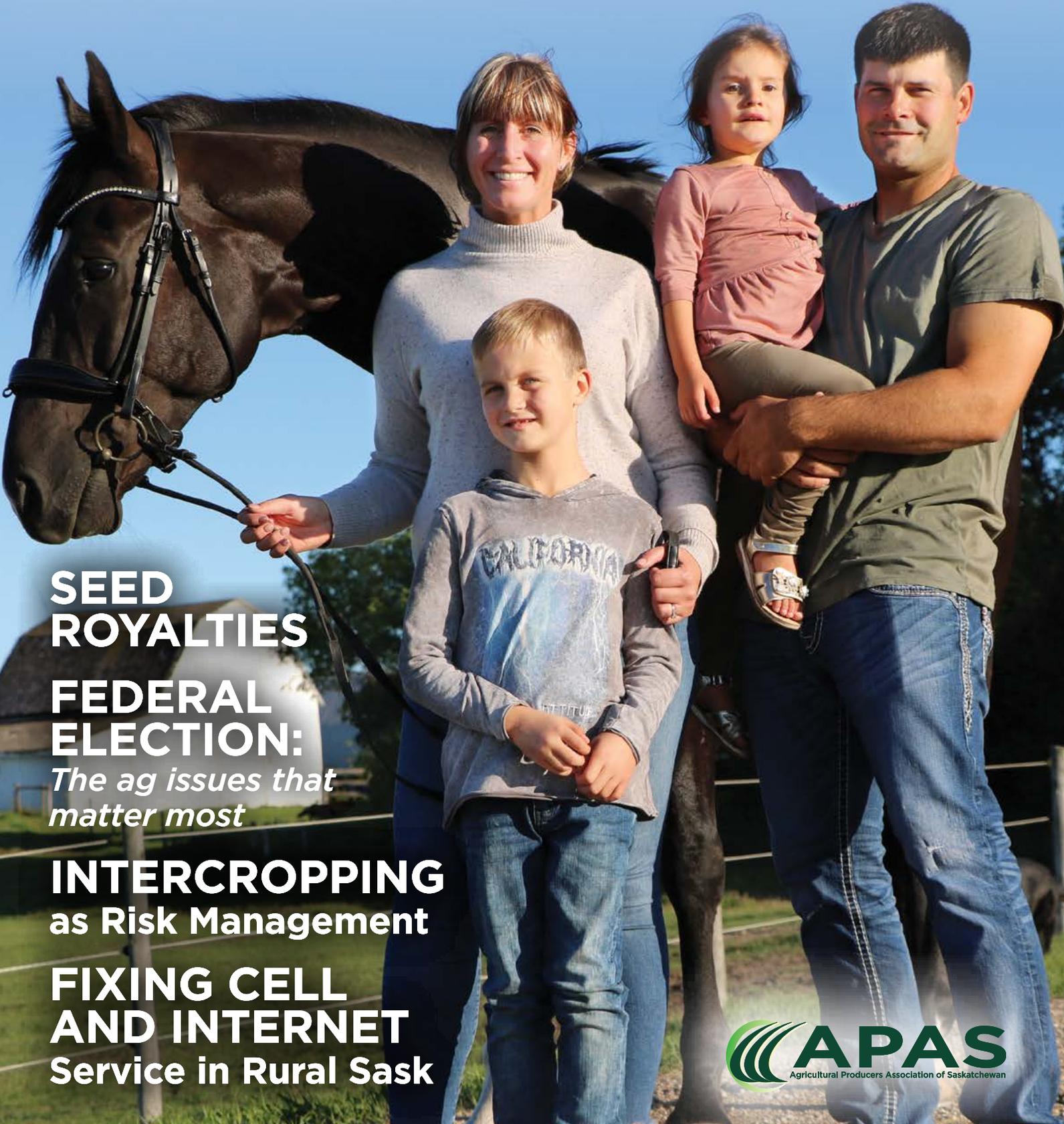


# SASKATCHEWAN Farmers' Voice

OCTOBER 2019 EDITION



**SEED  
ROYALTIES**

**FEDERAL  
ELECTION:**  
*The ag issues that  
matter most*

**INTERCROPPING  
as Risk Management**

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

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# APAS 2019 Federal Election Proposals

BY TODD LEWIS

Since our last edition of Saskatchewan Farmers' Voice in the spring, our producers have faced another difficult growing season, and uncertain impacts from international trade wars. Going from extreme drought to wet weather during harvest has been stressful enough without the added uncertainty of access to export markets and volatile commodity prices.



Canadian agriculture supports 1 in every 8 Canadian jobs, and the ratio is even higher here in Saskatchewan. Over the last 20 years, agricultural producers have continually increased our investment and productivity, and taken on higher risk each year to help support those jobs and economic activity.

Risks such as taking on more debt to finance our increased production. Our costs continually increase. We face trade actions that threaten our export sales, and we face more risk from a changing climate and extreme weather.

This issue of Saskatchewan Farmers' Voice is being distributed in the midst of a federal election campaign, and our members have prepared a list of proposals to support our industry for the federal political parties.

Federal political parties like to highlight the potential for agriculture to continue to grow the economy and provide jobs. APAS believes strongly that if Canadian decision-makers want to benefit from agriculture on the upside, they need to "put their money where their mouth is" and make commitments to provide a fair share to protect us when times get more challenging.

Trade and business risk management have been a major focus in our discussions with members in 2019. Resolving international disputes between nations is largely outside the control of individual producers, so we depend on federal trade policy and diplomacy to ensure market access for our products. When trade disputes occur, there needs to be programs in place to help producers manage the associated risks. Adding debt through higher advance payment limits is not the solution.

APAS has persistently called for improvements to address some of the gaps we are seeing in programs like AgriStability. In the absence of changes to the existing programs, APAS has taken the position that alternative programming is required. In May, APAS submitted an AgriRecovery proposal to the federal government and have received no response to date.

We have all heard in the news about the US government support for their pro-

ducers in the face of ongoing trade disputes, and this issue contains a guest column on page 8 from Professor Ken Rosaasen (APAS rep in RM 344 Corman Park), which outlines how a similar program could work in Canada for trade injury. APAS encourages Saskatchewan producers to have these discussions.

APAS is also conducting two important surveys that we'd like to hear from you on. Big changes are coming to the way royalties will be collected on cereal seed and we want to know how producers would like to see this done. You can read about our producer seed royalty survey on page 16 and on page 18 learn about APAS' rural connectivity survey. It's no secret that cell and internet service in rural Saskatchewan lags far behind our urban counterparts; find out how you can help change that.

I wish everyone clear skies and a safe and productive harvest season. If you have time to speak to your local candidates, it's an excellent opportunity to raise the following proposals.

## Reinvest in Agricultural Risk Management

Ongoing trade wars, droughts, and escalating production costs have increased business risk for Canadian producers, and the government's share of programs to manage these risks have not kept up.

AgriStability was intended to protect farmers against severe revenue drops during turbulent market conditions. Unfortunately, thousands of producers have left the program due to inadequate coverage levels and frustration with AgriStability's administration. A



recent APAS estimate of AgriStability coverage for price-risk suggested that a Saskatchewan farm with average yields, prices and expenses over the past 5 years would not qualify for coverage even if the price of canola fell to \$7.16 per bushel. A price drop of this magnitude is well below the cost of production and would be a disaster for our farm and provincial economy.

Market disruptions and rising costs have created an environment of serious uncertainty for Canadian producers, so in this federal election APAS wants to see real commitments to fix AgriStability:

- Remove AgriStability coverage limits that are based on a farmer's allowable expenses from the previous year.
- Restore AgriStability coverage to 85% of a producer's historical margin.
- Make AgriStability payments to farmers faster and more predictable.

### **Protecting producers from trade injury**

Saskatchewan's producers expect the Government of Canada to maintain productive diplomatic and trade relationships with other countries because our business depends on access to global markets. Canadian agricultural exports are currently being impacted by foreign governments, who chose to hurt farmers as an easy way to send political messages to federal politicians in Ottawa.

Trade wars have caused serious income problems for Saskatchewan farmers and existing federal insurance programs weren't built to handle the economic fallout from price drops due to trade disruptions. Meanwhile, governments in other jurisdictions are stepping in to protect their domestic farmers from trade injury. Market loss compensation rates are as high as \$57 per acre in some counties in North Dakota.

In this federal election, APAS wants to see commitments to create a new "Trade injury Support Program:"

- Federally funded program to compensate farmers for lost export sales due to trade disputes.
- Support offered for the duration of trade disputes, or until Canada's ex-

isting risk management programs are changed to provide coverage for trade-related income drops.

- Compliant with Canada's obligations to international trade organizations.

### **Improving rail infrastructure and performance**

Having an efficient and reliable transportation network for moving grain exports to global markets is critically important to Saskatchewan's agricultural producers.

Canada's rail transportation system has struggled in recent years to meet the demands of increasing grain exports and this has caused costly delays for farmers, plus damage to Saskatchewan's credibility in export markets. Over the past 20 years, the average time a vessel sits in a Canadian port waiting to load grain has more than doubled from 4.3 days on average in 1999/2000 to an average of 10 days in 2017/18.

In this federal election, APAS wants to see a commitment from the federal parties to improve transportation infrastructure for grain exports:

- Investment into rail infrastructure programs to increase export capacity at a rate commensurate with forecasted production trends.
- Improve federal regulations to provide better enforcement of reciprocal service agreements between railways, grain shipping companies, and producers.
- Improve the transparency and oversight of overall rail network performance.
- Investment to support shortline rail development in Western Canada.

### **Fighting climate change through recognition and resilience**

A carbon tax is clearly bad for Saskatchewan's agricultural producers. As price-takers in global markets, farmers are unable to pass along the added costs of a carbon tax and it only harms their businesses without reducing carbon emissions.

Saskatchewan's cropland and prairie grasslands are critical assets in the global effort to fight climate change be-

cause of the carbon sequestration benefits these lands provide, and farmers are the owners and managers of these important environmental protection resources.

In this federal election, APAS wants a commitment to developing a federal carbon offset program that:

- Provides meaningful recognition of current agricultural activities that offset carbon emissions.
- Provides financial support to maintain existing carbon sinks such as wetlands and grasslands.
- Provides fair compensation to producers for voluntary sequestration or emission reductions.

As an additional step towards reducing carbon emissions, APAS supports the development of a national mandate to allow 10 percent ethanol content in gasoline and 5 percent biodiesel content in diesel.

### **Improving rural quality of life**

Despite its importance to the provincial and national economy, rural Saskatchewan faces significant labour and infrastructure challenges. We need additional federal leadership and investment to ensure that rural areas have the necessary services and infrastructure to attract and retain people and investment. In this federal election APAS calls for commitments to:

- Increase federal investment into rural internet and cellular coverage, including clear timelines for achieving meaningful improvements
- Change the Income Tax Act to encourage intergenerational transfers of farms and reduce the tax burden on retiring producers.
- Make it easier for beginning farmers to access federal capital programs like the Advance Payments Program and the Canadian Agricultural Loans Act.

*Todd Lewis farms in Gray, SK.*

# Why am I receiving this magazine?

...and other frequently asked questions

**W**elcome to the tenth issue of Saskatchewan Farmers' Voice. Some of our readers may be wondering how this magazine has been finding its way to their mailbox and why...

## Why am I receiving this magazine?

Saskatchewan Farmers' Voice is published three times per year by the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS). It is a free publication that is delivered directly to every farm mailbox in Saskatchewan. **If you are not receiving Saskatchewan Farmers' Voice in your mailbox and would like to, let us know at [info@apas.ca](mailto:info@apas.ca).**

## What is APAS?

APAS was formed to provide farmers and ranchers with a democratically-elected, grassroots, non-partisan, producer-run voice to government and society. APAS is Saskatchewan's representative in the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA), which means that APAS works with decision-makers at every level of government to ensure that the views and needs of Saskatchewan's agricultural producers are being heard. APAS is also very active in the media, appearing in more than 1100 local, national and international news stories so far in 2019, to bring wider attention to the issues that Saskatchewan farmers are currently facing.

## As a producer, am I automatically a member of APAS?

No, Rural Municipalities decide to participate in APAS on behalf of their agricultural ratepayers. Those ratepayers then become members of APAS and elect a representative. Agricultural organizations can also join APAS as Associate Members.

## How much does it cost to join APAS?

APAS offers a 'Transitional Member-

**Would you like to attend the APAS AGM?**

Are you passionate about agriculture and want to learn how APAS finds solutions to the issues farmers are facing?

This year, APAS is offering five all-expenses paid\* opportunities for Saskatchewan producers to attend the 2019 APAS AGM in Regina, December 4th - 6th.

If you're interested, email your information to [info@apas.ca](mailto:info@apas.ca).

\*Registration fee, mileage and accomodations. Meals will be provided at the AGM.



ship' option for those RMs that wish to participate in APAS on a trial basis, for the cost of \$2019 for one year. A full APAS membership costs six cents for every agricultural acre in that RM or the 1/2 mill rate of the 2000 agricultural assessment, whichever is lower. **Did you know: APAS membership fees have never increased.**

## How many members does APAS have?

APAS currently has 137 participating RMs, which represents approximately 16,000 farm families across the province (see the full list on page 22 and 23) and 33 Associate Members.

## How do I get involved with APAS?

- If your RM is not participating in APAS, ask your RM council to consider joining
- If your RM is participating, get to know your APAS Representative and reach out to them with your concerns and issues
- Attend an APAS meeting: Fall district meetings will be held all around the province in October or November. Watch [APAS.ca](http://APAS.ca) for the confirmed

dates. The APAS AGM will be held in Regina December 4-6. See above to find out how you could have chance to attend, all expenses paid.

- To stay up-to-date on the work APAS is doing on behalf of farmers and ranchers, sign up for the monthly APAS e-newsletter 'APAS in Action' at [APAS.ca/apas-in-action](http://APAS.ca/apas-in-action).
- Follow the APAS social media accounts: @AgProducersSK on Twitter and @APASask on Facebook

## What are APAS member benefits?

APAS has partnered with several businesses and organizations to provide special pricing and discounts on certain products and services to all ratepayers in APAS member RMs, including Chrysler vehicles, and Co operators insurance (health, dental, disability, business overhead protection and more). You can find all the details at [APAS.ca/my-rewards](http://APAS.ca/my-rewards).

## How do I contact the APAS office?

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## Attention Saskatchewan Farmers, Market Gardeners and Greenhouse Operators!



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*We don't publish a website to avoid disclosing our proprietary technologies* but have teamed up with T&T Seeds near Winnipeg for commercial on-line orders. Order retail sized versions of our products on-line, T&T's website at: <https://tseeds.com>. **We're negotiating for a Saskatchewan bulk re-seller for all SRML products.**

For info, contact: Wayne Warren, Managing Director for SRM Ltd.; Mobile: (204) 955-3584.  
Email: [wrwarren@mymts.net](mailto:wrwarren@mymts.net) or phone Rick Unruh, Mobile: (204) 471-1385.

**Boost your crop yields.** Climate change is a reality. Precipitation is increasingly unpredictable across Western Canada. Your production will benefit directly by using our SRMpolymer-S (tradename Stockosorb™). This man-made product expands up to 300 times when hydrated and remains active in soil for up to 3 years. Apply dry, granular Stockosorb 660 polymer with seed during Spring planting, to achieve significant increase in yield. *Manitoba Canola trial showed ~10% better yield.* Similar benefits were recorded with market garden crops grown in open fields or greenhouses. **Apply during Fall tillage/seeding to maximize use of Spring melt water or apply in Spring, mixed with seed.**

Typical applications rates: 5 to 10 lbs per acre, average application 7 lbs/acre. Smaller amounts for garden rows or flower pots. We can email you our 1-page application guide for row crops or planter pots and have extensive documentation about use and benefits. This German invention is manufactured in the USA, has a Canadian CFIA registration number, and is fully documented. **150,000 tonnes available annually.**

SRML will ship directly to you for bulk quantity orders (1 or more pallets, each pallet containing 1 tonne of product, made up of 40 bags each containing 55 lbs/25 kg). *Full pallet orders are the most economical format.* However, bag-size orders are also available. **Discounts for 10+ pallets or 10+ bags per order.**

**Price per 1 tonne pallet: \$Cdn 9,975 including GST. Shipping extra, FOB Winnipeg.**  
Price per 55 lb/25 kg bag is \$Cdn 350/bag including GST. Shipping via Canada Post is approx. \$50/bag.

<<<< **SRMpolymer-S**  
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**SPECIAL INVITE.** Plan to attend the 2-day conference in Winnipeg on 2020 Feb 17-18 for state-of-the-art food security and improved nutrient density info. Email for registration package: [Harvey@alertagri.ca](mailto:Harvey@alertagri.ca)

**SRMpolymer-A >>>>**  
(reg. Akwaton™)

**Eliminate mould and other crop, poultry, egg, animal infections.** *Food loss is a real issue.* Use our SRMpolymer-A in various aerosol or liquid-wash forms. Extensive documentation and photos available. *In the T&T 2019 catalogue or on-line website, look for Plant Wash+.*

SRML will ship our diluted "ready-to-use" polymer-A directly to you for bulk quantity orders (20 litre pails of liquid product). *CFIA registration and Health Canada DIN numbers are pending.* MSDS guide provided.

This product is very effective at controlling/eliminating infectious bacteria/fungi in animal feed, bedding, pens. *When sprayed on food, follow manufacturer's instructions and rinse treated food before ingesting.*

**Price \$Cdn 200 plus GST and shipping per 20 L jug, in ready-to-use form.** Apply with aerosol sprayer or wipe-on or pre-wash food. Discounts for orders of 10+ jugs. Delivery 2-3 weeks. **1 million litres available.**

**Use our slow-release Ca-Mg fertilizer.** *Bulk supplies available Spring 2020. Pre-order now.* SRMfertilizer-D will be available in retail-size quantities in 2020 from T&T Seeds.

*Soil nutrients are essential for food nutrient density.* Your production will benefit directly by using our SRMfertilizer-D (granular Dolomite). Documentation and photos available. Apply dry, granular fertilizer-D with seed during Spring planting or during Fall tillage/planting to provide multi-year Ca-Mg fertilizing. Equally effective for market garden or greenhouse crops. Manitoba product is supplied with instructions.

SRML will ship directly to you for bulk quantity orders (truck loads). **Price \$Cdn 250/tonne FOB Winnipeg.** Full semi-loads can be arranged. Bag-size orders will be processed upon special request – separate pricing. *Delivery 2-3 weeks from pre-paid order, starting Spring 2020.* **10,000 tonnes available.**

<<<< **SRMfertilizer-D**  
(processed Dolomite)

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For bulk quantity orders (more than one 20 litre container), SRML will ship directly to you. **Price \$Cdn 250 per 20L jugs of Fusion concentrate, FOB Winnipeg.** Shipping is extra. **Quantity discounts for 10+ jugs.**

# A trade war mitigation program for Canadian Grain Farmers

A GUEST COLUMN BY KEN ROSAASEN



The Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan has become increasingly concerned about global trade action. The Canadian grain industry is an export oriented, trade-exposed sector. All Canadian grain farmers have been financially hurt by the current "Trump/China Trade War." China has targeted Canadian canola and soybean exports, but trade action is affecting other commodities as well. Pulses have been impacted by the actions of India; durum by the actions of Italy; barley by the actions of Saudi Arabia. There are agricultural business risk management programs in place, but they were not designed to address a trade problem of this magnitude or duration.

The Canadian government has shown a willingness to provide financial assistance to other sectors of the economy impacted by trade action and agreements. Canadian dairy farmers have been promised compensation over the next eight years for "anticipated hurt." Canadian steel and aluminum manu-

facturers also received financing and direct support in response to U.S. tariffs on Canadian exports. Equivalent support is required for Canadian grain farmers.

U.S. farmers, our competitors in the global grain trade, are receiving government Market Facilitation Payment (MFP) payments. These payments are generally in the range of \$15 to \$100 per acre in the corn/soybean/wheat areas of the U.S. It is important that Canadian farmers receive equivalent compensation, to allow us to remain competitive in global markets.

APAS's Economics and Trade Committee has given this considerable thought and has drafted a proposal for a trade war mitigation program for Canadian grain producers. We believe a program should be created and implemented immediately to compensate farmers for market losses. As trade is a federal responsibility and the current trade wars are affecting commodities across the country, we believe the program must be national in scope and fully federally funded.

It would be expensive and time-consuming to provide payments based on each farmer's individual sales and yield history. Instead, we propose to compensate farmers with regional per-acre payments. We believe these payments should be based directly on the U.S. MFP commodity rates, with the Canadian government providing farmers with payments equivalent to 85% of the U.S. payments, in recognition of the fact that Canada has not initiated the trade war.

When payments are not related to individual input and crop choices, and individual selling prices, the program will

not change producers' economic decisions and distort Canadian markets.

We believe payments should be based on a five-year yield history, based on a representative "basket of crops" in each crop insurance risk zone. Further, payments should be adjusted based on soil zones, with producers with more-productive acres receiving higher payments.

After calculating payments based on these prices and a hypothetical Saskatchewan risk zone with Class A soils, we have reached a figure of \$42.50 per acre. Of course, this payment would vary by region, and by soil class. For full details on this hypothetical calculation, and our recommendations on implementation and administration, please see the APAS website at [APAS.ca/trade](http://APAS.ca/trade).

Canadian farmers are efficient and able to quickly respond to market changes. However, we cannot compete in an environment of distorted markets, when our competitors are receiving direct government payments. The Canadian government has committed to assisting dairy farmers through this difficult time and has assisted the steel sector. The principle of compensating for the demonstrated hurt from trade must equally apply to Canadian grain farmers that create jobs and economic growth across Canada.

*Ken Rosaasen is a retired professor of Agricultural and Resource Economics at the University of Saskatchewan and farms in the RM of Corman Park.*

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# Risky Business

How a Saskatchewan producer is thinking outside the box to reduce risk

STORY BY DELANEY SEIFERLING, PHOTOS BY COLLEEN HENNAN

Lee and Shannon Sluser may look like your typical farmers family.

Co-owners of an 18,000-acre grain operation in Glenavon, Saskatchewan, they are also busy raising two small kids and operating a dressage horse training/breeding business (Shannon's passion).

But when you look a bit closer you'll find that their farm operates a little bit differently than other operations in the area.

"We're not your traditional farm I guess," Lee laughs.

The couple is in the process of buying Lee's parents out of the farm, which they took over management of in 2012. Partially because of their tight budget, one of Lee's interests in recent years has been trying to reduce input costs and alleviate business risks while also maintaining profits.

"We are trying to think outside the box to make everything work within our budget," he says.

"We're also trying to reduce risk and stress at the same time. Farming involves a lot of moving parts and there are many areas in which if you can make any reductions possible, it will help."

With this in mind, Lee has been experimenting in recent years with intercropping.

Last year he piloted a mixture of yellow mustard and red lentils, cutting back on fertilizer levels and using only a grassy herbicide to control wild oats and volunteer cereals. He also added some phosphorus to the crop.

"It turned out not too bad," he says. "It wasn't a high input crop and the return was there."

Because of this positive result, he expanded this year, trying combinations of flax and chickpeas, oats and peas, and canola and peas.

He also did a mustard and chickpea combination, for fun.

"That one was a little bit out there," he laughs.

**“Farming involves a lot of moving parts and there are many areas in which if you can make any reductions possible, it will help.”**

The basic idea of intercropping for risk management makes sense to him.

"If you get hot and dry weather, the peas will do well, and if you get cool and wet weather, the canola will do well, so you are spreading your risk out either way."

It also makes sense in terms of cutting back on your fertilizer use and letting the crops add their own beneficial elements to the soil.

"From my understanding peas will help fix the nitrogen for oats and the oats will help with the phosphorus for the peas, so they share the common ground between each other," he says.

He says intercropping is also a way to introduce new and potentially beneficial insects into the crops.

"There are definitely lots of reasons why we did it. Now we just have to make sure it pays off in the end."

Lee has also had to be innovative in dealing with draining problems, which

plague their region of southeastern Saskatchewan.

In the past the farm has relied on scrapers to address this but it has since scaled back, focusing more on tiling, which is a more flexible and sustainable solution versus an open ditch, Lee says.

"We are leaning towards doing more tile in the future because of the ease of it,"

he says. "It's also a lot quicker and you don't need to move near as much dirt."

It's also a preferred option by the Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds, he says.

"Everyone is trying to get the most out of every acre, which I understand, and so are we but when you put a lot of inputs onto the land you have to be able to get a return on it. All we're trying to do is reduce our risk through some of these different practices to help pull back on costs, therefore taking some of the pressure off the land to perform."

Another interest of Lee's is the idea of regenerative agriculture, which he views not only as an investment into one of his greatest assets – the soil – but also just a smart business decision and a responsible move for all producers.

"The carbon tax issue may be out of our hands, but as a producer I think we play a big role in helping to reduce carbon and increasing our organic matter.

# SLUSER FARMS





There are things we can do that have an impact on how much carbon we can sequester."

says, adding that he targets more sensitive areas such as road edges where there's more salinity in the crop.

ally either be killed, sprayed or terminated anyway by chemicals or winter, but as they break down they give off whatever nutrients they've collected."

**“ All we're trying to do is reduce our risk through some of these different practices to help pull back on costs, therefore taking some of the pressure off the land to perform. ”**

One more new foray for Lee into improving soil health and overall farm profitability is composting, an interest he has just recently started to investigate.

In this area, his wife's side business has come in handy, as he has been using the horse manure as part of the compost.

For example, he says producers have already taken a huge step in the right direction with the introduction of direct seeding.

"We tailor our blend to tolerate a higher salt in the soil and make it more active biologically," he says.

Another future step might be the use of cover crops, he says, another concept he has been experimenting with.

In terms of specific cover crops, he has experimented with legumes, clovers, turnips and radishes but he says you can use any plants or species that will gather up the nutrients that live further down in the soil, that the wheat crop itself can't access.

In the past couple years he has tried to grow cover crops in some of his wheat fields, going in right after herbicide timing.

"These crops go down and grab onto nutrients, bringing them back up for next year's crop. The cover crops will eventu-

"We lightly put five or ten pounds of cover crop on top and broadcast it on," he



“ The carbon tax issue may be out of our hands, but as a producer I think we play a big role in helping to reduce carbon and increasing our organic matter. There are things we can do that have an impact on how much carbon we can sequester. ”

Recently he's been constructing a compost turner to help aerate and water the compost.

His overall goal is to be able to one day use his own compost products to treat the farm's grain or seed, allowing it to benefit from natural beneficial insects, bacteria, fungi, instead of using seed treatments.

But beyond on-farm activities, Lee is also interested in helping build a long-term and sustainable agriculture industry in Saskatchewan. Three years ago he got involved with the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS) and he is currently the representative for the rural municipality of Chester #125.

Despite his busy schedule he considers this as a very sound investment of his time.

"I really believe in what the organization is doing and what it stands for," he says. "It is definitely the voice for Saskatchewan producers; I don't know any other organization that pulls the same weight."

He's also benefitted personally from his involvement, learning many concepts he can bring back to his own farm.

"It's definitely educational," he says. "A lot of stuff goes on behind the scenes and it's been very informative that way."

In the future, Lee plans to continue to

experiment with new farming practices that uphold his overall goals.

"If you focus on carbon and improving soil health that will definitely pay dividends in the long run," he says.

This strategy is also a way for him to carry on the tradition of the farm, which has been in his family for four previous generations.

"When my parents took it over they made several improvements to the way things were done and the business and now that's what I want to do – to improve things for my own kids."

## It was my pleasure meeting you at the 2018 APAS AGM Best wishes for a safe and prosperous harvest



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# Farm Dogs of Saskatchewan



A dog is a special part of a farm. Every issue we like to spotlight some of the most special and most loved farm dogs in Saskatchewan. If you have a Good Boy on your farm that you would like to see in Saskatchewan Farmers' Voice, send their picture and a little bit about them to [info@apas.ca](mailto:info@apas.ca).

**Name:** Rory

**Home Quarter:** RM of South Qu'appelle #157

**Age:** 13 weeks

**Breed:** Newfoundland and Saint Bernard Cross

**Family:** The Bouldings

**About Rory:** Rory is the new APAS office dog! She sits so quietly in APAS Geoscience and Environment Researcher Richard Boulding's office that you might not even know she's there, but when she's on the farm she loves to play with Hannah, the other farm dog. Rory is sweet and soft and growing like a weed. She is a Very Good Girl and the APAS Employee of the Month, forever.

**Name:** Sherman

**Home Quarter:** RM of Nipawin #487

**Age:** 11 years old

**Breed:** Lab/Golden Retriever mix with a bit of Samoyed

**Family:** The Larsens

**About Sherman:** Sherman is a great example of what it means to make a pet, even a farm dog, a member of your family. He is spoiled and doted on, but he also is free to be a dog. He loves to chase anything that moves, dig big holes, and if there is the slightest amount of moisture anywhere on the home quarter, Sherman will find it. He can go from a clean, well-coiffed dog to a muddy mess in a matter of minutes! Sherman has been Lyle Larsen's faithful companion for more than 11 years now and their bond is a pretty special thing to witness. Ten years ago, when Lyle was injured in a fall from a ladder, Sherman laid beside Lyle on the ground for more than two hours until EMTs could move him. To this day, if Lyle lays on the ground, Sherman still gets upset. Sherman is a Very Good Boy.



**Name:** Snap

**Home Quarter:** RM of Silverwood #123

**Age:** 7 years old

**Breed:** Blue Heeler

**Family:** The Hansons

**About Snap:** He is a friendly dog but knows his job well which is moving cattle. He is a great guard dog, he notices as soon as someone comes into yard and follows kids around while playing in the yard. Snap also helps kids feed the 4H calves every morning and night. He is a very Good Boy.

**Name:** Merle

**Home Quarter:** RM of Caledonia #99

**Age:** 3 years old

**Breed:** Collie Australian Shepherd cross

**Family:** The Gaillards

**About Merle:** His most important job is working cattle, which he does with a lot of enthusiasm and loves to work. He is loyal, wonderful with children and defends his farm yard like no other. Best farm hand anyone can have. Merle is a Good Boy.



**Name:** Mesa

**Home Quarter:** RM of Elfros #307

**Age:** 7 years old

**Breed:** Golden Retriever

**Family:** The Stephansons

**About Mesa:** She has been the best family dog around. Gentle, amazing with children as well she is a great guard dog keeping unwanted critters from our farm yard. She sure loves her grid road walks and a good belly rub. Mesa is a Good Girl.

**Name:** Rebel and Sammy

**Nicknames:** Rebel: Hog, Poopybum. Sammy: Samuel, Samsquatch

**Home Quarter:** RM of Montmartre #126

**Age:** 2 and 5 years

**Breed:** Red Heeler and Blue Heeler

**Family:** The Kotylaks

**About Rebel and Sammy:** As soon as the sun goes down, this pair barks all night to keep the house safe. They get along pretty well, although Rebel doesn't like attention until she sees Sammy getting it and then she picks a fight with him and it turns into a dog wrestle. Sammy is not too fond of the cats but Rebel is, so Rebel protects them from Sammy. One thing they both love is truck rides and they try to get into the vehicles anytime a door opens. These two are very good doggos!



**Name:** Mack

**Nicknames:** Perogie (because he once ate a whole pot of cheddar cheese perogies off the counter)

**Home Quarter:** RM of Caledonia #99

**Age:** 7 years old

**Breed:** Lab

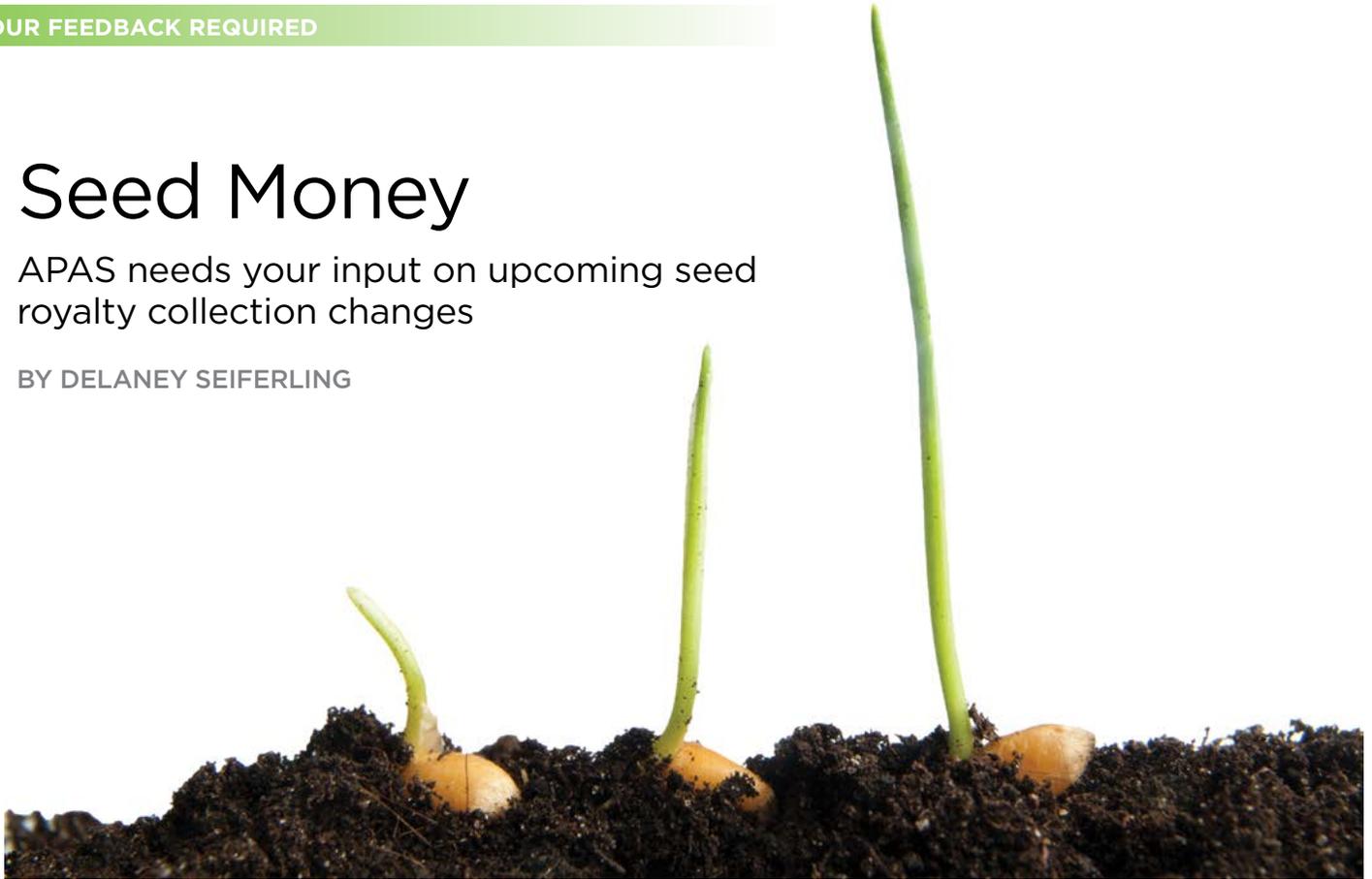
**Family:** Jordan Jones

**About Mack:** Mack loves a truck ride or a semi ride and as long as he is on the farm, he's happy! He was adopted from a rescue when he was two and lived in the shop on the bin yard as a "guard dog." It turns out that Mack is just too friendly for that line of work, so he has been living out his "retirement" in the town of Milestone! Mack is, without a doubt, a Good Boy.

# Seed Money

APAS needs your input on upcoming seed royalty collection changes

BY DELANEY SEIFERLING



**A**lthough the future of public breeding programs in Canada might be unclear right now, one thing is certain, says Todd Lewis, president of the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS).

Now is the time for producers to join the conversation around the federal government's proposed changes to seed royalty structures for cereal crops, as it is a critical issue for all producers.

"Everyone needs to have seed to grow crop – it's really the base of our industry," he says.

"Some pretty important decisions are going to be made over the next months and years that could impact the farming industry for decades, so it's important that producers bring their concerns forward now."

Last winter, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) launched a proposal outlining two potential models for the future of Canadian agricultural breeding programs. Both models would involve producers paying a royalty for seed, either at the time of purchase or sale.

The federal government currently funds approximately 72% of these programs.

To date, the feedback on this proposal has been clear, Lewis says. Despite the consultations that the CFIA and AAFC facilitated earlier this year, producers are not satisfied that their voices have been heard.

"What producers are telling us is they haven't been engaged," he says.

Earlier this year, APAS and other western Canadian farm commissions provided feedback to the federal government requesting that the two models be withdrawn until more producer consultations were completed and more analysis was done on how these proposed models would impact producers and the future of breeding programs in Canada.

But as of this summer, APAS was not satisfied this had happened. The organization, along with the Alberta Federation of Agriculture and the Keystone Ag Producers of Manitoba, launched its own survey in July, asking producers for their views on proposed changes to seed royalty structures.

As of early September, hundreds of producers had completed the survey at [seedroyaltysurvey.com](http://seedroyaltysurvey.com), Lewis says. He is optimistic that more and more producers are becoming aware of the issue.

"They are certainly more aware now than they were a year ago of what seed royalties are and the models that have been put forward."

But there is still a need for more recognition, from producers and the govern-

“Some pretty important decisions are going to be made over the next months and years that could impact the farming industry for decades, so it's important that producers bring their concerns forward now.”

ment, as to how much producers have invested to date through check-off programs, the value of those investments, and what will be needed going forward, Lewis says.

"If we want to see more improvement in varieties it's going to take more investment. We need to know how much more investment is needed, where those dollars are going to come from and who's going to control them."

Lewis says the information gathered from the survey could serve as the basis for an alternative model to the two options already proposed.

And although it's too early to say specifically what a third option might look like, it would definitely need to adhere to a couple principles, he says.

First, public funding will continue to be a critical component to any breeding system and second, any new model will need to have producer buy-in.

"If a third option is put forward it's going

to be vetted by producers and include as much of their feedback as possible," he says.

"We know producers are willing to put money towards variety development but it's important that they feel they're getting good value for those dollars and have some control over that money."

Lewis also wouldn't rule out a modified version of the current system as an option.

"The system we have right now has been very effective and producers have received good value from it, so maybe we just need to see improvements to it as well as a better general understanding of how it works."

But at this time, what is important is collecting producer input, he says.

Both the provincial and federal governments have indicated they will be launching formal consultation processes on the topic at some point, but in the meantime the APAS survey will remain

open until October 15, which will hopefully give many more producers the chance to participate, Lewis says.

"We really hope to see as many producers as possible put their comments forward; just their general opinions about what seed royalties mean to their operations," he says.

"The more responses we get, the more credibility the survey has."

Beyond taking the survey, producers can also talk to their political candidates about the topic as election time approaches, he says.

"Generally I don't see this being an election issue but when candidates come to your doorstep, talk to them about it. Awareness of the issue amongst politicians is important."

*Please visit [seedroyaltysurvey.com](http://seedroyaltysurvey.com) before October 15 to share your views on the proposed changes to seed royalty collection.*

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# Unable to Connect

A new survey intends to document rural Saskatchewan's internet and cell service woes

BY COLLEEN HENNAN

According to the CRTC's 2018 Communications Monitoring Report, 99.4 per cent of the Canadian population has access to mobile coverage.

That should raise an eyebrow or two in rural Saskatchewan, where, despite having "access" to mobile coverage, many still find themselves without the ability to consistently make or receive calls and texts on their mobile phone.

"Access" is one thing, but what about the ability to make a call without it dropping? Or having to stand in a certain spot in your home or on your property to get service? Does this current level of "access" meet the needs of people in rural Saskatchewan?

This is the question APAS is trying to answer with its Rural Connectivity survey, which is asking people in rural Saskatchewan to describe their experiences with the mobile phone and internet service that is available to them.

APAS is collecting these responses because the provincial and federal governments have earmarked a considerable amount of money to improve internet and cell service in Canada, almost \$4.5 billion. APAS would like to hear from as many rural Saskatchewan residents as



believes it is important that policymakers are able to fully grasp the seriousness of the situation, and the impact that the lack of adequate cell and internet service has on agricultural producers in particular.

## An issue of safety

Having access to a certain standard of internet and mobile phone service is an issue with far more serious implications than the frustration of a few unreceived texts or a movie on Netflix that keeps buffering. The lack of decent cell phone and internet service in rural Saskatchewan poses a safety risk to people living in rural areas.

The ability to call 911 in rural Saskatchewan is seriously jeopardized by the large

when it comes to fatal injuries, according to the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association. Should an accident happen in a field or a combine catch on fire, any delay in calling for help could have deadly, disastrous consequences.

Living in rural Saskatchewan, it is also critically important to be aware of any potentially dangerous weather conditions that might be developing. Access to radar and severe weather warnings through a mobile phone could be the difference between life and death in some situations.

## Impediment to business

It is very difficult to run a business without dependable internet and mobile phone service in 2019, but this is the

“Having access to a certain standard of internet and mobile phone service is an issue with far more serious implications than the frustration of a few unreceived texts or a movie on Netflix that keeps buffering.”

possible, in order to paint the most accurate picture of Saskatchewan's rural mobile phone and internet service in the hopes of accessing this funding. APAS

swaths of areas without dependable cell service. For producers, this is especially hazardous. Farming is still one of the most dangerous occupations in Canada

reality for many in rural Saskatchewan. It's tough to sort out the day-to-day logistics of a farm operation when your customers, suppliers and contractors

can't reach you by phone. Slow, unreliable internet access can make things like grain marketing, online bill payments and auction bidding nearly impossible at times as well.

The internet has also driven a whole host of technological advances in agri-

of equipment breaks down in a field in the middle of harvest and can only be fixed via an internet connection that they don't have? If ag technology continues to head in this wi-fi-dependant direction, Saskatchewan producers risk being left behind through no fault of their own.

where so many of these courses and programs have traditionally been based. However, a key component of online learning is a dependable internet connection and those in rural areas without reliable internet access are unable to take full advantage of online opportunities to enhance their skills and obtain valuable certifications.

“ Should an accident happen in a field or a combine catch on fire, any delay in calling for help could have deadly, disastrous consequences. ”

culture. But these innovations are useless to a producer who lacks adequate internet service to power it all.

We are starting to see more and more machinery with sophisticated wi-fi-enabled diagnostics; equipment that is controlled by computers that require an internet connection to function and be repaired. But what are producers supposed to do when their \$500,000 piece

#### Barrier to education

The number of resources and educational opportunities that are available online have greatly increased in recent years. In theory, farmers have more information at their fingertips than ever before. This is a welcome development that should allow greater access to webinars and online classes for the rural population outside of the urban centres

#### APAS.ca/rural\_survey

Your feedback is important. Specific, detailed information about rural users' experiences (both good and bad) with cell and internet service will help draw attention to the issue and allow for more informed decision-making on the part of governments and service providers. APAS' Rural Connectivity survey is available at [apas.ca/rural\\_survey](http://apas.ca/rural_survey) until October 15, is open to all rural residents in Saskatchewan and only takes a few minutes to fill out and submit. Although you might need to drive into town to get a signal first, it could be the beginning of the end of second-rate mobile and internet connectivity in rural Saskatchewan.

Do your part to **protect Saskatchewan's** wildlife, fish, forests and environment.



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*Stay up to date by visiting [www.sasktip.com](http://www.sasktip.com) for the latest cases.*

# Associate Member Profile

The Saskatchewan Association of Agricultural Societies and Exhibitions

BY DELANEY SEIFERLING



**W**hen Glen Duck says that his job is fun, he means it.

Duck is the Executive Director for the Saskatchewan Association of Agricultural Societies and Exhibitions (SAASE), a non-political, grassroots organization that oversees all the Agricultural Societies and Fairs in the province.

"We're in the fun business – how great is that?" he says.

SAASE is the umbrella body for all the Agricultural Societies in the province. With 62 member organizations situated in every region and corner of Saskatchewan and covering both urban and rural populations, another element of fun for Duck is getting to work with diverse groups of people, all with the same goal in mind.

"This job gives me the opportunity to travel across the province and work with people who are really committed to their communities and want to see things work well. It's just really rewarding and I'm so lucky to be able to do what I do."

There's also a historical component to the work SAASE does. Several of the Agricultural Societies have played an instrumental role in the development of Saskatchewan, with many of them be-

ing older than the province itself, Duck says.

"When people were moving to the province in the late 1800s and early 1900s, many Agricultural Societies already existed and were the places where people met and got information on farming and best agricultural practices."

Retaining and nurturing that strong sense of community in communities across the province is a big part of the work SAASE and its member agricultural societies do. The organization's overall mission is to help its members build healthy and sustainable community foundations.

Because of this, there is lots of overlap between the work done by SAASE and the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS), as well as their memberships, Duck says.





This overlap recently led SAASE to become an Associate Member of APAS.

"APAS's goals are so important, and they tie into our own so closely – there's a huge crossover," he says. "A lot of what we do is of interest and important to what APAS members are doing. We are really excited about working together."

One of the main common goals of the two organizations is building public trust in agriculture.

For SAASE and SAASE's member Agricultural Societies building public trust in agriculture has always been part of what they do.

Working with partners such as Saskatchewan Lotteries, Ag in the Classroom, Farm & Food Care Saskatchewan, the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture, the Mosaic Company, SaskPower, Agribition, individual agricultural societies and more, SAASE brings agricultural education programs to thousands of kids in urban and rural areas across the province each year.

This type of work is becoming increasingly important as fewer and fewer people are involved with agriculture, Duck says.

"We see kids with very diverse backgrounds and many don't have agricultural ties or backgrounds. As people are becoming further and further removed

from the family farm, it's even more important for them to know where their food is coming from."

And although SAASE and SAASE's member agricultural societies target parents and adults at many of these events, the main focus is primarily kids, he says.

"They're the ones who are going to be making decisions down the road," he says. "There's lots of information out there and we need to make sure they get the right info."

Another major focus for SAASE and Saskatchewan's agricultural societies is education around agricultural safety, Duck says.

Over the past seven years SAASE has worked with major partners such as the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association, the Progressive Agriculture Foundation, the Community Initiatives Fund, the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture, SaskPower and agricultural societies across the province to put on safety days across Saskatchewan. Every year SAASE's member agricultural societies host 15-20 safety days, with over 6,000 children attending on a yearly basis.

Again, targeting kids with this type of information is key, he says.

"The thing with safety is we really believe it's important to change the culture

around safety and in order to do that you have to get to a younger age."

Beyond agricultural education and safety events, SAASE also offers several other programs for its members, including providing funding for new events that benefit their communities.

"One of the challenges of launching new events is the risk of whether or not they're going to be successful. This helps alleviate that risk."

They also put on an annual convention for members, issue four scholarships a year, run an awards program honouring their volunteers and participate heavily in 4H programs across the province, amongst other endeavours.

"A lot of what we do is help and support our members so they can continue to do the great work they already do," he says. "We try to put as many resources together as we can to help our members out the best that we can."

For more information on SAASE visit <http://saase.ca>.



For the full list of all 33 APAS Associate Member organizations, visit [APAS.ca/associate-members](http://APAS.ca/associate-members).

# 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
- #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 **Eyeblow** – Dean Thiessen
- #220 **McKillop** – Vacant
- #221 **Sarnia** – Carl Erlandson
- #222 **Craik** – Rodney Obrigewitsch

### DISTRICT THREE

- #49 **White Valley** – Daryl Allemand
- #76 **Auvergne** – Dale Davidson
- #79 **Arlington** – Wally Envik
- #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** – Vacant
- #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

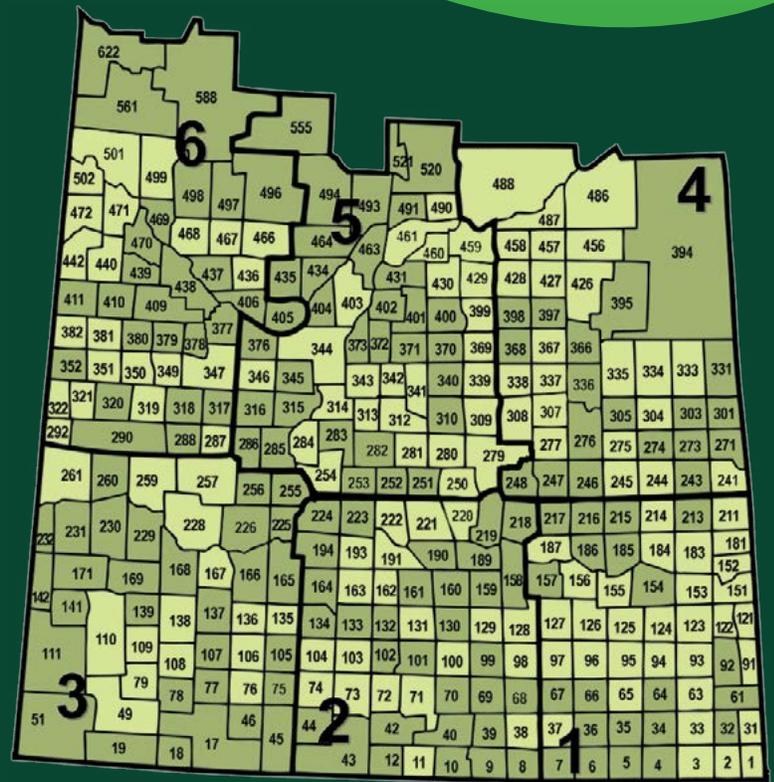
- #333 Clayton - Lorne Ball
- #334 Preeceville - Dale Parkin
- #335 Hazel Dell - Jim Ashworth
- #337 Lakeview - Angela Jones
- #338 Lakeside - Jason Friesen
- #367 Ponass Lake - Rick Sunderland
- #426 Bjorkdale - Glen Clarke
- #427 Tisdale - Ian Alan
- #428 Star City - Shawn Mooney
- #456 Arborfield - 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 - Vacant
- #254 Loreburn - David Vollmer and Douglas Taylor
- #279 Mount Hope - Ian McNichol
- #280 Wreford - 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
- #319 Winslow - Martin McGrath



MEMBER NON-MEMBER

- #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

# APAS Activities

A look at some of the work that APAS has been doing on behalf of Saskatchewan's farmers and ranchers

## Responding to Drought – Spring 2019

In early June 2019, the situation was looking bleak across much of Saskatchewan. For many producers, 2019 was the third year of below average moisture. Many spring seeded crops were struggling to germinate, native and tame pastures were at a standstill, and the prospects for a hay crop were rapidly eroding.

On June 12, APAS released a drought action plan and asked both levels of government to act in the interest of Saskatchewan's agricultural producers. The plan recommended the province of Saskatchewan initiate an AgriRecovery assessment, develop a green feed incentive program through Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation, and enhance water development programming. For federal measures, APAS requested the Government of Canada to improve AgriStability coverage levels and designate the entire province eligible for the Livestock Tax Deferral Program.

Much of Saskatchewan saw its first real moisture for 2019 within a week of APAS releasing its drought plan. A large portion of the province has since been designated as eligible for the federal Livestock Tax Deferral Program. However, it appears that hay supplies have stabilized enough that many producers will avoid having to sell off their breeding stock due to lack of feed supplies.

Although the late spring moisture that continued over the summer alleviated the immediate drought concerns, APAS believes the recommendations contained in the Drought Plan are necessary program changes to help ensure the sector is more resilient to drought into the future.

To read the full Drought Plan, please visit: [APAS.ca/drought](http://APAS.ca/drought).

## APAS Executive Meets with Ag Ministers, Requests Changes to BRM Programs

APAS executive and farm leaders from across the country met with federal, provincial and territorial agriculture ministers on July 19 during the Canadian Federation of Agriculture's (CFA) annual Industry-Government FPT Roundtable in Québec City.

The CFA, APAS and a number of farm groups made clear the impact and urgency of the current trade disruptions at the farm level. Farm groups were united in calling for reforms to the current Business Risk Management (BRM) programs. The main request was for AgriStability coverage to be immediately restored to cover losses starting at 85 per cent of historical reference margins with no Reference Margin Limits.

The communique that followed the meeting acknowledged the need for improvements to the AgriStability program, but failed to provide any concrete commitments to meaningful changes or increased coverage levels. In the absence of AgriStability reforms, APAS is calling for alternative programs to be developed. Read more on page 4.

## APAS welcomes resumed shipping at Churchill

In July, APAS welcomed news that the first grain shipment since 2015 arrived in the Port of Churchill. The re-opening of the Port was made possible after a consortium of municipalities and businesses, including Saskatchewan-based AGT Grain, purchased the Port and rail line in September 2018. The deal and subsequent repairs to the port and rail line were also made possible with federal funding support.

APAS is encouraged that the Port of Churchill has resumed operations for grain shipping, and we wish the new

owners and communities all the best in this business venture. Churchill is North America's only deep-water arctic port and the closest route to tide water for a large grain producing region in northern Saskatchewan. It is also a competitive asset in Canada's grain industry as the only Canadian port offering third party handling services. APAS has worked closely with the Hudson Bay Route Association over many years to develop and promote policy in support of the Port of Churchill and Hudson Bay transportation corridor.

## CGC Falling Number and DON Grading Factors

In May, APAS provided input into the Canadian Grain Commission (CGC) consultation concerning the use of Falling Number and Deoxynivalenol (DON) as potential grain grading factors. The intent of the consultation was to determine whether DON and Falling Number should be integrated into the grading system given the widespread use of the quality factors in today's marketing environment.

The APAS submission expressed support in principle for the concept but asked for clarification on several outstanding items before proceeding with the changes. The use of DON and Falling Number testing as grades are a step in the right direction towards making the grading system more objective and less reliant on visual grading factors. At the same time, it was unclear to what extent these tests would replace visual sprouting and Fusarium Damage Kernels as grading factors and how variability of results would be managed. In requesting this information for the next round of consultations, APAS also urged the CGC to take immediate steps to ensure that grain buyers are using standard equipment and testing procedures when requiring these tests in their purchase contracts.

## Bio-fuels and Bio-materials

Bio Fuels, Biomaterials and renewable energy are two areas of potential market growth for Saskatchewan producers.

In consultations on the Federal Clean Fuel Standard, APAS advocated for increased percentages of ethanol in gasoline and bio-diesel in diesel fuel. This would decrease the carbon footprint of motor fuel and create new markets for agricultural products. APAs strongly recommends that inputs for bio-fuels be sourced from sustainable Canadian production, and not from countries with lower environmental standards and practices.

Concerns are being raised about the environmental impact of materials like plastics derived from non-renewable resources, and demand is likely to grow for alternative products. In our submission to the Saskatchewan Plan for Growth consultation, we highlighted the potential for Saskatchewan producers to provide bio-material products to a growing world market.

APAS's mid-term meeting in the Spring also identified potential opportunities for producers to provide renewable energy as a revenue stream and reduce their costs for electricity and from carbon taxes.

## Consultations

- Carbon Offsets – Environment and Climate Change Canada
- Clean Fuel Standards – Environment and Climate Change Canada
- Output Based Pricing System – Environment and Climate Change Canada
- The Agency's Approach to Inter-switching Regulation – Canadian Transportation Agency

- Railway Data and Information Regulations – Transport Canada
- Saskatchewan Carbon Offsets – Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment
- Saskatchewan Plan for Growth – Saskatchewan Ministry of the Economy
- Business Risk Management Review – Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture
- Occupation-Specific Work Permits – Service Canada and Citizen and Immigration Canada
- Statements of Provincial Interest – Saskatchewan Ministry of Government Relations

To receive a copy of the APAS submissions or to learn more about these consultations, please contact the APAS Policy unit at 306-789-7774 extension 4.

## Welcome to APAS

APAS would like to welcome the RMs of Elfros (307), Flett's Springs (429), McKillop (220), Frenchman Butte (501) and Kinistino (459). That brings the total number of RMs participating in APAS to 137.

## Fall District Meetings

APAS will be holding fall meetings in each of the six districts, likely in November due to the wet harvest. The public is welcome. Check APAS.ca for the announcement of your local fall district meeting date and location.

## 2019 APAS AGM

The APAS AGM will be held a little later than usual, December 3-6 at the Queensbury Convention Centre in Regina. Members of the public are always welcome to register at APAS.ca and attend the AGM. This year, APAS is also offering to cover the costs of five Saskatchewan producers who wish to attend the APAS AGM. If you are curious about APAS, farm policy and the work that APAS does, email [info@apas.ca](mailto:info@apas.ca) with your information.

## APAS Youth Leadership and Mentorship Program

Thank you to everyone who applied for the 2019/2020 APAS Youth Leadership and Mentorship program. The successful applicants will be announced in the next issue of Saskatchewan Farmers' Voice. APAS is also pleased to announce that Can-AM has come on board as a sponsor of the APAS Youth Leadership and Mentorship program. Thank you for supporting Saskatchewan's young farmers!

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Eng. Hrs: 102



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Eng. Hrs: 1247



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Eng. Hrs: 1772



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