
- Lobby the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation to grade crop samples to current industry standards, over and above Canadian Grain Commission grades, to ensure that quality coverage remains consistent with the quality requirements now demanded by grain buyers.
- Support the establishment of a payment protection fund to provide producers with transparent and cost-effective protection against payment default.
- Lobby the federal government to provide mixed farms with separate Advance Payments Program limits for grains and livestock products.
- Lobby the federal and provincial governments to increase the government matching-contribution levels of the APP, and structure the program as a tax-free investment.
- Support policy changes to ensure that grain elevator companies making a cash advance repayment on behalf of producers in the APP provide repayment in a timely manner well in advance of payment deadlines.
- Lobby the federal government to allow producers to exclude chemical costs from seed purchases for the purposes of calculating allowable net sales under the Agri-Invest program.

Transportation and marketing

- Lobby the federal government to immediately conduct a full railway costing review as part of the Canada Transportation Act review.
- Investigate options to replace the aging government-owned hopper car fleet, including the feasibility of ensuring the replacement cars are manufactured in Saskatchewan.
- Lobby the Canadian Grain Commission to revise its grading system to ensure Canadian grades better align with the quality requirements now demanded by grain buyers.
- Lobby the Ministry of Highways for an infrastructure plan that will provide all agricultural delivery points access through the primary weight highway system.

Grains and oilseeds

- Lobby the federal and provincial governments to prioritize publicly funded research on fungal crop diseases such as fusarium.
- Call on the provincial government to maintain consistent standards with neighbouring provinces for the monitoring and measurement of clubroot contamination.

Livestock

- Lobby the federal and provincial governments to ensure that managed herds of wild ungulates on public lands are monitored for infectious diseases, like tuberculosis, that pose a potential risk to the livestock industry.
- Call on the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to protect Canada's reputation as a safe supplier of meat products by continuing to monitor and contain tuberculosis, while ensuring full co-operation

and open communication with affected producers, provincial authorities, and industry groups.

- Lobby the federal government to provide immediate financial relief to producers affected by the tuberculosis quarantines through the use of programs like the Advance Payments Program.
- Request the provincial government to provide technical and financial support to increase the number of beef, pork and poultry slaughter facilities in Saskatchewan.
- Lobby the provincial Ministry of Agriculture to restore cross fencing as a beneficial management practice eligible for cost-shared funding under Farm Stewardship programming.

Land and environment

- Lobby all levels of government to undertake research and education programming around rodent control in agricultural land, particularly for pocket gophers (moles).
- Lobby for increased research on carbon sequestration in hay land, pasture, and environmental acres such as trees and wetlands.
- Conduct a study on provincial weed management legislation and policies, which would include the current definition for noxious weeds, and the adequacy of training and funding of weed inspectors.
- Lobby the provincial government to work with retailers to fast track the establishment of a cost-recovery grain bag recycling program to take effect in 2017.

Economic trade and strategic growth

- Lobby the provincial government to restore the Saskatchewan farm input price survey.
- Explore options for a new agricultural training and certificate program for farm employees that includes an off-season in-class component, as well as on-site training provided by the owner/operator producer as the licensed instructor.
- Write Members of Parliament in support of private member's Bill C-274: Transfer of small business, family farm or fishing operation.
- Strike an APAS policy committee to develop a policy document on young and beginning producers, which would examine such issues as access to capital, intergenerational transfers and the adequacy of risk management programs for beginning farmers.
- Support a cost effective and efficient delivery model for municipal and social services that does not include the forced amalgamation of rural municipalities, health regions and school divisions.
- Host a roundtable of producers, commodity associations and government officials to address the increased regulatory burden, and the need to maintain and defend producers' right to farm in Saskatchewan.

APAS policy manual

Representatives at the meeting also voted to develop an APAS policy manual to present, record and communicate existing policies and positions. The manual has already been created, and contains a summary of the resolutions and policy positions that APAS has adopted since 2010. It will be updated yearly. To view the manual, go to the APAS website and look in the Advocacy tab.



A look at data privacy issues in agriculture

BY JACQUIE NICHOLSON

KERROBERT FARMER AND APAS District 6 representative Jeremy Welter has the perfect metaphor for why he thinks data privacy is the next big issue in Canadian Agriculture.

“There’s an old saying that if you ever ask a great grandmother for a famous recipe, you just may get it, but you can bet there will be an ingredient added or missing, to make sure you don’t really have it,” he says.

“Farmers are the same way. Anyone wanting the fine details of our business practices is going to have a hard time getting a straight answer, and for good reason.”

Always aware of their place as the underdog doing business with multi-national grain companies, Welter says producers are reluctant to share information that might give away a market position. But with agricultural equipment becoming increasingly more sophisticated, farmers are gathering more and more data on their crop production, and it’s not always clear who has access to it.

APAS general manager Duane Haave says that farm data privacy has become a topic of discussion in recent years, with more and more members wondering about who has control over their information. >>

“The biggest concern that is expressed to date is, what are the machinery companies doing with the data that is being collected?” Haave says. “There is an uneasiness that yield data is being resold to grain companies, which gives them an advantage over producers in a competitive market environment.”

Haave’s Manitoba counterpart, James Battershill of Keystone Agricultural Producers, has heard similar feedback from his organization’s membership.

“Over the last 15 years, companies have begun to recognize data as a product that can be monetized,” Battershill says. “Google and Facebook are examples of huge business empires built on collecting and analyzing users’ information, then finding a way to profit from it. That potential exists in the ag industry too and we need to know how to respond to it.”

Earlier this year KAP approached Pro Bono Students Canada, an organization that arranges for law students to work on legal research projects with non-profits and community organizations.

The students sifted through legal precedents in areas of law they thought could provide a framework for the discussion of data privacy in agriculture: privacy, contract, and copyright law. They produced a report outlining their findings.

The law students expected that farmers would find significant protections under the Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act, but it turned out not to be that straightforward.

“Personal privacy acts apply to things like personal records, personal information, occasionally medical information,” says Pro Bono Students Canada team lead Brianna Bogucki. “It does not apply to things like commercial privacy. So if a farmer is incorporated and has a corporate account, it doesn’t apply to them. There’s a very solid dividing line in the law there.”

Copyright law also proved to be a less-than-fruitful avenue, Bogucki explains, because most of the information generated by farm equipment goes

Example of American signatories to U.S. agreement

Organization	Machine brands
AGCO	Challenger, Fendt, GSI, Massey Ferguson, Valtra
Ag Connections, Inc.	
AgSense	
AgWorks	
Ag Leader Technology	
Beck’s Hybrids	
CNH Industrial	Case IH New Holland Agriculture New Holland Construction Rocky Mountain Equipment
Crop IMS	
CropMetrics	
Dow AgroSciences LLC	
DuPont Pioneer	
Farmoblie LLC	
Granular	
Grower Information Services Cooperative	
GROWMARK, Inc.	
Independent Data Management LLC	
John Deere	John Deere
Raven Industries	Seedmaster
Syngenta	
The Climate Corporation — a division of Monstanto	

into a database, and it’s not possible to copyright a database or the information it contains.

The most relevant framework the research uncovered was in the area of contract law. Bogucki and her team found the best tools that farmers have at their disposal in protecting their data

are the contracts they sign with their agricultural technology providers, or ATPs.

Contracts will identify who owns the farm data, whether the ATP can collect the data, and how it will be used — including whether it can be sold or disclosed to third parties.

In 2014, meetings between American farm groups and tech providers like John Deere and DuPont Pioneer resulted in the creation of a set of standards for farm data privacy. The Privacy and Security Principles for Farm Data, although not binding, outline how ATPs will contract with farmers — and dozens of companies have voluntarily agreed to them.

There are 13 principles, ranging from a pledge to draft contracts using simple and straightforward language, to a commitment to notifying farmers what data is being collected, who will have access to it, and for what purpose.

The principle of disclosure, use and sale limitation states that ATPs “will not sell and/or disclose non-aggregated farm data to a third party without first securing a legally binding commitment to be bound by the same terms and conditions as the ATP has with the farmer.”

The principle of portability prescribes that farmers should be able to retrieve their data for storage or use in other systems, and the principle of choice dictates that ATPs must lay out the full range of service options available and explain what opting in or out would mean for the producer.

Haave says he hopes APAS members will read the Pro Bono Students’ report, which includes the full text of the voluntary principles. Members should consider whether the principles are an appropriate tool for protecting producers’ rights, or whether farm groups such as APAS and KAP should lobby to have them made mandatory.

“Certainly we’ll be taking this report to one of our policy committees to see if they have recommendations about how APAS can proceed, and we would like to hear suggestions from our wider membership as well,” Haave says. “It’s a new and developing issue that’s only going to become more important as time goes on.”

Members should consider whether the principles are an appropriate tool for protecting producers’ rights, or whether farm groups should lobby to have them made mandatory.

While producers would be wise to exercise caution, Welter says the last thing he would want is to discourage fellow farmers from adopting technologies that will help their business.

Precision agriculture, he says, has enabled farmers to lower their costs by reducing overlap and eliminating waste in seeding, spraying, and fertilizing.

“It immediately allows you to be more efficient when it comes to your inputs,” Welter says. “You’re taking money that you would have spent on

seed and chemical and you’re able to redirect it elsewhere.

“Technologies like variable rate — it’s not the be all and end all, but for areas that have different nutrient contents, it’s a fantastic technology that allows you to put the right nutrients in at the right time.”

Battershill agrees that concerns about data privacy shouldn’t hold farmers back from embracing precision agriculture. However, he does stress the importance of producers fully understanding the contracts they sign with their ATPs.

“Most people admit that we don’t really read through the documents we sign,” he says. “I’m no different. I always feel that if there was something in my iTunes terms and conditions, the tech media would have read through them and flagged what I should be concerned about.

“Well, this is farm groups doing that for the ag industry. We are flagging that this is something you should pay attention to and be interested in.

“And certainly if you’re purchasing from a provider that isn’t a voluntary signatory to the Privacy and Security Principles for Farm Data agreement, you should be asking them why, whether it’s something that they’re considering, and what provisions they are putting in place to protect your privacy and intellectual property as a farmer.”

For a copy of the report, please contact the APAS office: 306-789-7774. *FV*



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APAS uses carbon sequestration data to show agriculture's potential

BY DELANEY SEIFERLING

AS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT is working on a national climate strategy aimed at lowering Canada's greenhouse gas emissions, Saskatchewan's agriculture industry is rallying to ensure farmers get a fair deal out of whatever measures are introduced.

And APAS is at the helm of these plans, says past-president Norm Hall.

The organization made carbon tax a main theme at its annual general meeting, which was held in early December, and it is also investigating the potential of hosting an Agriculture and Carbon Summit in Saskatchewan in early 2017.

"The carbon tax in itself is not a helpful market signal for agriculture because producers can't pass along their additional costs to their customers," Hall says. "When we need to grow 70 per cent more food worldwide by 2050, this is a burden we don't need."

Hall thinks there is a great deal of potential for the agriculture industry to sequester carbon in soils and plants — and to get returns for doing that.

"Agriculture is the largest sector of private land managers both nationally and provincially, and we need to discuss the important role we are playing now in managing carbon, and the huge potential role we can play in future," he says.

"This is what needs to happen in Saskatchewan right now, and the province needs to be involved."

APAS has also been consulting with the provincial and federal governments on the environmental components of the next suite of Agricultural Policy Framework programs, which are set to begin in 2018. And it has been relying on data from one of its associate members, the Saskatchewan Soil Conservation Association.

"We're going to be tapping into the long-term study that the SSCA has done on carbon sequestration in different soil classes across Saskatchewan," Hall says.



The Prairie Soil Carbon Balance Project began 20 years ago, led by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada researcher Brian McConkey. Its goal was to register carbon sequestration and the rate of permanence of sequestration measures.

This project was part of the SSCA's overall goal of improving and conserving Saskatchewan soils for agricultural purposes, says president Ian Boyd, himself a farmer at Kinistino.

"Many of our soils today are less than half the organic matter they were when they were first tilled some 60 to 100 years ago, depending where you are in the province," he says. "When you talk about improving soil there are a number of things you could improve, but the primary one would be soil organic matter, which is synonymous with carbon."

One of the conclusions of the project was that it's possible to quantify and verify changes in soil organic carbon, and that certain practices can improve sequestration.

"The absence of tillage sequesters

carbon and improves soil organic matter," Boyd says. "They go hand in hand."

Armed with the data from the project, the SSCA has several concerns about the federal government's approach to creating a climate strategy, Boyd says. Most notable is the fact that the government has expressed interest in outlining a baseline of 2005 to begin doing measurements for carbon reduction goals.

Since Saskatchewan actually started sequestering carbon in the late 80s, using 2005 as the baseline would skew the benefits for our province, Boyd says, because after a baseline is set, only the amount of soil carbon sequestration achieved in addition to the amount achieved in the baseline year would be recognized.

"A 2005 baseline for soil carbon removals will essentially penalize the province of Saskatchewan and our producers for their early adoption of direct-seeding practices. The problem is, because Saskatchewan was an early

adopter, we went through the pain of learning how to do this and had ramped up significantly by 2005,” he says, adding that currently the province is sequestering somewhere in the area of nine million tonnes of carbon every year.

Furthermore, Boyd says the carbon balance project indicates different conclusions than those of the model the federal government has been using to inform its climate strategy.

“The government’s model assumes we can only get the soil back to the state it was before we started and that it will reach a saturation point for carbon sequestration,” he says. “Our project indicates that in fact, the sequestration was going much deeper into the prairie soil than initially believed and that sequestration rates were continuing at a high level.”

The SSCA had a meeting with the federal government last fall about these issues, and were told that agriculture won’t be taxed, but Boyd says there has been no follow up since then and many questions remained unanswered.

“The problem is that when they say agriculture won’t be taxed, what does that mean? If that means we won’t pay a tax on the fuel we use, will we still be taxed on fertilizer, herbicides, and our other inputs that require lots of fossil energy to make?” he asks. **FV**

About the Saskatchewan Soil Conservation Association

For Saskatchewan agriculture producers, soil conversation never goes out of style. That’s what the Saskatchewan Soil Conservation Association has learned since its inception nearly 30 years ago.

“We always ask ourselves whether we are still relevant and the answer is always, ‘when is soil conservation not relevant?’” says SSCA president Ian Boyd.

Formed by a group of producers in 1987, the organization’s mandate was to promote conservation production systems that improve the land and environment for future generations. That mandate has since expanded to include the goals of increasing the public’s awareness of soil conservation and sharing soil conservation information with others.

The SSCA has grown into a widely respected organization, and this respect has been earned in a couple ways.

First, the organization has been a leader in the past two decades on zero-till discussions, say Boyd. In the early 1990s, people joined because they were interested in learning about zero-till, a concept that was gaining traction at the time as some of the major equipment manufacturers also became interested in zero-till equipment.

“We’re considered one of the leaders in North America, if not the leader, in teaching people how to zero till,” Boyd says.

Another reason that the organization has earned its respected position is that it has always maintained a mandate to be science based and non-political.

“We present the facts — when we make statements they’re based on sound science, not politics,” Boyd says. “We have maintained that position for the last 30-some years and we try very hard to stay that way.”

The organization is an associate member of APAS, which highlights another example of mutually beneficial relationships in the agriculture industry, says APAS past-president Norm Hall.

“With associate members, we really bring them on for selfish reasons,” he says. “They are the area experts and we use their knowledge so we don’t have to re-invent the wheel and do the research to be able to create good policy. They come in with that expertise and recommendations for policy.”

In return, APAS helps them get their message out, exposes them to people of influence in the lobbying world, and helps them push their respective agendas, Hall says, which is very useful for small organizations with limited resources such as the SSCA.

“We put them on the centre stage of our AGM and ensured they got their message out that much faster and further,” he says. “It’s a good relationship back and forth.”

To learn more about the SSCA, visit ssca.ca. To learn more about becoming an associate member of APAS, visit apas.ca/associate-members



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Farm insurance from The Co-operators:

Specialized coverage and discounts for APAS members

BY JACQUIE NICHOLSON

SEEING MORE OF YOUR INSURANCE advisor — in person, on your farm — can save you time, money, and headaches in the long run.

APAS partners with The Co-operators to offer discounted farm insurance to members not just because of their shared organizational values, but because of the quality of service offered to farmers.

“The one thing that makes us really different is when a client wants a quote, our company requires that advisors go out and do an on-site visit,” says Jamie Bohach, strategic client manager for The Co-operators. “Any insurer could do this, but we make it mandatory. We physically come out to the farm, spend time with the client, and see all the equipment and buildings firsthand.”

The approach is an uncommon one in the industry, Bohach says. More often, insurers will rely on information from a past policy, which can lead to situations where farmers are paying irrelevant premiums.

“It’s happened often that we’ll do a farm visit with a new client, and they’ll hand us a list of machinery from a previous insurer,” Bohach says. “We’ll go out and have a look around the farm, and we’ll find stuff they’ve been paying premiums on for years that they’ve long since sold.”

Another common practice in the farm insurance industry is basing coverage on inventory checklists completed by the client. This usually turns out to be more work for the producer, and can result in inaccuracies.

Bohach gives the example of farm buildings, which come in a wide variety of construction types. When farmers categorize their buildings on their own using a checklist, they may report incorrect construction styles and end up being over or under-insured for that particular type of building.

Over-insuring a building means paying unnecessarily high premiums. Under-insuring can be disastrous.

“Someone having their buildings valued incorrectly could result in them receiving too little coverage in the event of a claim, and not being able to rebuild,” Bohach explains. “They could also incur a penalty for having a building under-insured. The industry standard is a requirement to have your building insured at no less than 80–90 per cent of its actual value.”

On-site visits take the guesswork out of the assessment process. Advisors visit the farm to view and photograph all equipment and machinery for the client’s file. With comprehensive training in assessing farm and commercial buildings, they are able to put accurate valuation on all farm structures. They use specialized software to input measurements and

other information — age, construction type — to determine the value of a barn, shop, or shed.

“We collect as much information as we can to try to simplify things in the long-run,” Bohach says. “Then if you ever do have to make a claim, there are no questions needed at that point.”

The Co-operators advisors are required to do reviews with a certain percentage of their clients each year — usually about a third — so farmers can expect a site visit approximately every three years. Updating inventory is as simple as a call to your advisor whenever you sell some land or purchase a new piece of equipment, but in the event that a producer forgets to do this, these regular reviews should catch it.

The company also has a risk management department that provides on-site inspections for specialty farms like larger poultry and dairy operations, where more attention to detail is required. However, the service can be available to assist all clients.

“The loss-prevention specialists have infrared scanners and other types of tools to assess the condition of buildings and other structures,” says Bohach. “They can check on, for example, electrical code requirements in a dairy barn. They provide recommendations to assist farmers in reducing losses that are preventable through maintenance.”

The Co-operators advisors who wish to work with farmers are required to take an extensive farm insurance training program before they are qualified to sell farm products. Most come from rural areas and tend to have an agricultural background themselves.

Many advisors are active in various farm groups, including APAS. Others have been involved in 4-H or other rural or agricultural organizations.

INSURANCE DISCOUNTS

APAS members receive a two-part discount on The Co-operators farm insurance as part of the organization’s member benefits program. They are guaranteed a 2.5 per cent discount every year just for belonging to APAS.

The second part of the discount is recalculated each year based on the pool of APAS members’ loss ratio — the difference between the premiums The Co-operators collects and the claims it pays out. Essentially, if APAS members have a better loss ratio than The Co-operators target loss ratio, they get a higher discount.

Members are also entitled to the member enhanced endorsement, a grouping of 30 different coverage options and increased policy limits that apply specifically to farmers. Cov-

erages include grain, fertilizer, harvested produce, and fuel in fuel tanks. Increased policy limits encompass things like fire department charges and debris removal.

Buying them separately would come to about \$300, but members receive this additional protection in the range of \$50.

The Co-operators farm insurance, Bohach says, is a broad product suitable for a wide range of producers.

“We can do all of your family farms right up to your big corporate farms,” he says. “We can also do specialty operations like dairy and poultry.”

For more information on The Co-operators farm insurance options or to request a quote and farm visit, contact your nearest advisor. Don't forget to let them know you're an APAS member in order to access your discounts. **FV**

THE CO-OPERATORS AGENTS

Assiniboia	Sonya Hulgan	108 Centre St.	642-5422
Beechy	Chris Olson	201 Main St.	859-2298
Biggar	Karmelle Solvason	223 Main St.	948-3926
Carlyle	Gudmundson Insurance	102 Railway Ave. W	453-2833
Estevan	The Co-Operators	1311 - 4th St.	634-4413
Humboldt	K. Newman Insurance Ltd.	231 Main St.	682-3434
Kindersley	Chris Olson	1620 - 608-12th Ave. E	463-4777
Kipling	Moore Agencies	515 Main St.	736-8455
Meadow Lake	Joan Barbondy	201 - 2nd St. W	236-6222
Melfort	Walter Fedorychka	714 Main St.	752-4524
Melville	Lori Jasper	325 Queen St. W	728-4445
Moose Jaw	Sonya Hulgan	Unit #1 - 24 Chester Rd.	692-1844
Moosomin	Moore Agencies		435-2268
Morse	WRK Insurance	401 Main St.	629-7831
Nipawin	Walter Fedorychka	218 Railway Ave. E	862-0400
N. Battleford	Joan Barbondy	9800 Territorial Dr.	445-7406
Outlook	Chris Olson	221 Franklin St.	867-8251
Preeceville	Kluz Insurance	23 - 2nd Ave. NE	547-3464
Prince Albert	Goertzen Insurance	Bay 3, 1400 - 6th Ave. E	953-1636
Regina	Thomas Bamford	6863 Rochdale Blvd.	949-6633
Regina	Bassendowski Agencies Ltd.	1920 College Ave.	347-6600
Regina	Hoensen Insurance Inc.	2561 E Quance St.	359-2660
Regina	South Side Financial Services	4621 Rae St.	359-2699
Regina	Erin Shannon	4608 Gordon Rd.	721-7140
Regina	SMJ Financial	1055 N Devonshire Dr.	359-2667
Saskatoon	Matheson Insurance Ltd.	3 - 834 51st St. E	934-7315
Saskatoon	Newman Insurance Ltd.	130 - 2100 8th St. E	934-7350
Saskatoon	Chris Olson	105 - 440 2nd Ave. N	934-7338
Saskatoon	O'Reilly Insurance	101 - 407 Ludlow St.	934-7331
Saskatoon	Solvason Insurance Group	10 - 304 Stonebridge Blvd.	649-1420
Saskatoon	Wiens Insurance Group Ltd.	220 - 2600 - 8th St.	934-7309
Swift Current	WRK Insurance	1 - 505 N Service Rd. W	778-3251
Weyburn	The Co-operators	119 2nd St. NE	842-6555
Whitewood	Moore Agencies	613 Lalonde St.	735-4225
Wilkie	Joan Barbondy	201 2nd Ave. W	843-2366
Wynyard	Kluz Insurance	230 Bosworth St.	554-3676
Yorkton	Lori Jasper	81 Broadway St. E	782-2486

Farm Estate Planning Program - for APAS Members



Farm Estate planning is a very important part of your family's future. The Farm Estate Planning Program for APAS members offers a complimentary on-farm visit to review some of the essentials of proper Farm Estate and Tax Planning including:

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- Tax effective business succession planning
- Effective tax and estate planning including opportunities to minimize and defer tax, and
- Proper retirement income planning



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APAS membership: any RM can join

ALL RURAL MUNICIPAL COUNCILS can become APAS members. They elect or appoint representatives from their ratepayers to represent them at APAS and report back on its activities. These individuals also represent the RM's producers and ranchers, and vote on APAS policy to positively influence the direction of agriculture in Saskatchewan.

All ratepayers from a member RM, and their family members, can participate in APAS member rewards.

New member RMs have the option to become a transitional

member for a year, allowing them to participate in APAS on a trial basis. Through elected or appointed representatives, they have an opportunity to bring forward the views and opinions of their producer ratepayers in order to influence APAS policy development.

The ratepayers within a transitional RM also have access to APAS member rewards.

For more information on membership and how to become a member, visit www.apas.ca/becoming-a-member.

Thank you to our members

APAS thanks the following member RMs for supporting our work and ultimately supporting producers in Saskatchewan

DISTRICT 1

- RM of Argyle No. 1
- RM of Enniskillen No. 3
- RM of Coalfields No. 4
- RM of Storthoaks No. 31
- RM of Moose Creek No. 33
- RM of Lomond No. 37
- RM of Moose Mountain No. 63
- RM of Tecumseh No. 65
- RM of Maryfield No. 91
- RM of Wawken No. 93
- RM of Golden West No. 95
- RM of Moosomin No. 121
- RM of Martin No. 122
- RM of Silverwood No. 123
- RM of Kingsley No. 124*
- RM of Chester No. 125
- RM of Montmartre No. 126
- RM of Francis No. 127
- RM of Rocanville No. 151
- RM of Willowdale No. 153
- RM of Wolseley No. 155
- RM of Indian Head No. 156
- RM of Langenburg No. 181
- RM of Fertile Belt No. 183
- RM of Grayson No. 184
- RM of North Qu'Appelle No. 187
- RM of Churchbridge No. 211
- RM of Cana No. 214

DISTRICT 2

- RM of Hart Butte No. 11
- RM of Poplar Valley No. 12*

- RM of Laurier No. 38*
- RM of Norton No. 69
- RM of Excel No. 71
- RM of Stonehenge No. 73
- RM of Wood River No. 74
- RM of Elmsthorpe No. 100
- RM of Sutton No. 103
- RM of Gravelbourg No. 104
- RM of Lajord No. 128
- RM of Baidon No. 131
- RM of Caron No. 162
- RM of Marquis No. 191
- RM of Craik No. 222

DISTRICT 3

- RM of Auvergne No. 76*
- RM of Arlington No. 79
- RM of Bone Creek No. 108
- RM of Carmichael No. 109
- RM of Piapot No. 110
- RM of Lawtonia No. 135
- RM of Webb No. 138
- RM of Big Stick No. 141
- RM of Sask Landing No. 167
- RM of Lacadena No. 228
- RM of Chesterfield No. 261

DISTRICT 4

- RM of Orkney No. 244*
- RM of Garry No. 245
- RM of Emerald No. 277
- RM of Big Quill No. 308
- RM of Hazel Dell No. 335

- RM of Sasman No. 336*
- RM of Lakeview No. 337
- RM of Lakeside No. 338
- RM of Bjorkdale No. 426
- RM of Tisdale No. 427
- RM of Star City No. 428
- RM of Arborfield No. 456
- RM of Connaught No. 457
- RM of Willow Creek No. 458
- RM of Moose Range No. 486
- RM of Nipawin No. 487

DISTRICT 5

- RM of Mount Hope No. 279
- RM of Wreford No. 280
- RM of Wood Creek No. 281
- RM of Rudy No. 284*
- RM of Prairie Rose No. 309
- RM of Morris No. 312
- RM of Lost River No. 313
- RM of Dundurn No. 314
- RM of Leroy No. 339
- RM of Wolverine No. 340
- RM of Viscount No. 341
- RM of Colonsay No. 342
- RM of Corman Park No. 344
- RM of Perdue No. 346
- RM of St. Peter No. 369*
- RM of Lake Lenore No. 399*
- RM of Invergordon No. 430
- RM of Redberry No. 435*
- RM of Garden River No. 490

DISTRICT 6

- RM of St. Andrews No. 287
- RM of Milton No. 292
- RM of Winslow No. 319
- RM of Prairiedale No. 321
- RM of Antelope Park No. 322
- RM of Grandview No. 349
- RM of Mariposa No. 350
- RM of Progress No. 351*
- RM of Heart's Hill No. 352*
- RM of Grass Lake No. 381
- RM of Eye Hill No. 382
- RM of Round Valley No. 410
- RM of Douglas No. 436
- RM of Manitou Lake No. 442
- RM of Meeting Lake No. 466
- RM of Eldon No. 471
- RM of Mervin No. 499

**denotes transitional members. We would like to welcome the RM of Laurier No. 38 and the RM of Auvergne No. 76 as new transitional members.*

APAS also salutes our associate members and corporate partners for their valuable support

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Alternative Land Use Services
Chicken Farmers of Saskatchewan
Community Pasture Patrons
Association of Saskatchewan
Delta Waterfowl
Farm Management Canada
Farmers of North America
Saskatchewan Farm Stewardship Association
Hudson Bay Route Association
International Labour Centre
Red Coat Road and Rail
Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds
Saskatchewan Beekeepers Association
Saskatchewan Bison Association
Saskatchewan Conservation Development
Association
Saskatchewan Egg Producers

Saskatchewan Milk Marketing Board
Saskatchewan Nursery Landscape
Association
SaskOrganics
Saskatchewan Pork Development Board
Saskatchewan Soil Conservation
Saskatchewan Trade and Export
Saskatchewan Wheat Development
Commission
Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation
St Peter's Abbey

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Highlighting the work of APAS policy committees

BY DUANE HAAVE, APAS GENERAL MANAGER

APAS IS VERY EXCITED TO BRING you the second edition of *Saskatchewan Farmers' Voice*, our new quarterly publication that provides regular updates on the many activities of APAS, as well as articles of general interest to Saskatchewan producers.

This project is a partnership with our colleagues at Keystone Agriculture Producers in Manitoba, in association with Farm Business Communications.

We hope you enjoy this issue! Please feel free to share your feedback with us at any time, along with any article ideas you might have. Email us at info@apas.ca or call the office at 306-789-7774.

UPDATE ON APAS POLICY COMMITTEES

Because APAS is an advocacy and policy organization, I want to highlight in this column the work of our four policy committees. They're composed of elected representatives and associate members, and they work throughout the year to discuss key topics and refine APAS policy.

Our elected leaders then follow this policy when they lobby — depending on the topic — either municipal, provincial or federal governments.

Our grains and oilseeds committee, which addresses crop marketing, production, transportation and business risk management, has a full slate of issues it will be working on in the coming months. They include grain-grading standards, hopper-car fleet replacement, producer payment security as part of Bill C-48 to modernize the Canada Grain Act, producer cars, shortline railways and the Port of Churchill, canola dockage, and biosecurity.

Our livestock committee covers livestock marketing, production, meat processing and inspections, traceability, and crown grazing leases. This year it will address community pastures and the grasslands trust proposal, the Provincial Lands Act, cattle-theft reporting, provincial meat inspection, BSE and TB surveillance programming, and an Advance Payments Program for livestock.

Our third committee is economic trade and strategic growth, and it covers farm safety nets, taxation, farm finance, trade, labour and education. In the coming months it will be looking at income tax changes for the transfer of farm operations, municipal taxation, the

shortage of ag labour and training, international trade agreements, infrastructure needs of the ag industry, farm input prices, and rural broadband access.

The fourth APAS committee is land and environment, and it looks at property rights, water management, wildlife management, and ecological goods and services. This year it will work on climate change and carbon pricing, surface rights legislation, the provincial Weed Control Act and weed management, and future farm stewardship programming. Another major issue is Water Security Agency legislation, and the enforcement and approval process.

As I said, we're a grassroots organization — so member involvement is essential for our success. And we've just introduced a new way for members to be involved with policy development.

At our 2016 annual general meeting we formally adopted the idea of creating a policy handbook, which will include a summary of APAS policy developed over the last 10 years. It will also include a guide to refining and developing relevant agricultural policy in years to come.

Visit our website to learn more: www.apas.ca. *FV*

Thank you from APAS

APAS thanks the following participating Chrysler dealerships for their involvement with the APAS Chrysler Fleet Program from August 1, 2015 to July 31, 2016.

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Riverside Chrysler, Prince Albert

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[∞]Based on 2014 WardsAuto Middle Cross Utility segmentation.



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Speak to your local Co-operators advisor to learn more on how travel insurance can help you enjoy a worry-free trip!



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