

# SASKATCHEWAN Farmers' Voice

FALL 2022 EDITION



## THE HUNTER BROTHERS:

Putting Shaunavan on the Map in the Country Music Scene

## SMALL FARMS BIG BUSINESS:

How Vegetable Farming is Gaining Momentum in the Province

## SASK PORK:

General Manager Highlights Issues in the Livestock Sector

## FARM ANIMALS OF SASKATCHEWAN:

Not Your Average House Pet



SCAN ME

# The **best Wi-Fi.** **Streaming TV.**



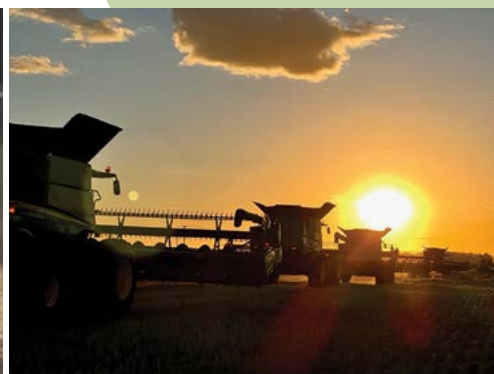
Only with Access**Rural Internet**



[myaccess.ca](http://myaccess.ca) | 1-866-363-2225



## PEDIGREED & COMMERCIAL SEED CUSTOM SEED CLEANING & TREATMENT



### VARIETIES AVAILABLE THIS YEAR

#### Hard Red

- Spring Wheat
- AAC Hodge VB
- AAC Hockley
- AAC Starbuck VB
- AAC Wheatland VB

#### Oats

- CDC Arborg

#### Peas

- AAC Chromeatland VB



Jordan Lindgren  
Jennifer Lindgren

306-594-7644

[jordan@lindgrenfarms.com](mailto:jordan@lindgrenfarms.com)

Ian Abbott

Seed Plant Manager

306-594-7766

[ian@lindgrenfarms.com](mailto:ian@lindgrenfarms.com)

[www.lindgrenseeds.ca](http://www.lindgrenseeds.ca)



**Published three times a year by:**

Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan

**Address:**

3401a Pasqua Street, Regina, SK S4S 7K9

**Contact:**

info@apas.ca

306-789-7774 / 306-789-7779 (fax)

**APAS Online:**

www.apas.ca

Twitter: @AgProducersSk

Facebook: @APASask

Instagram: @agproducerssk

LinkedIn: APASask

**Cover Artwork:** Michael Bell

The next issue of *Saskatchewan Farmers' Voice* will arrive in your farm mailbox in Spring 2023. Email info@apas.ca if you are not receiving a copy of *Saskatchewan Farmers' Voice* and would like to. Check out our online edition at [apas.ca/farmersvoice](http://apas.ca/farmersvoice).

## APAS LEADERSHIP 2022

### EXECUTIVE

**President**

Ian Boxall

**Vice-Presidents**

Bill Prybylski | Scott Owens

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**District 1**

Steven Donald | Wanda Reid

**District 2**

Bev Pirio | James Bateman

**District 3**

Don Connick | Devin Harlick

**District 4**

Ian Boxall | Bill Prybylski

**District 5**

Donavon Block | Ryan Scragg

**District 6**

Scott Owens | Jeremy Welter

### STAFF

**Executive Director**

Dion McGrath

**Assistant Executive Director**

Curtis Hemming

**Policy Manager**

Donovan Howden

**Office Manager**

Brenda McBride

**Communications Manager/Editor,  
Saskatchewan Farmers' Voice**

Ryan McNally

**Senior Policy Analyst**

Brent Kobes

**Policy Analyst**

Erin Côté

**Bookkeeper**

Olga Slynko

### BENCHMARK STAFF

**Managing Partner**

Pat Rediger

**Creative Director**

Diana Rapoport

**Account Executive**

Don Shalley

# Contents



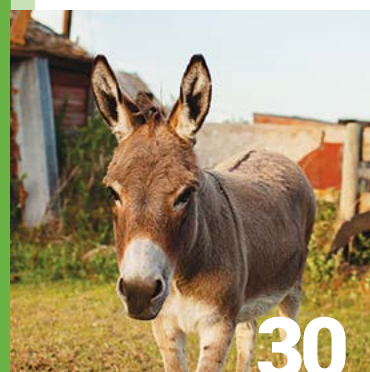
12



22



18



30

Saskatchewan Farmers' Voice • FALL 2022

4

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

6

APAS AT WORK

12

COVER STORY: 'WE ARE WHAT WE SING'  
SHAUNAVON BOYS THE HUNTER BROTHERS BURST  
ONTO COUNTRY MUSIC SCENE

18

REDUCING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

22

VEGETABLE FARMING IN SASKATCHEWAN

27

INTRODUCING SASK PORK

30

FARM ANIMALS OF SASKATCHEWAN

34

APAS MEMBERS & REPRESENTATIVES



**Ian Boxall, President  
Agricultural Producers Association  
of Saskatchewan**

**A**nother crop is in the bin, and depending on where you're reading from, will determine if this year's crop was better than last years. There are still some areas in the province that are in extreme drought, and I hope no matter where you are sitting, we are looking to next year with optimism.

That said, 2022 was a year of renewal at APAS. We came out of a pandemic that delayed the work the organization is known for; grassroots consultation in-person around the province. This year, APAS started to get back to in-person meetings to hear concerns from across the province to help establish strong policies and solutions to the issues Saskatchewan farmers face every day. I look forward to even more meetings taking place in 2023.

The 2022 crop is needed, not just here, but overseas, where the war in Ukraine has either delayed seeding, harvest and shipping of grain or made farming impossible. Farmers in Saskatchewan produce products the world needs, and this year the crop is incredibly important to areas that will not be getting grain from their normal sources. It is extremely important that both of our national railways understand just how dire and important the situation is when it comes time to moving agriculture resources to the ports. In October, both major railways announced record breaking movement. While that's encouraging,

# Serving Saskatchewan Farmers – and the Heart of Our Province

let's hope they can keep that pace and help ensure minimal disruption to the supply chain.

I also expect the federal government is watching with great interest. This was an incredibly expensive crop to grow, whether it was inputs to help these crops flourish, or fuel to keep the tractors, combines and other farm equipment moving. Further limitations and added costs are only going to make it more difficult for farmers to continue to provide what the world needs. We continue to look into the rise of input costs and what can be done to address them.

It's also no secret Saskatchewan's farmers don't get the credit we deserve for the work we do for the environment, and considering we are the first to see any change – positive or negative – in the environment, I think it's time for that to change. We need to find a way to tell our story to people who have never been here so they finally understand the work and innovation we do here and how beneficial it is to the environment. Unfortunately, it's easy to point at a tractor without understanding the innovation and progress agriculture has made in order for producers to farm in a more sustainable way. And we've done it without the government asking us to do it.

I want to take a moment to highlight on the difficult circumstances our livestock sector is enduring. According to Statistics Canada, there

was a 109,000 drop in the cattle herd year-over-year, and driving around in Saskatchewan, there's a lot of crops being grown behind fences. It's been pointing this way for a few years now, and while Federal Livestock Tax Deferrals help temporarily, there needs to be better programs for livestock producers to secure their future operations. My hope is the province and federal government can come together to help our cattle producers.

This is where APAS comes in. We are meeting with political leaders to ensure they know the situation on the ground. In the past year, we have met with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), hosted the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) during their meeting in Saskatoon, and met with the provincial government to discuss various farm issues, including agricultural policy, input costs, livestock sector issues, and transportation. APAS also attended meetings between the Federal, Provincial and Territorial Ministers in Saskatoon in July, which was the first time in

**“ We are meeting with political leaders to ensure they know the situation on the ground. ”**





10 years that this meeting was held in Saskatchewan.

APAS is advocating on behalf of some of the best producers in the world. We led tours of the University of Saskatchewan's Crop Development Centre and the Livestock Forage Centre of Excellence in July for delegates from across Canada. This helped showcase our world-class research and innovation infrastructure that supports Canadian agriculture.

Food Day Canada celebrates locally sourced food and Canadian farming, and next year, APAS will be helping celebrate Food Day Canada's 20th anniversary. In recognition of the importance of food security and recognition of agriculture's importance in food production, APAS requested that the province proclaim and celebrate July 30 as Food Day Canada.

Finally, I want to highlight APAS's voice in support of our livestock industry to help convince Health Canada not to require warning labels on ground meat

products. In the summer Health Canada announced they would be not moving forward with the proposal and thanked APAS for its insights and contributions.

Looking forward, APAS will be working to continue expanding on key partnerships to help create policy that makes sense at the farm gate. That includes working with the world-renowned researchers right here in Saskatchewan on important files and working towards a better working relationship with all levels of government.

How do we get there? It starts with membership. If you're reading this from a non-member RM, I encourage you to reach out and see what can be done to help the RM join APAS. Every dollar from memberships will help us become more proactive in our efforts. They will help us build partnerships with the university – to engage with our world-class researchers and thinkers to develop solutions to Canadian ag issues and engage in a much more purposeful manner with policy makers.

Let's continue building our credibility, influence and partnerships to make the organization a stronger voice for Saskatchewan producers. The more voices we have at our District Meetings and our General Meetings, the stronger our voice can be in the offices of policy makers in Saskatchewan and Canada.

We are 100% dedicated to creating success in our industry. Because when we have success in agriculture, that success cascades through communities across the province.

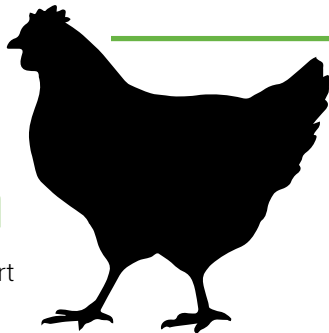
So on behalf of the APAS Board, thank you for your commitment, your involvement and your passion. And let us know if you would like APAS Staff or a Director to meet with your council.

I hope to see you at our General Meeting in Saskatoon on December 8 & 9.



Ian Boxall, President, APAS

## Find the Chicken



Chickens are an essential part of the agricultural industry in Saskatchewan by providing meat and eggs for consumers. Even though they are easy to spot on a farm, there is one chicken in this magazine that's hiding.

We have hidden a chicken among the pages of Saskatchewan Farmers' Voice for you to find.

The chicken on this page is an example of the chicken you are looking for among the magazine's pages.

If you find the chicken, please visit [apas.ca/find-the-chicken-contest](https://apas.ca/find-the-chicken-contest) to fill out a short survey to be entered in to win.

To be eligible, you must submit your email before December 31, 2022. Out of all eligible contestants, five winners will be selected at random, and each of the five winners will receive a \$50 Mark's gift card.

You will be only contacted if you are one of the five winners of the contest.

Good luck locating the hidden chicken!



**your farm  
your future**

Affinity Credit Union members, **the Ozerooffs**

While you're focused on feeding the world, we're focused on you.

Choose Affinity as your financial partner.  
1.866.863.6237 | [affinitycu.ca](https://affinitycu.ca)



# APAS at Work

**A**PAS has had a busy summer/fall advocating on behalf of Saskatchewan's producers to federal and provincial governments. It also involved participating in Ag in Motion near Langham, Saskatchewan as that event returned to an in-person event after a two-year hiatus. The following is a list of activities APAS has taken part in over the last few months:

## APAS Meets with Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister David Marit:

On August 24, APAS President Ian Boxall and Vice President Bill Prybylski met with the provincial Minister of Agriculture David Marit at the Legislature to discuss issues impacting Saskatchewan's agricultural sector. Some of the issues were discussed included the federal government's fertilizer emissions reduction target, rail transportation, livestock producer concerns, and Saskatchewan's trade and export activities.

## APAS and CFA Met with FPT Ministers:

On July 20, APAS Directors and staff attended the meeting between Federal, Provincial and Territorial Agriculture Ministers in Saskatoon. The Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) also attended the event. Many issues of importance were discussed, such as rising input costs, transportation disruptions, and numerous concerns specific to the livestock industry. This was the first time in 10 years that the FPT meeting was held in Saskatchewan, so APAS used the opportunity to raise awareness of problems impacting Saskatchewan's agricultural sector.

## Concern over Fertilizer Emissions Reduction Target:

On August 23, we sent out a summary of concerns that APAS has with the federal government's proposed fertilizer emissions reduction target to APAS



reps. APAS also hosted a webinar with representatives from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) on August 16, where they provided information on the federal government's proposal. APAS also wrote a longer proposal that was sent to the federal government in late August. APAS has consulted with a variety of groups on the matter, including the CFA, Fertilizer Canada, and other provincial farm and commodity organizations. Part of our advocacy work on this file has included a meeting with Federal Agriculture Critic John Barlow in Regina in early August.

## APAS Response to FPT Agreement-in-principle:

APAS sent out a news release on July 22 expressing cautious optimism with the progress in the development in the next agricultural policy agreement. While APAS is optimistic about the increase in funding, there are concerns over the indication that producers will be required to meet environmental reporting requirements to access AgriInvest coverage.







the freight rates they pay for service and are depending on efficient grain movement to generate sales, pay bills and take advantage of favourable market conditions.

### APAS Submission on National Agricultural Labour Strategy:

On September 28, APAS sent in a submission to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) in response to their consultation on creating a National Agricultural Labour Strategy. There are a variety of recommendations in the submission, including suggestions to improve the Temporary Foreign Worker Program.

“ This was the first time in 10 years that the FTP meeting was held in Saskatchewan, so APAS used the opportunity to raise awareness of problems impacting Saskatchewan’s agricultural sector. ”

### National Adaptation Strategy Submission:

APAS made a submission to Environment and Climate Change Canada on July 14 in response to their National Adaptation Strategy. Our submission included recommendations for capacity building, the importance of fully funded Business Risk Management and disaster assistance programs, and the need for targeted programming to assist management and development of water supplies for farm operations and rural committees.

### APAS Met with AAFC’s Drought Monitoring Team:

APAS staff met with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada’s (AAFC) Drought Monitoring Team in October. The Drought Monitoring Team confirmed that the Livestock Deferral provision in August was based on data from this spring. APAS previously made a request

to AAFC for the Livestock Tax Deferral to be expanded to include other parts of Saskatchewan. The request is currently under review by the government, and APAS is expecting to see an announcement soon.

### APAS Submission to CN Grain Plan:

On July 18th, APAS provided comments to CN Rail regarding the development of the annual operating plan for grain movements. The submission highlighted the impact that slow grain movements have on producers and noted concerns with vessel line-ups at Ports, car order fulfillment, and long cycle times between inland and port positions when shipping demand was lower due to drought. The submission stressed the importance of the 2021/22 shipping season and the need for CN to have adequate plans and resources in place for efficient grain movement. Producers have significant investment in the transportation system through

### APAS Gopher Control Webinar:

On July 13, APAS hosted a webinar to discuss the serious gopher problems around the province. James Tansey, pest management specialist with the Government of Saskatchewan, was the main speaker at the event. He discussed various options for controlling gophers. With strychnine no longer available in Canada, producers need alternative products to keep gopher populations under control. The video of the webinar can be found on our YouTube channel.

### APAS Submission to ISED about Spectrum Licensing:

APAS made a submission to Innovation, Science, and Economic Development Canada (ISED) on September 6 in response to their consultation on creating a framework for licensing of spectrum in

the 26 GHz, 28 GHz, and 38 GHz bands. While this may sound complicated, it is part of the APAS Rural Connectivity Task Force's recommendations to improve internet connectivity in rural Saskatchewan. If you would like to test your internet speeds, please visit our online rural connectivity test at [performance.cira.ca/apas](http://performance.cira.ca/apas).

## Tours of Crop Development Centre and Livestock Forage Centre of Excellence:

As part of the activities in Saskatoon, APAS hosted CFA delegates on tours of the Crop Development Centre and the Livestock Forage Centre of Excellence on July 18. We had over 50 people from across the country attend the tours, so it was an excellent showcase of the world-class agricultural research underway in Saskatchewan.

## APAS Booth at Ag in Motion:

APAS had a booth at Ag in Motion by Langham from July 19-21. Hundreds of people stopped by the booth to discuss issues APAS is working on, as well as pick up some APAS merch, bottles of water, and cheezies. If you came to the show and saw our booth, thanks for visiting us!

## Food Day Canada in Saskatchewan:

In July, APAS asked municipal governments across the province as well as the Government of Saskatchewan to proclaim Food Day Canada in Sas-



katchewan on July 30. Food Day Canada is a celebration of farming and locally sourced food. Next year, Food Day Canada will be celebrating 20 years.

## Health Canada Backs Down on Ground Meat Labeling:

On June 16, APAS had sent a letter to Jean-Yves Duclos, the federal Minister of Health, to let the government know that APAS was against the federal government's proposal to require warning labels on ground meat products. Health Canada later announced that they would not be moving forward with that

“APAS made a submission to Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) as part of the APAS Rural Connectivity Task Force's recommendations to improve internet connectivity in rural Saskatchewan.”

proposal and sent an official response back to APAS on July 27. We see this as a great advocacy win for APAS.

## APAS General Meeting in Saskatoon:

The APAS General Meeting will be held on December 8-9, 2022, at the Saskatoon Inn. APAS reps, associate members, and group members are advised to put those dates in their calendar.



**Add an Advance Payments Program cash advance from CCGA to your farm's financial toolkit.**

Get the farm cash flow you **need** and the control you **want** to sell at the best time and the best price.

Call 1-866-745-2256 or visit [ccga.ca/cash](http://ccga.ca/cash)

**50+**  
Commodities

**\$250K**  
Interest-free

**\$1M**  
Maximum



Agriculture and  
Agri-Food Canada  
  
Advance Payments  
Program

Agriculture et  
Agroalimentaire Canada  
  
Programme de  
paiements anticipés





Member Benefits Program

# Travel insurance for wherever you go.

As one of our members enjoy peace of mind while you're away with Co-operators. With their Member Benefits Program<sup>1</sup>, you can enjoy enhanced coverage and exclusive savings up to 10% on travel insurance on eligible policies<sup>2</sup>.

## Travel insurance is a small investment with high value

Emergency air transportation, hospital stay, bringing family to bedside in Croatia:

**\$325,000 CAD**

Ski accident, ambulance ride, non-refundable hotel costs in BC:

**\$5,655 CAD**

3 night stay in a US hospital:

**\$26,000 CAD**

**Get the right coverage and start enjoying your member benefits today!**

Call 1-844-770-9138 or visit their website [cooperators.ca/memberbenefits](http://cooperators.ca/memberbenefits)



<sup>1</sup>Each member organization selects which benefits are offered to their members. Contact 1-844-770-9138, your local Co-operators Financial Advisor, or your participating member organization, to find out which benefits are available through Co-operators Member Benefits Program.

<sup>2</sup>Travel insurance is underwritten by CUMIS General Insurance Company, a member company of The Co-operators Group Limited, and is administered by Allianz Global Assistance, which is a registered business name of AZGA Service Canada Inc. and AZGA Insurance Agency Canada Ltd. Refer to the certificate for full terms and conditions including limitations and exclusions. Co-operators General Insurance Company and CUMIS General Insurance Company are committed to protecting the privacy, confidentiality, accuracy and security of the personal information that we collect, use, retain and disclose in the course of conducting our business. Please visit [cooperators.ca/privacy](http://cooperators.ca/privacy) for more information. DMC1160 (09/22)



# Dion McGrath Steps into New Role as APAS Executive Director

It's now full circle for Dion McGrath.

Born and raised on a mixed farm with grain and hogs, Dion has spent much of his professional life in public administration, advanced education, and even as an entrepreneur. He can now add being the new Executive Director of APAS to the list.

"One of the factors that attracted me to this role with APAS is how it has evolved and grown to be a leader in identifying policy solutions for the success of the ag community," McGrath said. "Looking at the variety of issues that APAS has advocated on behalf of producers, they have shown time and again to be an effective voice for ag producers and that is a great environment to be part of."

Dion attended the University of Saskatchewan, where he received his Bachelor and Master of Arts degrees in History. He also earned an MBA from Athabasca University.

During his days in government, he was involved in numerous policy files including pork processing, biofuels, rural and agri-value development before he moved into advanced education and training.

In October 2012, McGrath took on the job of President and CEO of Southeast College, where he oversaw college campuses in Estevan, Weyburn, Assiniboia,

Indian Head, Moosomin, and White-wood. After almost 7 years with the College, Dion joined the family business, Above the Fold, to help develop digital marketing training for local businesses and entrepreneurs.

"One of the key factors throughout the past 25 years has been the importance of developing relationships with stakeholders and partners and having candid conversations in order to get to the heart of an issue so that solutions can be identified. I look forward to engaging with APAS members, partners and stakeholders in the industry and working to continue building on the success APAS has achieved."

**“ We think Dion’s wealth of experience will make him a great fit for our organization. I look forward to working with him on a variety of policy in the coming years. ”**

– APAS President Ian Boxall

McGrath started at APAS in September, and while he may not be surprised by it, he has certainly been impressed by the organization and the staff's ability to pivot quickly and effortlessly while dealing with various agriculture policy issues.

"The responsiveness of APAS to the current issues impacting farms is second

to none," McGrath said. "The strength of a grassroots organization like APAS is its members and partners who passionately advocate and promote the industry and provide insights and guidance on farm policy."

While he is not actively farming, McGrath said he has always had an appreciation for the work producers in Saskatchewan do knowing the risks that can turn a promising year into misfortune. Not only are farm families working to run their business, they're also deeply involved in community-building - through local government, healthcare advisory committees, school boards, co-op and credit unions boards, rink boards, and the list goes on.

"Policy makers need to understand that when they're making decisions, what the impacts of those decisions are on farm families, their neighbors, and communities. What might be viewed as a rule to a policy maker is often a livelihood to a farmer," McGrath said.

"I suspect that anyone who grew up on the farm, and is not actively farming, has a deep appreciation of how farming and rural life contributed to the success they've enjoyed over their professional careers and how it is still a cornerstone of their values. I recognize that farming created the conditions for me to follow my path and now APAS has given me the opportunity to contribute back to the future success and sustainability of



the industry. I feel very fortunate for the opportunity."

Something that has fascinated McGrath about agricultural policy is that is never boring. "It is so dynamic and foundational to our long-term success," McGrath said. "It impacts and influences many aspects of everyday life across the province - economic, social, & environmental. When agriculture is successful, that success cascades throughout communities across the province."

"We think Dion's wealth of experience will make him a great fit for our organization. I look forward to working with him on a variety of policy topics in the coming years." APAS President Ian Boxall said.

There are a number of things McGrath is looking forward to doing when looking ahead.

"I look forward to connecting and engaging with our members and partners. There has always been a quiet pride and

humility within the agriculture community so developing these relationships are very important," McGrath said. "In addition, agriculture has always been a central force, provincially and nationally. There have always been challenges that need to be addressed - whether its carbon taxation, nitrogen fertilizer reductions, water management and security, transportation, or market access. I want to help make APAS's voice as strong and relevant as what our farmers produce so that farm and ranch families are successful and sustainable into the future."

A key element of this is helping the organization build a proactive mindset to complement its current strengths.

"I like to use the analogy of a sports team," McGrath said. "Good teams have strong defense or offence. Championship teams have both! We've done great work helping ensure the agriculture community doesn't lose ground and we've enjoyed some successes over the years.

But I see a tremendous opportunity for APAS to build on its current strengths and become more proactive in developing policy proposals. We do not have to sit on our hands and wait for policy makers to present us with their proposals. We need to identify important issues that matter to farm families and do the work to find alternative solutions and present them to governments as well."

"Agriculture policy is always evolving and changing," McGrath added. "Farm & ranch families can watch it happen and hope it's in their best interests or they can get into the game to help define and shape it. If the future success of agriculture is important, then I invite farm families to contact APAS and find out how they can get involved."

McGrath takes over for Duane Haave, who served as APAS's General Manager since 2015 and retired in August 2022.

## Reducing crime in our communities is everyone's responsibility

# SASKATCHEWAN CRIME STOPPERS

**Working to make our communities  
safer for almost 35 years with**

**over 3,500 arrests,  
\$10.1 million in recovered property  
and \$9.0 million in seized drugs.**

Cash payments of up to **\$2000** can be awarded in exchange  
for information leading to a charge or arrest.



## TALK or TYPE your TIP



1-800-222-TIPS (8477)



saskcrimestoppers.com



app for tablets and smartphones

## *You remain anonymous. CRIMINALS DON'T.*

# We are What we Sing

From Shaunavon, Saskatchewan, to the biggest country music festivals in Canada, to recording albums in Nashville, The Hunter Brothers have certainly made a name for themselves in the country music scene. And yet, their roots bring them back home to the farm for seeding and harvest every year.



WRITTEN BY RYAN MCNALLY | PHOTOS BY MICHAEL BELL

It's the hottest day of September. The area around Shaunavon – a small farming town of 1,800 people in southwest Saskatchewan – hasn't received much rain since mid-June, and it shows. The dirt from the backroads stays in the air for what seems like an eternity and combines take off what will be a crop that, while less than ideal, will still be better than last year's, and even the year before.

It's here where JJ, Dusty, Luke, and Brock Hunter all farm on their 20,000-acre fourth-generation family grain farm, four miles south of Shaunavon. It's also where the idea for a country music band that includes all five brothers began.

"We've kind of always done music," said Brock, the second youngest of the brothers. "We have videos of us performing when Mom was still pregnant with Ty (the youngest brother) almost 30 years ago now. And we grew up play-

ing the piano. It was the household rule, Dad had built an ice rink right beside the house, and we couldn't go out and play hockey until we practiced our piano, and we all had to get a minimum Grade 6 Royal Conservatory on the piano. So, we were performing gospel music and vocally based music growing up, and so we would travel a lot of North America, especially the western side through the summers and through the winters even while we were farming."

Eventually, the brothers made the decision to start singing country music. They made their way down to Nashville, Tennessee in the fall of 2015 to record an album, which got the group in front of their current record label, Open Road recordings. Their debut single "El Dorado" was released to Canadian country music radio in February of 2016. Their debut album "Getaway" was released in the spring of 2017. Since that early success, the feeling of being on the radio still doesn't get old for the brothers.

"I think it's as exciting now as it was six years ago when we heard it," Luke, the third brother, said. "It's still that awe-factor that small town farm boys could be having their stuff on the radio alongside artists that you looked up to your whole life."

"Before, it was like 'oh yeah, cool, you've got a song on the radio,' and we've realized how hard it is and how competitive it is to get a song on," Added JJ, the oldest brother. "We like to look at it as a privilege to have a song on the radio."

## Born and Raised

Farming and music were key pieces to the Hunter Brothers and their childhood, but so was hockey. The oldest brother, JJ, attended six NHL training camps from 1999-2006. Both Dusty and Luke played in the Central Hockey League, a mid-level minor professional league that operated between 1992 and 2004. Brock also played Junior A hockey in



“ We love doing all of the different aspects (of our life). We love the music, we love performing, we love recording, we love farming, and of course we love our families. ”

– JJ Hunter on the balancing act of being a Hunter Brother



Photo: Hunter Brothers Facebook

Drumheller and Fort McMurray, Alberta before concluding his hockey career with the SJHL's Kindersley Klippers.

And like hockey, each of the brothers brings a unique skill set to the farm.

"We're very different people, different skillsets, different personalities, and at times, we're full of our good and our bad," JJ said. "Although at times that does create tension or things that we have to work through as brothers, what we've tried to do is lean into the strength and the diversity that we have within us because if we're all the same person and we were all mechanically inclined, or we were all inclined a certain way, I think that there would be butting of heads, whereas we have tried to find our own lanes a little bit, both in the music as well as in the farm. If we can continue to do that, I think that actually makes us stronger because we can each lean into the areas that we feel are our strengths or an area that we have grabbed a hold of individually."

On top of music and farming, the brothers also have their own families. Each of the brothers are married and four of the brothers have children, so an added focus has been on making time for family.

"We love doing all of the different aspects (of our life). We love the music, we love performing, we love recording, we love farming, and of course we love our families."

– JJ Hunter on the balancing act of being a Hunter Brother

So, what helps the Hunter Brothers maintain all of this?

"We're definitely competitive by nature, and we want to do a good job of whatever we're doing, but when you're pulled in multiple different directions, it makes it difficult," Luke said. "Trying to find a balance of doing everything but doing everything proper and a good job it is important to us."

## Hard Dirt

When it comes to the farm, The Hunter Brothers have had to face their own host of challenges.

"Since 2016, we've only had one pretty good crop," Dusty said. "This year, we thought we were finally out of the woods. We had some fantastic rain north of Shaunavon, crops were looking really good, we had just enough rain south of town to sustain the crops, so they were looking good, and then the tap turned off, the heat came, the wind came, and so largely in part, harvest has been disappointing, but we do have better crops than what we've had in a couple of the previous years, so we're thankful for

that, but definitely not as good as looked like it was going to be. The heads just couldn't fill, the heat came too fast, and they couldn't get down, and I think south of town we just didn't have the subsoil."

Similarly, to farming, performing can also have serious issues that impact the bottom line, such as a global pandemic that cancelled shows and tours for the Hunter Brothers. Many of those tour obligations were met this summer when the Hunter Brothers went on their first coast-to-coast tour. That tour featured only one stop in Saskatchewan.

"They're both industries that never sleep," Brock said. "When it comes to music, you can take a break from it, no one is banging down your door, but if you stop for too long, there's a lot of other artists out there that just keep pushing on. It's kind of one of those industries that as hard as you push, it will probably reflect in how it happens as well."

JJ added that the brothers are always trying to make adjustments to how they make both careers work.

"The crazy thing about both the farm and the music is that they're very unpredictable," JJ said. "You don't know how late harvest is going to run, you don't know when you're going to get into the field in the spring, you don't know if you're all-of-a-sudden going to have a two-week rain delay in the middle of seeding, and that pushes it later. Music is the same thing, lately we've had three or four shows pop up for this fall that two weeks ago or three weeks ago, we didn't have."

This year's tour for the Hunter Brothers saw them fulfill a lot of previously made festival commitments, including the groups' favourite stop, Cavendish, PEI.

"It was weird not performing for a while because we've been performing for so long," Dusty said. "Going that long where we weren't really doing anything was a bit of an odd thing for us, but it's been really good because while I'm sure there are still some people who are concerned, but the people who are coming to those types of events, I think they're just so ready to get back on with their lives and they're just so excited. And maybe for all of us, we realize that



“ We hopped back up into the implements and kept rolling, and then all of a sudden, we started pulling our phones out, and we’re like ‘this thing is going viral.’ ”

– Ty Hunter on “Combine Got Stuck” video

there’s certain things we took for granted a little bit more than we realized, and I really do feel like there was an added excitement, an added anticipation for us as well as the people we performed to this summer. Overall, it was fantastic.”

## Combine Got Stuck

The Hunter Brothers have a healthy social media audience on their channels, where they post music videos, behind the scenes videos, as well as parodies and covers of other songs. One of those videos in particular that was popular online was a parody of Corb Lund’s song “Truck Got Stuck.” The Hunter Brothers’ version, “Combine Got Stuck,” came out in November of 2016 during an incredibly wet harvest. The video reached 1.8 million views on Facebook and another 93,000 views on YouTube.

“We have to give a lot of props to Ty (the youngest brother). He is creative. He has a mind that does not stop,” Brock said. “It’s funny, because none of us knew the lyrics, Ty had just written it, and we had two phones; one that was the camera and then another one right beside it with the lyrics because we’re reading the lyrics off of the phone, singing along to it because Ty had written it on the tractor.”

“I think why it did so well is just because that year was just a wet fall, so all of the farmers around were experiencing the same thing, and they were probably stuck in a wet, muck hole somewhere, bringing up Facebook, and next thing you know, they’re watching about a combine getting stuck,” Brock added.

“We hopped back up into the implements and kept rolling, and then all of a sudden, we started pulling our phones out, and we’re like ‘this thing is going viral,’”

– Ty Hunter on “Combine Got Stuck” video

Ty, the youngest brother, said there came a time when it made sense to share these parodies with the world.

“Why leave (these parodies) in the cab? Let’s share it with people because they’re connecting with it,” Ty said. “It’s giving them the chance to smile at the end of the day when they’ve had a rough workday, and I think when you look at

entertainment, it’s not just in musical form, it’s also in social media presence nowadays.”

The next year, they posted another video to Facebook Live, this time parodying Garth Brooks’ song “Friends in Low Places,” titled “No Grain in Dry Places.” It led to a social media reaction video from Brooks, who had a good laugh about the brothers’ video, complimenting them on their creativity and talent.

## Bloom Where You are Planted

The fifth Hunter Brother and lead vocalist, Ty, said there’s a 12 ½ year age difference between he and the oldest, JJ, and nearly a six-year difference between he and the next youngest, Brock.





"In some senses, I grew up almost like an only child," Ty said. "In some ways, I had a really wild imagination growing up as a kid."

Ty is also the only brother who does not currently work on the farm. While he used to, he recently made the decision to step away from the family farm.

"When it comes to farming, it is such an incredible lifestyle. I'm very grateful for the fact that I grew up on the farm," Ty said. "It installs a work ethic in a lot of things, working towards a common goal, specifically when you're helping feed the world, there's a really great purpose in that, and you're motivated by it every day because you see the seeds that you plant in the ground, and you watch it all come to fruition."

However, Ty felt his creative talents could have been used elsewhere off of the farm.

"I think just being in a tiny, little cab in a lot of ways gave me the chance to really think on a lot of different things – like song ideas and whatnot – but after a period of time, I just got a little bit restless in that capacity, not because I didn't appreciate the lifestyle, but I just felt that maybe my talents could be used a little bit more fully elsewhere with just a little more interaction with people, and then obviously the music is still there. It's the common bond between all of us."

Ty stressed that he's very proud of the farm and where he comes from, but he said it was interests that lied outside the farm gate for him that he felt needed to be explored further.

That creative mind in a small cab helped Ty create many days and nights worth of entertainment during the long days of seeding and harvest, creating his own game shows over the CB Radio.

"We would play Who Wants to be a Millionaire, and essentially, I would call over and have one person who was driving a combine, or a truck be in the hot seat, and so we kind of arranged things," Ty said. "'Ask the audience' would be 'ask the augers,' and we had a 50/50, and then they could call another combine, and so we had the whole thing set up.

And then people started coming out to the field, and they actually wanted to participate in this."

Ty's "Fun Cab" started giving away prizes, such as a gumball for the first grain dump of the day, or for farmer of the week.

"This was a way I can actually use my creativity to help lift the environment in the atmosphere, because I think sometimes you get so into the work that you can forget just to correspond with each other, so it was me going 'hey, how can I contribute in ways that utilizes my po-

## Silver Lining

While it may have seemed a bit daunting for the Hunter Brothers when they started their band back in 2016, one person who has always been by their side is their father, Lorne Hunter. He stressed to the brothers from a young age that things like hockey or any other physical sport won't last long, but music will.

"My Dad was giving Ty a music lesson at 87 years of age a week prior to his death in the hospital. He found a piano in the waiting room, and they sat together, and he was showing him some different



tential, and maybe ways that are outside of the box?' Because that's what I tend to do," Ty added.

He also said he may come out to the farm either during seeding or harvest a few times in the future to continue doing game shows periodically just to keep with the tradition and entertain his fellow brothers over the CB radio.

cool chords that he had learned during his lifetime."

– Lorne Hunter on music in the family.

He said when the brothers told him they were creating a country music band, he was excited for them.

"I was really pumped," Lorne said. "Those type of opportunities don't come



along (often), and I was 60 years of age at the time, and they said 'Dad, what do you think? This is obviously going to impose on the farming and our lives,' and I said, 'this is one of those opportunities that come along once in a lifetime, and I think you'd be foolish, and you'd regret it when you're my age if you don't step into it.'"

While it is true that performing, recording, and all of the other things a band will do in a year takes away from the farm, Lorne said collectively, the brothers put more than their fair share into the farm when they're home.

"They're fitting it in between shows and so they're very much involved and carrying the mail as well, so it makes life pretty crazy and hectic, but they do their part," Lorne said. "They're full-on farmers; they're not rhinestone cowboys out there singing and plucking a guitar."

If there's been one thing that's impressed Lorne about the Hunter Brothers' success so far, it's been their ability to entertain.

"They're a fun group to go and watch, and I don't say that as an arrogant Dad," Lorne said. "We go to a lot of their shows, and we see a lot of other performers, and they do well, and they compete well with other groups."

## What Colour You Drive

So, what's next for the Hunter Brothers?

After the brothers completed their harvest in late September, they jumped right back into releasing music and announcing tour dates.

"One thing that the pandemic brought – and I know that there's a lot of lows for a lot of people and I don't want to excuse that – but one thing (for us), I think it narrowed our viewpoint of who we are and what we want to focus on," JJ said. "Leaning into agriculture, and farming, of course you want to hit a broad spectrum of people as well, and our fans have been incredible from all walks of life, but the farming is who we are. This is home, and even over the last couple years, we've set down our roots here. So, with the mindset of leaning into 'how can we really connect with the people that know the farm and whatnot?' We've got a couple of songs that are coming out that we have fought for, one in particular for probably four or five years, we tried to rewrite it multiple times, and we've got a couple of songs in this package that are coming out that I think will really speak to what we feel our crowd is."

The Hunter Brothers were announced as one of the concerts performing during the Grey Cup Festival in Regina. They've also released two songs so far this fall; "What Colour You Drive" and "Peace, Love and Country Music."

"We wanted to write a song that was positive, we wanted to write a song that connected people," JJ said. "There's a lot of diversity of thought, there's a lot of division in the world today, so

what things can we stand on collectively together? Peace, love, and maybe country music isn't everybody's cup of tea, but I think we can agree that music in general is something that brings people together, and so being country musicians, 'Peace, Love, and Country Music' felt like the right place to land with that. One thing that's been really special for us is when we sing it live, the engagement of the people almost immediately is there."

There's more music also partially recorded that will be released soon, according to the brothers, as well as the possibility for some concert dates and recording sessions over the winter, just in time to return home for seeding in the spring.

When it comes to those looking to also get into the music industry, JJ said it's important for people to not be afraid of what's driving them.

"I don't think many people would look and say 'hey, that's the way you should go, farm, and do music,' but for us, it makes sense," JJ said. "I don't want to say that it's just a one-size-fits-all, that everybody has to do it this way or that way, I'm not saying that everybody that has a musical inclination should try to do it the way we've done it, but if there's a passion there, I think that's one thing about music is that music speaks to people. It can transcend language, it can transcend culture, it can transcend occupation. I think that it's a way that it speaks to the soul in many ways. If people want to share their message through music, I would always encourage them to do that, and don't be afraid."





# The Hunter Brothers Rapid Fire:

## Who is most likely to cause a fight?

JJ: We try not to fight, but it does happen. With us, I think it's more of a thing where nobody has an opinion until someone has an opinion, and then we all have an opinion on how to change it or do it differently.

On the road, who wants to stop for food or for the bathroom the most?

All: Ty, hands down.

Luke: Dusty is amazing at finding amazing restaurants, he's always looking for places – wherever we're going – that are rated at the top, and so he's amazing at finding us really good food.

Dusty: I don't particularly love large, urban centres, but I feel like good food is one of the good things about it, so if we're going to be there, let's find some good food.

Ty: Part of it I consume a lot of water, especially when we're on the road because I'm hydrating the vocal cords, at least that's what I like to pin it on. I don't know why I do that, I'll sit at a restaurant, and I'll have like 8 glasses of water before the end of it.

## Who takes the longest to get ready for a show?

All: Ty.

JJ: Both in prep and dress, but also, he's our front man, so without question, he's got to get off by himself, he's got to take time, get in the right head space, figure out what he's going to say – every crowd is different, how is he going to relate?

Ty: I'm usually running the show over in my mind, so it's kind of like a pre-show ritual in a sense. I think it's just time to prepare myself to get in the right head space.

## Who is the funniest?

All: depends what avenue you're talking about. Brock's the wildest, craziest, like adrenaline and can do that type of thing far better than any of us. Dusty is the most sarcastic, (has) a dry sense of humour, if you're into that, he's your guy. Ty is very creative, so he's always coming up with goofy stuff, and JJ and Luke just fit in wherever.

## Any superstitions either on the road or on the farm?

Dusty: I wouldn't say we have any superstitions actually, but the one we talk about on the road a lot is when sound check goes too well, watch out. When sound check is lousy, it's amazing how often times, you actually get up and the show goes really well. It's actually somewhat terrifying when soundcheck goes too well.

All: We're not really superstitious people.

JJ: I would say I was more superstitious with hockey, I had a real firm routine, whereas we're a little more "loosey goosey" with the music and farm.

During the long days of seeding and harvest, what's on in the cab?

JJ: I listen to country music radio, or else, I do like audio books, Toronto Blue Jays Baseball games, and I'll also listen to podcasts or YouTube videos, depending on what I'm honing in on at that time.

Brock: For me, it's New Music Now and Release Radar (Spotify) on Friday and Discovery (SoundCloud), that sort of thing, especially Spotify, I love knowing on Friday everything that comes out. I don't go anywhere without my headphones.

Ty: I would listen to a lot of songs that were new at the time because then I would be coming up with alternate lyrics. But a lot of times, I was creating stuff as I was going down the fields. I am one of those people that's like 'I could consume this over here, but I'd rather be creating it.'

## If each of you weren't farming or in a band, what would you be doing?

Luke: Some kind of undercover cop/detective.

Brock: I would be in aviation. I'm very fortunate to crop-dust on the farm, the guys have made it possible for me to go away and get my license, take all of my training, and have a crop-duster here, so it would be within aviation. I'd fly up north and do some bush flying.

Ty: Music has kind of been my Plan A, so to be honest, it would just continue to be shaped in a way that allowed me to do music as much as possible. Obviously, there's seasons, and ebbs and flows like

COVID where we didn't really have a lot of options in terms of doing live shows, and because I love performing so much, you start creating other outlets. I think it would just take different shapes and complexions. I wanted to be a pediatrician when I was in High School, that was a huge thing that would have been a Plan B. Going back to school for that now would be a lot of years ahead of me, but something within the health field has been of interest to me.

JJ: Two things for me, something in the teaching capacity, not necessarily in a school but possibly. I had a couple of offers when I was done at a hockey academy, so it would have been a joint-classroom-hockey thing, that would have been really intriguing, working with kids. The other things, something in the medical field, I was actually strongly considering after my junior hockey career, something in the medical field. I loved the sciences in school. OR, dream job, what Buck Martinez does, play-by-play for the Toronto Blue Jays. Just hang out, announcing at the ball diamonds every night, that sounds pretty great.

Dusty: I honestly don't know. I've thought of that lots, I can't honestly tell you. I feel like I get passionate about the things I'm in at the time, and so I think if I was born in a different part of the world in a different set of circumstances, I'd probably would have dug in there. As my kids are getting involved in hockey, I'm actually enjoying coaching. I could see myself getting involved in something like that, possibly.

## What's your favourite thing to do as a family away from the farm and touring?

Luke: We like to go skiing. That's something we did growing up we enjoyed, and now we're passing that down to our kids.

Ty: Get together at Mom and Dad's for her cinnamon buns and her food, because my Mom is an insanely good cook, baker, everything. I think a lot of our gatherings, that kind of happens now especially with most of us having kids. Our kids get along, so we come to the farm at Mom and Dad's place for special events – whether it's Thanksgiving or Christmas – but also just getting together to hang out for different occasions.

# Back to the Drawing Board

APAS Response to Federal Proposal to Reduce Domestic Fertilizer Emissions Outlines Many Areas for Improvement

BY DELANEY SEIFERLING

A federal government plan to reduce fertilizer emissions in Canada, as part of an overall climate plan, needs to go back to the drawing board.

That's the main message that the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS), along with other Saskatchewan farm groups, relayed back to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) earlier this year as part of a consultation process on its latest proposal around fertilizer emission goals.

The proposal outlined specifics on a federal goal to reduce absolute levels of GHG emissions arising from fertilizer application by 30% by 2030, a measure that was developed from Environment and Climate Change Canada's overall climate plan.

In response to the document, APAS joined with SaskCrops groups (SaskBarley, SaskWheat, SaskFlax, SaskPulse, SaskCanola and Sask Oats) to coordinate on a formal joint submission, which was submitted this past August, along with individual submissions from the respective groups.

And despite the tight timelines and the varied groups involved in coordinating the response, the messaging delivered was concise and clear, based around three main pillars, says APAS President Ian Boxall.

The first is the fact that any such plan needs based off of sound modelling of the correct components – which, as of now, it's not.

Specifically, the current model relies too heavily on fertilizer sales numbers rather than emissions, Boxall says.

"They can strictly look at sales and see that we've had an increase sales and nitrogen fertilizer in Canada," he says. "But if they want to look at that, let's correlate it to the bushels of production."

Furthermore, it's crucial that there are accurate and up-to-date measurements of current emission levels and an understanding of how these are impacted by on-farm practices, Boxall says.

For example, many Saskatchewan farmers are already practicing the Fertilizer Canada 4R Nutrient Stewardship principles on their farms, such as variable rate (a 2021 Fertilizer Canada study showed that 58% of Canadian farmland, or 25.4 million acres, were already following the 4R principles at a basic level).

But the AAFC's currently modelling doesn't effectively account for the fact that these practices are already underway, measure their impact on emissions or account for how this impact may vary by region, Boxall says. He adds that these are all critical pieces of informa-

“We need to ensure that we produce the most we can in a way that is sustainable – environmentally, economically and financially.”





this country – so they should do their research.”

Finally, the third pillar is that any emissions reductions policy should not interfere with Canada’s contributions to global food security or introduce additional risks to family farm businesses.

The importance of this factor has only grown in recent years, during which geo-political events globally have significantly underscored how fragile our global food system can be.

“APAS encourages the government to engage with the research network to help create a more complete awareness of our starting point.”

tion that should form the foundation of a federal initiative to reduce emissions.

The second pillar of the response is that the emissions approach needs to be customized to the different growing regions in Canada and their unique specs, Boxall says.

For example, in Western Canada and particularly Saskatchewan, farmers tend to deep band fertilizer more than using a broadcast application. Yet, these regional practices have not been taken into account.

Going forward, APAS believes it will be critical to base an emissions reduction strategy on models that account for increased fertilizer use efficiencies such as these, and their regional uses, in order to set credible targets, Boxall says.

“Canada has world-class researchers from coast-to-coast that can help heighten the understanding of the regional differences to inform any plan going forward. APAS encourages the government to engage with the research network to help create a more complete awareness of our starting point. The government has research firms all over

“Canada’s going to continue to be looked to, to provide food and agricultural products to the world,” Boxall says. “We need to ensure that we produce the most we can in a way that is sustainable – environmentally, economically and financially.”

Since the APAS and SaskCrops submissions were made this summer, no formal response has been received, Boxall says, but he believes the next round of planned consultations will be an opportunity for the groups to reiterate and expand their messaging.

“We will continue to defend farm and ranch family’s livelihoods,” he says. “This won’t change.”

The next round of consultations will also be an opportunity for farm groups to gain more clarity on how a plan will be carried out and how farmers will be expected to participate.

For example, AAFC has clearly stated its commitment to a voluntary approach to fertilizer emissions reduction, but Boxall says farmers need to know more.

“Will this really be voluntary? What does that mean?” he says. “What happens if no one volunteers?”

Overall, Boxall believes that AAFC is listening to the agriculture industry’s concerns, as demonstrated in a face-to-face between APAS and the group earlier this year.

“They took vigorous notes about what we said, and they didn’t necessarily disagree,” he says. “I think people need to understand that this policy has not come from Ag Canada. It came from Environment and Climate Change Canada and was put in a Ag Canada’s lap.”

However, Boxall is frustrated with the fact that he believes the larger conversation around fertilizer emissions misses a key point.

“I think we as farmers don’t get enough credit, not for what we do, but how we feel,” he says. “We care about the environment more than we get credit for. That’s my biggest pet peeve.”

He says farmer are one of the groups most affected by weather and therefore most concerned with taking care of the environment, especially the land and water resources.

“Whether it’s symmetrical weather patterns, or climate change, we see it and feel it every single day.”

He also says that Canada is already a world leader in many respects when it comes to farming efficiencies, as fertilizer inputs remain one of the highest costs for farmers. And any federal reduction plan needs to take these factors into account first.

“We don’t just go out there and put extra nitrogen on because we feel like it. Fertilizer is one of the costliest inputs we purchase, so we need to be as efficient as possible,” he says.

“We want to continue to grow the best, healthiest ag products in the world. We’re paid on bushels. Until those changes, the goal is production.”

# Meet the Mentees

**A** PAS is proud to offer the Youth Leadership and Mentorship Program (YLMP), presented by FCC. YLMP is an opportunity for young producers between the ages of 18 and 40 to gain valuable opportunities for learning, mentorship, and networking in the areas of agricultural policy development and advocacy. This year, four individuals were accepted for the YLMP program.

“The next generation of farmers bring with them endless possibilities for the future of the industry. At FCC we share in the passion for making Canadian agriculture better and recognize the importance of mentoring young producers and providing tools for their success. We’re proud to support the Youth Leadership and Mentorship Program that enables young farmers to share their voice, connect with others and advocate for advancements in Canadian agriculture. We look forward to seeing the next generation thrive.”

– Shannon Weatherall,  
Senior Vice President Prairie Operations





Ashley Van Meter



Carlie Bowditch



Eric Martens



Morgan Follensbee

## Ashley Van Meter

**RM: Moose Range #486**

Ashley grew up on a mixed farming operation near Carrot River, spending lots of time with their cattle until the herd was sold when she was 12. She was briefly disconnected from the industry until she enrolled in the agriculture program at the University of Saskatchewan in 2015. After finishing school, Ashley started working in crop protection sales. She found herself looking for a way to connect with an organization that was solely for the farmers, so she called her RM asking about APAS, which is when she learned there was an opportunity to become an APAS rep. Her family farm grows oats, wheat, canola, as well as hemp and borage occasionally.

## Carlie Bowditch

**RM: Tisdale #427**

Carlie has a long history of involvement in agriculture. Growing up, she was a member of her local 4H. While attending college at Dickinson State University in North Dakota, she was the president of the Collegiate Farm Bureau club, hosting advocacy events on campus, bringing in lobbyists and visiting the Capital Building to further understand how a farm bureau makes a difference for farmers and ranchers in North Dakota. Carlie is currently on the board of the Saskatchewan Young Agriculture Entrepreneurs, serving as the events chair. Carlie also actively volunteering for Ag in the Classroom, helping at food farms in Northeast Saskatchewan and visiting classrooms during Ag Literacy Month every March. On the farm, Carlie's family farm produces canola, oats, hard red spring wheat, and faba beans.

## Eric Martens

**RM: Longlaketon #219**

Eric applied for the 2022/23 YLMP program because he believes policy will affect as much his children's future in agriculture as much as how he manages product sales on the farm. Eric recently participated in the Canadian Western Agribition Next Gen Agriculture Mentorship Program, and he says it made him realize he likes the policy and governance environment. He is excited to engage in different roles going forward as the opportunities unveil themselves. Eric, his wife Rebecca, and their three kids own and operate a small mixed farm, they sell finished beef cut and wrapped, seed stock limousin genetics, and farm canola, malt barley, red lentils and milling oats. Eric is also involved in his community, as he sits on his local Co-op board, and helps with the Serath 4H.

## Morgan Follensbee

**RM: Newcombe #260**

Morgan is another past participant in the Canadian Western Agribition Next Gen Mentorship Program. Morgan says she was able to start a full-time independent agronomy business called Elevate Ag, make many life-long connections, and learn more about leadership and policy. She is looking to explore her interest into policy further. A mentor of hers, Kim Keller (2017 YLMP mentee), recommended the YLMP program to her as a next step. She is looking to expand her leadership and policy skills in the agriculture industry. Morgan graduated from the University of Saskatchewan in 2019, earning a degree in Agronomy in 2019. Her family grain farm near Eatonia produces lentils, wheat, durum, canola, and canary seed.

PRESENTED BY:



# Vegetable Farming in Saskatchewan

It's fair to say when you think agriculture in Saskatchewan, the first thing you'd see are fields of grain or oilseeds, and cattle.

However, there's many facets of agriculture in the province, one of them being vegetable and fruit production. Many farmers' markets, and even grocery stores, are featuring local product grown right here in Saskatchewan on farmland, in greenhouses, and even in yards in Regina.

The province's most popular vegetable crop by far is potatoes. According to the Potato Growers of Canada, Saskatchewan had 6,200 acres of potatoes planted in 2021. Some of those acres can be found at Frontier Gardens between Lumsden and Craven, where the Anticknap family has been farming vegetables for over 100 years. Lloyd and Marcy Anticknap have been working on the farm for decades, taking over four years ago when Lloyd's mom retired.

"We started out by Pilot Butte (in 1883) and worked our way to our current location," Anticknap said. "We've been in the Qu'Appelle Valley since the 1940's."

Frontier Gardens farms 25 acres of vegetables, and most of their work is done by hand. This year, more of their sales have shifted to Safeway and Sobeys locations in Regina, where they sell potatoes, carrots, cucumbers, corn, and cabbage.

"Over the years, our clientele were generally older folks, and they've been passing on," Anticknap said. "It's the younger generation that needs to realize that the local product is out in the valley, not at Walmart."

Anticknap says his peak season is July and August.

"Once University and high school students go back to school, it's harvest time," Anticknap said. "We start to decline that time of year."



The biggest hurdle Anticknap says he faces is making sure people know who they are, and when the right time to buy fresh produce, adding produce for winter storage is typically available in October.

## Over the Hill ([overthehillorchards.ca](http://overthehillorchards.ca))

Staying in the Qu'Appelle Valley, there is something you may not have thought was possible in Saskatchewan, an orchard.

Over the Hill Orchards and Winery has been in operation since 2000, when Dean and Sylvia Kreutzer made the move from Regina out to the valley to pursue a passion project of Dean's and to make it a career.

"Prior to moving to the valley, I basically filled up my backyard with fruit trees and I ran out of room," Dean said. "I fell in love with the idea of growing fruit and didn't understand why fruits weren't grown more in Saskatchewan."

Kreutzer says while there are some similarities between standard grain farming and growing fruit, there's many differences.







"When you're a grain grower, no matter if you've had a good crop or a bad crop, you start again the next spring with a clean slate," Kreutzer said. "With fruit, if you lose a 22-year-old tree, you can't just start again with a 22-year-old tree. You have to build that up."

Kreutzer says the drought has really impacted his 40-acres in the last five years, adding they have only received 4 ½ inches of rain over the summer, and there is no crop insurance for growing fruit in Saskatchewan. That has made Kreutzer adapt, creating a "Growing Group," connecting fruit farmers from northern Saskatchewan with his business, buying directly from them to help sustain operations as fruit production on his orchard during the drought did not meet business demand.



Over the Hill Orchards was also a Certified Organic farm for about 12 years before Kreutzer made the decision that the appetite for organic fruit from Saskatchewan did not pay off.

"I talked to an organic grain farmer, and they can get double what the normal is," Kreutzer said. "Here, I can't get any kind of premium (for organic fruit). I still grow organically, the practices are the same, I'm just not certified."

Kreutzer also talked about making the orchard and winery into more of a tourism destination for people from Regina to escape the city life for an afternoon or evening.

"We're on the edge of a valley, it's a beautiful location, so we're just taking advantage of the natural assets we have," Kreutzer said. "We are a terrible place to have a fruit orchard in terms of soil – very heavy clay soil, very dry – we're in the Wascana Basin, so we get lots of late spring frosts, early fall frosts, it's very windy, and very little snow cover to protect the trees. So, as an orchard itself, it's a horrible place, but as a tourist destination, it's an awesome place, so we're focusing more on that."

In addition to making juice, jams, spreads, and more with the fruit they produce and bring in, Over the Hill Orchards became a Winery in 2013. Five or six years ago, Over the Hill also partnered with the Culinary Federation of Regina to do three supper events every weekend.

"It's a four-course meal, I take guests on a tour of the operation in between courses during the growing season, and just that collaboration has created something you can't find anywhere else," Kreutzer added.

Work is constantly evolving on the orchard, including different landscaping projects, different varieties of fruit being grown, and a major irrigation project being undertaken this fall and winter.

"We have a dugout, but it's empty because if you don't get any spring runoff, you have no water," Kreutzer said. "What we are doing is we are catching water, we're harvesting water. So off of our winery buildings, the quonset, the





**“ You see market gardens on social media and in different podcasts we listen to, and they’re on two-to-20 acres, we’re on 8,000 square feet. ”**

— Candace Benson, City Street Farms

house, the garage, the shop, if we get an inch of rain, we get 2,500 gallons of water, which sounds like a lot, but it isn't when you have 12 acres of fruit out there. We are putting down pond-liner in certain areas of elevation, so when you do get an inch of rain, we'll collect that water to an underground cistern, or it'll funnel down into a dugout.”

“Our plans are to build a more strategically placed dugout, put 300 feet of pond-liner so when you get an inch of rain, you get 10,000 gallons of water, and another area by our solar panels, there's 3,000 gallons of water, and then our buildings get another 2,500 gallons of water. So, every inch of rain, you're getting 16,000 gallons of water, now we're talking. If you get 4 ½ inches of rain, that's 60-70,000 gallons of water throughout the year,” Kreutzer added.

That said, those projects take money and time, and lots of it.

“Being self-sufficient in that way, that will allow my trees in a hard year to not suffer,” Kreutzer said. “They won't flourish, but they won't get hurt. They will just continue to be healthy and not die, because losing 20-year-old cherry trees is very difficult to overcome.”

Aside from this project, Kreutzer said the

rest of the work will be smaller projects to ensure the orchard remains a destination people want to visit for many years to come.

### **City Street Farms** ([citystreetfarms.ca](http://citystreetfarms.ca))

Imagine having the amenities of living in a city like Regina, while also being able to farm vegetables. A new group from Regina is doing just that with a project aimed at embracing self-sufficiency and building community.

The idea of City Street Farms began in November 2020, between two Permaculture Design students who came together and agreed Regina needed more of an urban agricultural presence.

Miranda Holt and Candance Benson were both working different jobs at the time, but like many people during the COVID-19 pandemic, were looking for something else to do. They took the 2020-21 winter to plan and made their plans a reality that spring with multiple plots of front and back yards in Regina growing produce, with City Street Farms selling the produce at the Regina Farmers' Market.

“Both of us really wanted to centre the business around elevating food desert

pressure in the city and trying to create food access for people who were struggling at the time,” Holt said. “We've come to a bunch of hurdles where we've found ways to bridge it pretty well.”

One of those hurdles include managing multiple locations of plots of land at once, which can be difficult.

“If we want to grow in a food desert, a lot of those neighbourhoods have really small, shady yards, they're old neighbourhoods with lots of trees,” Benson said. “A lot of the homes are rented and not owned, so that creates issues with using residential land and just the ability for whoever is living there – whether it's the landlord or the renter – to be able to afford a little bit of a higher water bill that year. These are all things we didn't really think about, and so by being a for-profit business, but then partnering with people at the Farmers' Market to say 'hey, you can buy some of our produce and we'll put it in the community fridge,' that was a really good bridge for us.”

While being spread out on seven lots of land throughout Cathedral and Lakeview neighbourhoods in Regina can be challenging, it can also be a blessing.

“We only move our food from the farm to the Farmers' Market, so there's very



little distance to get the food to the person," Holt said. "We made a funny tagline on our chalkboard at the Farmers' Market, 'It's so local, you probably passed it on your way here.'"

"When we want to grow leafy greens, we can put those on our shady spots," Benson said. "If it hails in one spot, we might be protected in another."

Both Benson and Holt agree that getting established will help customers realize what they're buying is grown closer to home than they first realize.

"When we say, 'we're an urban farm,' customers ask 'from where? Where are you farming?' They still assume that it's coming from outside of the city," Holt said. That language in such an agricultural province like Saskatchewan, I think is still getting traction. It's not a new concept, but it's just so different from how we're used to seeing people farm, and a lot of people still can't really make sense of it yet."

"You see market gardens on social media and in different podcasts we listen to, and they're on two-to-20 acres, we're on 8,000 square feet."

— Candace Benson, City Street Farms.

Moving into their third year of growing produce in Regina, both Holt and Benson believe they are getting a better grasp of crop planning moving forward.

"We are starting to get a handle of what we grow well and what we can sell, and some things that people just aren't as interested in, and we just have to say goodbye to trying to make money off of it," Holt said.

"It's similar to choosing a lane," Benson said. "There are so many things that we

want to do, and so many different ways you could take a project like this, so for us, it's deciding what to pursue."

Long term, market gardening is not what Holt and Benson are wanting to pursue. It's about growing the idea of urban agriculture and making it easier for more people to take part in it. But for now, growth has to continue at a controlled pace.

"For every one yard we use, we probably turned down 10 people, saying 'sorry, you're in the wrong spot in relation to our other spots,' but there's tons of people who are tired of watering their front lawn, and want to use it for something productive," Benson said. "We just need to get more people on board to actually do the farming."

"We can't wait for the winter resting period so that we can really wrap our heads around it and figure out how to make it a viable business to support us and feed our families, while trying to put nutritious food into the community," Holt said.

City Street Farms continue to update their followers and customers over Instagram and Facebook platforms. They also garden training through their website for anyone to access, no matter where they live.

## Floating Gardens ([floatinggardens.ca](http://floatinggardens.ca))

A greenhouse just outside of Osler is showing there's a way to have fresh, Saskatchewan-grown vegetables year-round.

Floating Gardens, led by the brother-sister duo of Chris and Rachel Buhler, grows a variety of vegetables hydroponically, meaning they grow their vegetables without soil. The siblings converted their century-old family dairy farm into a hydroponic greenhouse operation in 2010. They began doing so after reading an article that said Saskatchewan only produced four percent of its own vegetables for consumption, which paled in comparison to Manitoba and Alberta.

A large portion of their operation has a strong focus on sustainability. The Buhlers heat their greenhouse with waste wood that's diverted from landfills, grow their products in reusable pots made from coconut core that can be washed, and also have an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) system, meaning they purchase insects that eat harmful bugs that enter the greenhouse.

Some of those productive insects include gall midge, lacewings, and minute pirate bug, which all work together to kill



pests such as aphids, thrips, and spider mites. They also use bumble bees for natural pollination in the greenhouse. The Buhler's have also invested in special plants to house those bugs. The use of those productive insects means the siblings almost never have to spray their vegetables with pesticides or insecticides, and if they do spray, they will mostly use organically allowed sprays.

However, their story is not without challenges, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

a community of suppliers and knowledgeable people that can help us solve problems as they come up."

The Buhler's say they had to purchase their original irrigation system from Holland due to a lack of local suppliers in Canada. Since then, an irrigation company has moved to Saskatoon, which has helped out their operation a great deal.

Something else that sticks out as soon as someone visits Floating Gardens is how tall plants are. Their tomato plants

wire, and we grow our crops (upwards). Our tomatoes will be 35 feet by the end of the season, and we just clip them up every week, and we lower the plants off of the wire, use a technique called layering, where we drop the plants and move them over."

On top of vertically growing vegetables, Floating Gardens also grows a wide selection of herbs, plants that house their IPM systems, baby greens such as pea shoots and mustard greens, and edible flowers.

Because they are so isolated, they also face issues many other greenhouses in Canada have never heard of or dealt with. Because surrounding farmland will continue to house crops such as canola, insects such as leaf hoppers and flea beetles are sometimes a problem for Floating Gardens during harvest time.

"Our best defense against those bugs is exclusion," Rachel said. "We do something unusual, which is screening our vents. We try to have double-entries into the greenhouse from everywhere, we never allow someone that's been in a vegetable garden or a field into the greenhouse without changing clothes, we always change shoes, so we take cleanliness very seriously in order to keep those pests out."

A critical success factor about Floating Gardens that's unique is the longevity of their plants. Their tomatoes, for example, have a life cycle of 12-14 months while continually producing fruit. That longevity also extends to the grocery store once it's been picked and delivered.

"When you pick something in the morning and ship it at lunch time, you can't get fresher than that, and that's why we're doing this," Rachel said. "We get this high-quality, amazing taste that tastes like it grew in your grandma's garden, and you just picked it on a summer day."

According to the Ministry of Agriculture, there are 165 different greenhouses in Saskatchewan, including recreational plant greenhouses. Those businesses employ at least 1,500 people.



"Before the pandemic, over 40 percent of our sales were to restaurants, and a large percentage went to farmers' markets. Both of those closed down at some point, and especially for restaurants, it's been very slow to get those clients back," Chris said. "Now, we sell more to (grocery) stores more than anything, which we didn't do very much then, so we had to really pivot what we were doing. We also sell online to individual customers and deliver into the city."

"The greenhouse industry in Saskatchewan is very small, and the greenhouse industry in Ontario is huge, and in B.C., it's very big as well," Rachel said. "The learning curve for us has been finding

can grow 25-30 feet upward, with stalks wrapping horizontally while the rest of the plant is pinned along a wire, training the plant to grow vertically. Even sprawling plants such as cucumbers are being trained to grow upwards at Floating Gardens.

"What we're using are actually industry standard techniques for hydroponic greenhouses," Chris said. "The reality is it's very expensive per square foot to build and run a greenhouse, and so we do a lot of techniques that have been developed for very expensive space. We try to grow everything vertically, and the way to use vertical space is to grow these vining crops up to a 3-4-meter





# Introducing Sask Pork

Q&A with General Manager Mark Ferguson

**T**he Saskatchewan Pork Development Board (Sask Pork) has recently opted to join APAS as a Group Member. APAS is working with a variety of livestock-based groups to be more involved in the advocacy for livestock sector issues. The following interview with their General Manager Mark Ferguson describes some of their activities.

## Describe the work that Sask Pork does.

Sask Pork is a producer organization – we operate all of the hog producers in the province – and we work on on-farm programs, we fund research, and we promote the pork product to people in Saskatchewan. We're funded by a levy of 85¢ on every hog sold, and 23¢ on every weanling sold in the province. The other job we have is advocacy for our producers and representing them in terms of governments.

## How did your organization begin?

The pork industry has a long history of having strong organizations representing their interests. We began as a hog marketing commission in 1973, and the name changed over the years, and eventually they were known as SPI Marketing Group, and at that time, we were a single-vest marketing board for all of the hogs that were sold. At that time, the government made the decision that we wouldn't have single-vest marketing for

hogs, so in 1998, we split in to two different organizations, there was a marketing organization – a producer co-op called SPI Marketing Group, and they continue to market hogs as a producer co-op – and Sask Pork, which is our organization. We continue to fund producer research, promote pork product, and advocate on behalf of producers.

## What are some of the major projects that Sask Pork is working on?

Research is a big component of our programming, we annually fund about \$350,000 in projects, and that's about 20% of our levy revenue. We do research at various institutions across Canada, the main one though is at the Prairie Swine Centre, which is located in the province near Saskatoon. Basically, our research programming looks at three different areas, and the first one – and pretty important considering what happened this year with the drought – is nutrition research, so that's basical-

ly improving the income of producers through improved diets, improved uses of ingredients, things like that.

We research ethology, which focuses on animal behaviour, animal welfare, how do we improve the environment of the barn and how we handle animals, and so that's another area of research.

We also do engineering, which focuses on the physical environment, how the barn is constructed, energy efficiency, the environmental footprint, and that type of thing. In terms of research projects, those are kind of our main focus areas.

## How could that research impact Saskatchewan producers?

There's been significant advancements in all of these areas, and particularly nutrition when we think about how we utilize feed, those types of things, they build on each other and as producers



adopt them, it does reduce their cost and improve their net income. The investment in research by producers has real dollar impacts at the farm level, and we try to keep our research as practical and applicable at the farm as possible.

#### **Why did Sask Pork decide to join APAS as a Group Member?**

We've been an Associate Member of APAS for many years – I think since the option to do so was around – I think we benefit from working together to achieve a common goal, and having a strong general farm organization like APAS to work on behalf and represent all of agriculture is an important thing to have, an important contribution, and it's one that we're proud to be a part of as pork producers. That's why we continued as an Associate Member and moved on to be a Group Member.

#### **Was your organization impacted by drought either last year or this year?**

As feed users, the past year was very difficult for farms. Basically, what we had to do was move to importing the majority of our feed requirements. Instead of using barley and wheat, we were using corn imported from the U.S., and so that introduced a lot of logistical challenges, and feed costs were also up by about 40% year over year. Feed costs make up about 70% of our total

“ We do research at various institutions across Canada, the main one though is at the Prairie Swine Centre, which is located in the province near Saskatoon. ”

– Mark Ferguson, SaskPork

cost of production, so you can imagine the impact on the farms was immediate and significant. The drought had a big impact.

At the same time, we were fortunate that our hog prices were actually historically strong over the past year. We had very strong hog pricing, and while it didn't always mean that the farms were profitable throughout the year, it did help. Especially this summer when we had some good prices, and with feed costs coming down a bit, I think some of the farms were able to make a little bit of money. But it was a tough year for (our producers).

#### **Do you find that there's more hog producers ear over year, or is it steady/declining?**

The general trend on the number of hog producers in the province has been declining. We've got under 100 commercial hog producers at the moment, there are many more people that raise hogs on a small-scale basis, but in terms of

people where that's their company, or that's their livelihood, there's under 100. Basically, it's the economics of the business, so most of our slaughter facilities are located out of province, so there's a long trip to the abattoir for the hogs, and so you've got to be able to build larger semi loads of animals in order to make it work. Over the years from what I've seen in the business – and I've been with Sask Pork for about 17 years now – that trend, a lot of it is the economy and scale are driven by transportation, and that's the reality of it. While we have seen fewer farms, we are seeing larger farms, and the number of hogs in Saskatchewan has actually grown over time.

#### **What's on the horizon now for Sask Pork?**

We want to continue to see good agricultural policies and programs in Saskatchewan and in Canada. Some of the things we talk about on the policy side is 'if we could just have a more effective means of forward pricing our feed grains, it would be a huge benefit to the industry. We've got fairly good systems in place to hedge or forward price our hogs, but there's really no effective futures market for feed wheat and feed barley in western Canada, so especially over the last year, very difficult to manage risk on the feed side other than pre-buying and taking a delivery in advance of feed, so I think that's a good example of why we need better tools in terms of managing feed risks.

Another issue that's important to both existing producers and potential producers is our Intensive Livestock Operations (ILO) Permitting system in Saskatchewan, and it could use some



significant improvements. It's currently a very long and uncertain process for anyone thinking about building or expanding an intensive livestock operation. It's a set of rules that hasn't really been updated since the 1990's when it was developed. Some of the ways discretionary use is deployed by municipalities has been an issue over the years, so we would like to see some changes made there.

We would like to see the industry grow in Saskatchewan as well. Saskatchewan is one of the best places in the world to raise hogs, in most years we have an abundance of feed, we've got a large land base with very little existing livestock out there, so that means we've got a low environmental risk, and those are some of the advantages we have. As we're seeing with the way fertilizer prices are going, manure is a valuable and sustainable resource that I think provides a great financial benefit to those fortunate to be located close to a barn. In terms of the hog industry, we would like to see more units developed in the coming years, and there are lots

of opportunities to work with some of the established companies out there to finish hogs for anyone that's interested. We'd certainly like to talk to anyone who is interested in ever having hogs on their farm.

#### **What are some of the other hurdles of operating a hog farm?**

It's got a high initial investment to get a barn built right, and with construction costs, we know that that's an issue in a lot of sectors. Volatility in feed costs and hog prices are always going up and down, and actively managing that risk is an important part of being a hog producer and hedging those commodities when you can or prebuying feed so that you're not exposed to those risks. In Saskatchewan, we talked about before the distance to the processing plants can be an issue as well. We've got one processing facility located in Moose Jaw, which does slaughter about 300,000 hogs per year, we produce about 1.8 million, so the rest of them go out of province and have a higher transportation bill.

#### **What work can be done to address these hurdles?**

I think some of them are pretty difficult ones in terms of construction costs – that's a tough one that effects every sector in the province – I'm not sure what the solution on that is. I think there's some tools that could perhaps be developed in terms of managing risk on feed, and we talked about the ILO permitting as well, which could be redeveloped or enhanced to make the process a little easier.

#### **What's one thing that Sask Pork needs right now?**

I think in general; we just want to continue to have good agricultural policies and programs in the province and to continue to have a good voice for those things.

### **Give Two Hoots! Recycle Used Oil & Antifreeze Materials!**



*By recycling used oil, filters, antifreeze, their plastic containers and DEF containers, you help keep Saskatchewan's water, land and air clean and safe. We have one of the best recycling networks in the country, let's use it!*

**37 EcoCentres and nearly 100 drop-off points province wide.**



**SARRC**

**usedoilrecyclingsk.com**  
**Toll free in SK 1.877.645.7275**



## **SPEAK UP WITH SASKATCHEWAN Farmers' Voice**

### **BLANKET COVERAGE**

More than 35,000 copies distributed to every farm mailbox in the province

### **EDITORIAL ENGAGEMENT**

Discussion and analysis of key agricultural issues impacting producers

### **CREDIBILITY**

Published on behalf of APAS – a democratically-elected, grassroots, non-partisan, producer-run organization

### **ADVERTISE NOW TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

Contact Benchmark Public Relations  
at **(306) 522-9326** or **info@benchmarkpr.ca**

**www.apas.ca**



# Farm Animals of Saskatchewan

**F**arm animals are special members of farm families across the province. In every issue, we spotlight some of the most beloved farm dogs in Saskatchewan. But for the first time, we are also sharing the stories of some other beloved farm animals in this issue. If you have a good boy or girl on your farm that you would like to see featured in the *Saskatchewan Farmers' Voice*, send one or more high-quality photos and a bit of information about your pet to [info@apas.ca](mailto:info@apas.ca).



## Blue

**Home:** RM of Lumsden #189

**Age:** 2 years old

**Breed:** Barn Cat

**Family:** David and Gerry Nicholson

**About Blue:** Named after his bright blue eyes, Blue was born in the barn and is from a line of barn cats. He is one of eight kittens from his litter – three orange, five black. He was two in this picture, and while he looks big, it is mostly hair. He loved a good cuddle and combing. While he often disappeared for a few days at a time, he always came back with either a gopher or a bird. There were never mice or moles around the farm when Blue was working.

## Cedar

**Home:** RM of Lumsden #189

**Age:** 8 years old

**Breed:** Bearded Collie, Australian Shepherd, Terrier, Border Collie cross.

**Family:** David and Gerry Nicholson

**About Cedar:** Cedar was adopted through Bright Eyes Dog Rescue with her 12 puppy siblings all given names of trees, but Jerry jokes that they may have changed the name if they got "Christmas." The Nicholson's received her at 10 weeks old, and she immediately took to farm life and was trained in her jobs by their older dog on the farm. Cedar has many activities she enjoys, from sorting cattle, checking out the dugout, and riding in the truck. She was recently DNA tested to reveal she is 30 percent Bearded Collie, Australian Shepherd, Terrier, and 10 percent Border Collie, making her a good cattle dog. Also known as "Spoiled Rotten," Cedar likes her ice cream every night, and while she may look heavy, she is very quick. Cedar takes pride in keeping deer, racoons, and skunks away from the yard and garden.







## Tulip Rose

**Home:** Hunter Farms

**Age:** 1 year old

**Breed:** Potbellied pig – miniature pot bellied pig cross

**Family:** The Hunters

**About Tulip Rose:** Tulip Rose Hunter came to the farm as a gift to our father for his 61st birthday from a family friend. She is a potbellied pig, (crossed with a miniature potbellied pig mind you) and she has a whole lot of sass.

She is loved by many - not just on our local farm, but by those who have seen our YouTube land shanty. She has a perfect sense of rhythm... Just watch the video and you will see that her tail beats like a metronome to the song. And legitimately, if you play a slower song, her tail will slow down. If you play a faster song, it will speed up. She was bound to be part of a musical family.

We believe she is the most loved member of the farm, and enjoys a good diet of chickpeas, tomatoes, carrots, popcorn, oatmeal, dog or cat food, apples, grapes, bread... actually almost anything. She makes a fantastic friend, and you will be on her good side so long as you don't pick her up. Tulip Rose made her debut in a music video for our single "Peace, Love and Country Music" and is rapidly working her way into the hearts of many.

## Holly

**Home:** RM of Orkney #244

**Age:** 11 years

**Breed:** Border Collie, Australian Shepherd, German Shepherd Cross

**Family:** Edward, April, Rosalie, and Adrianna Dreger

**About Holly:** Holly joined the family a week before Christmas in 2010 as a pup. She was a playful, cheery pup always jumping and playing with anyone or animal in sight. That is how she got her name; she is our little Christmas Holly.

Holly is a very gentle natured dog, giving kisses to her family members when they sit on the step with her. She is also a very protective dog when it comes to guarding the yard and her family. No stray or unwanted animal usually makes it across the yard.

Holly's favourite season is Winter. That is where you will see her leap and pounce in the fresh snow, eating it along her way to the barn to do the daily chores. In Summer, you may see her do her summer aquatics in the dugout.

With Holly aging, turning 12 in October, you will most likely see her sitting/laying on the front step of the house. She has grown to be one of the wisest, loyal, and gentle dogs we have had on the farm. Being front row and center on the step, she is always ready, having a big smile on her face and wagging her tail for her beloved milk bone cookie. She is truly one of a kind and is very much loved by the family.





## Sadie

**Home:** RM of Edenwold #158

**Age:** 4 years old

**Breed:** Hound mix

**Family:** The Melnyk's

**About Sadie:** Sadie spent the first year of her life living in an apartment with her owner, until moving onto the Balgonie farmyard. Since then, she has become an adventurous farm pup! She enjoys swimming in the creek, quad rides, tractor rides and running alongside the horses when we go for rides. She is a great guard dog for her humans and makes sure the barn cats are okay too!



## Agnes

**Home:** RM of Edenwold #158

**Age:** 20 years old

**Breed:** Donkey

**Family:** The Melnyk's



**About Agnes:** Agnes is the farmyard favourite! No one can resist those big ears, and if you pass by without a pat, she will be sure you hear her! This girl has some lungs!! Snuggly and attention loving, she will follow you everywhere you go, if she knows you have treats!

# RITEWAY


[sales@ritewaymfg.com](mailto:sales@ritewaymfg.com)

[www.ritewaymfg.com](http://www.ritewaymfg.com)

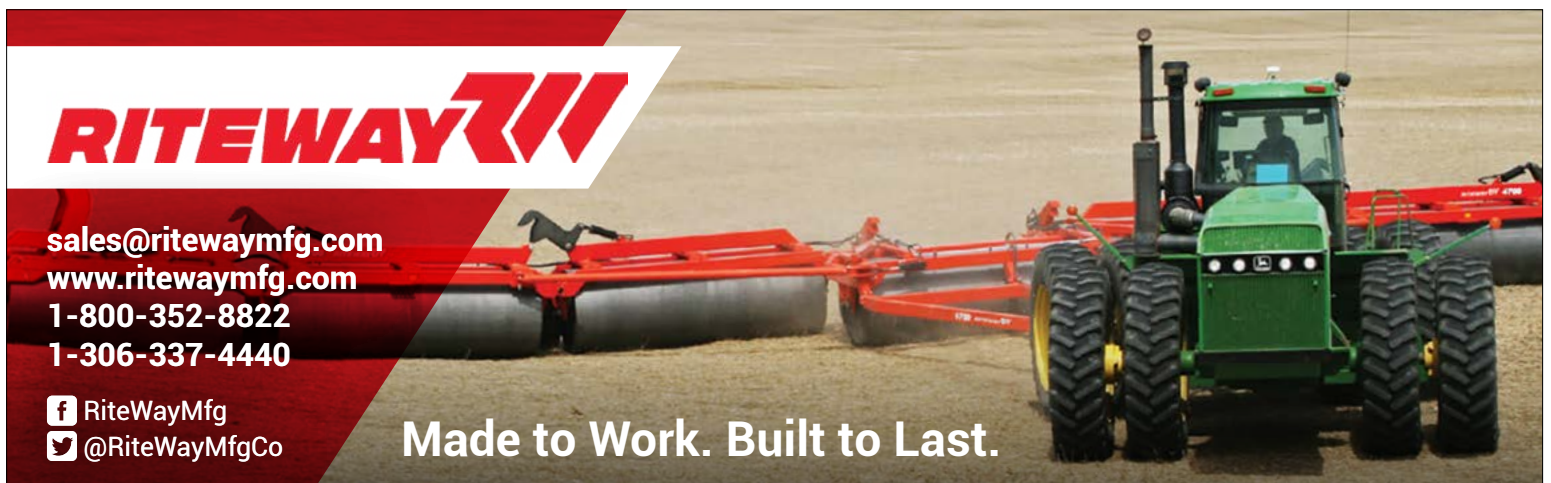
1-800-352-8822

1-306-337-4440

 RiteWayMfg

 @RiteWayMfgCo

**Made to Work. Built to Last.**





## Princess

**Home:** RM of Martin #122

**Age:** 10 years old

**Breed:** Boxer mix

**Family:** Steven & Jen Donald & kids: Caidance, Avery, Alex & Gina

**About Princess:** Princess was a rescue dog that joined our family back in 2012 when she was just a puppy. She loved our kids, never failing to see the kids off on the bus each morning and eagerly waiting for their return each afternoon. But as soon as the bus was out of site, she would high tail it next door to grandmas because she knew there would always be a treat waiting for her. Her patient gentle nature was appreciated by our endless supply of kittens that she graciously allowed in the doghouse with her. She was very protective of her farm and was very good at letting us know whenever another dog came in our yard. Princess loved a good belly rub and was always showing us her love in the form of sloppy wet kisses on the hand. Sadly, we lost our precious Princess this fall after a short illness. She will forever be in our hearts.



SASKATCHEWAN CONSERVATION OFFICERS NEED YOUR HELP TO SOLVE THIS CASE. YOU CAN REMAIN ANONYMOUS AND EARN UP TO **\$2000 CASH REWARDS** IF THE INFORMATION YOU PROVIDE LEADS TO A CONVICTION.

*On June 13th, 2022 Shaunavon Conservation Officers became aware that crude oil was dumped into the Town of Shaunavon's domestic wastewater holding cell (sewage lagoon). Conservation Officers investigated and found that a large amount of crude oil was discharged into the sewage lagoon. Officers believe that this happened between June 4th and June 12th, 2022.*



### HOW YOU CAN HELP

IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION, CALL THE TOLL-FREE TURN IN POACHERS & POLLUTERS LINE **1-800-667-7561** OR **#5555** FROM A SASKTEL CELL (NO TEXT MESSAGES). CALLS ARE TAKEN 24 HOURS A DAY, 7 DAYS A WEEK. YOU CAN ALSO REPORT ONLINE AT **[www.saskatchewan.ca/tipp](http://www.saskatchewan.ca/tipp)**.



For the latest unsolved cases, visit **[www.sasktip.com](http://www.sasktip.com)** and follow @sasktip   

**DISTRICT ONE:****Directors:** Wanda Reid and Steven Donald

RM #1 - Argyle: Brenda Ryckman  
 RM #2 - Mount Pleasant: Terrance Macfarlane  
 RM #3 - Enniskillen: Barry Fitzpatrick  
 RM #33 - Moose Creek: Reed Gibson  
 RM #37 - Lomond: Ryan McKenzie  
 RM #63 - Moose Mountain: Jack Wilson  
 RM #64 - Brock: Darren Ippolito  
 RM #65 - Tecumseh: Thomas Breault  
 RM #91 - Maryfield: Jeff Chambers  
 RM #93 - Wawken: Blaine Ehr  
 RM #94 - Hazelwood: Kyle Kish  
 RM #95 - Golden West: Wanda Reid  
 RM #96 - Fillmore: Christopher Procyk  
 RM #97 - Wellington: Sarah Leguee  
 RM #121 - Moosomin: Trevor Green  
 RM #122 - Martin: Steven Donald  
 RM #123 - Silverwood: Chris MacPherson  
 RM #124 - Kingsley: Greg Pusch  
 RM #125 - Chester: Lee Sluser  
 RM #126 - Montmartre: Cory Stringer  
 RM #127 - Francis: James Vogt  
 RM #151 - Rocanville: Herb Park  
 RM #152 - Spy Hill: Nick Denbrok  
 RM #153 - Willowdale: Kenneth Aldous  
 RM #155 - Wolseley: Stan Jeeves  
 RM #181 - Langenburg: Mike Mitschke  
 RM #183 - Fertile Belt: Arlynn Kurtz  
 RM #184 - Grayson: Vacant  
 RM #187 - North Qu'Appelle: George MacPherson  
 RM #211 - Churchbridge: Cameron Wiebe  
 RM #214 - Cana: Janette Reinson

**DISTRICT TWO:****Directors:** Bev Pirio and James Bateman

RM #11 - Hart Butte: Louis Paradis  
 RM #38 - Laurier: Bev Pirio  
 RM #71 - Excel: Ron Daviduk  
 RM #72 - Lake of the Rivers: Chris Bates  
 RM #73 - Stonehenge: Vince Topola  
 RM #74 - Wood River: Lee Tallon  
 RM #100 - Elmsthorpe: James Beingessner  
 RM #101 - Terrell: Chris Hawkins  
 RM #103 - Sutton: Jonathan Kolish  
 RM #104 - Gravelbourg: James Bateman  
 RM #128 - Lajord: Todd Lewis  
 RM #129 - Bratt's Lake: Gregor Beck  
 RM #131 - Baildon: Christine Whelan  
 RM #162 - Caron: Ray McBride  
 RM #163 - Wheatlands: Kurtis Hicks

RM #191 - Marquis: Glen Steinhauer  
 RM #193 - Eyebrow: Dean Thiessen  
 RM #219 - Longlaketon: Scott Hegglin  
 RM #220 - McKillop: Glen Munholland  
 RM #221 - Sarnia: Aaron Bachman  
 RM #222 - Craik: Trewett Chaplin

**DISTRICT THREE:****Directors:** Don Connick and Devin Harlick

RM #76 - Auvergne: Dale Davidson  
 RM #79 - Arlington: Kevin Gilbert  
 RM #109 - Carmichael: Don Connick  
 RM #135 - Lawtonia: Sterling Dayne  
 RM #136 - Coulee: Greg Targerson  
 RM #138 - Webb: Bruce Gibson  
 RM #141 - Big Stick: Chris Sanderson  
 RM #167 - Saskatchewan Landing: Dan Barber  
 RM #257 - Monet: James Myers  
 RM #261 - Chesterfield: Leah Cooper

**DISTRICT FOUR:****Directors:** Ian Boxall and Bill Prybylski

RM #241 - Calder: Roy Derworiz  
 RM #244 - Orkney: Randy Trost  
 RM #245 - Garry: Bill Prybylski  
 RM #274 - Good Lake: Brian Berns  
 RM #275 - Insinger: Willy Zuchkan  
 RM #277 - Emerald: Norman Hall  
 RM #304 - Buchanan: Myron Kopec  
 RM #307 - Elfros: Justin Thordarson  
 RM #308 - Big Quill: Ernest Hall  
 RM #333 - Clayton: Lorne Ball  
 RM #334 - Preeceville: Dale Parkin  
 RM #335 - Hazel Dell: Brett Spray  
 RM #336 - Sasman: Dale Redman  
 RM #337 - Lakeview: Angela Jones  
 RM #338 - Lakeside: Jason Friesen  
 RM #367 - Ponass Lake: Rick Sunderland  
 RM #426 - Bjorkdale: Glen Clarke  
 RM #427 - Tisdale: Darren Ukrainetz  
 RM #428 - Star City: Shawn Mooney  
 RM #456 - Arborfield: Ryan Edwards  
 RM #457 - Connaught: Ian Boxall  
 RM #458 - Willow Creek: Brent Freedman  
 RM #486 - Moose Range: Ashley Van Meter  
 RM #487 - Nipawin: Arnold Schellenberg  
 RM #488 - Torch River: Jerry Kindrat

**DISTRICT FIVE:****Directors:** Donavon Block and Ryan Scragg

RM #250 - Last Mountain Valley: Donald Dabrowski  
 RM #254 - Loreburn: Ryan Glubis

RM #279 - Mount Hope: Ian McNichol  
 RM #280 - Wreford: Julie Marie Mortenson  
 RM #281 - Wood Creek: Glen Busse  
 RM #284 - Rudy: Jean Harrington  
 RM #309 - Prairie Rose: Garth Burns  
 RM #312 - Morris: Jason Johns  
 RM #313 - Lost River: Ivan Carpenter  
 RM #314 - Dundurn: David Aldred  
 RM #339 - Leroy: Donavon Block  
 RM #341 - Viscount: Mickey Palfy  
 RM #342 - Colonsay: Marvin Lang  
 RM #343 - Blucher: Blair Cummins  
 RM #344 - Corman Park: Ken Rosaasen  
 RM #346 - Perdue: Curtis Lammers  
 RM #369 - St. Peter: Paul Ulrich  
 RM #399 - Lake Lenore: Mark Schemenauer  
 RM #403 - Rosthern: Chad Krikau  
 RM #429 - Flett's Springs: Scott Hermus  
 RM #430 - Invergordon: Wayne Bacon  
 RM #459 - Kinistino: Lindsay Dupin  
 RM #460 - Birch Hills: Ron Miller  
 RM #461 - Prince Albert: Richard Wilson  
 RM #490 - Garden River: Ryan Scragg  
 RM #491 - Buckland: Jason Zalewski

**DISTRICT SIX:****Directors:** Scott Owens and Jeremy Welter

RM #287 - St. Andrews: Kevin Sinclair  
 RM #321 - Prairiedale: Tim Richelhoff  
 RM #347 - Biggar: Robert Danychuk  
 RM #349 - Grandview: Allen Turk  
 RM #350 - Mariposa: Jeremy Welter  
 RM #351 - Progress: Kim Herbst  
 RM #381 - Grass Lake: Bentley Sperle  
 RM #382 - Eye Hill: Greg Rissling  
 RM #410 - Round Valley: Taylor Wallace  
 RM #436 - Douglas: Nick Partyka  
 RM #438 - Battle River: Jaden Jamieson  
 RM #440 - Hillsdale: Lawrence Olson  
 RM #442 - Manitou Lake: Karl Koch  
 RM #466 - Meeting Lake: Morris Prescesky  
 RM #467 - Round Hill: Gordon Moore  
 RM #468 - Meota: Glenn Tait  
 RM #470 - Paynton: Adam Bugg  
 RM #471 - Eldon: Scott Owens  
 RM #472 - Wilton: Devon Walker  
 RM #499 - Mervin: Chris Neilson  
 RM #501 - Frenchman Butte: Leonard Larre

*If your RM isn't currently part of APAS, ask your Council to buy a 12-month trial membership for only \$2022.*



# Is your RM part of APAS?

Voting in elections every 4 years isn't enough – join APAS and help fix agricultural problems 365 days a year.

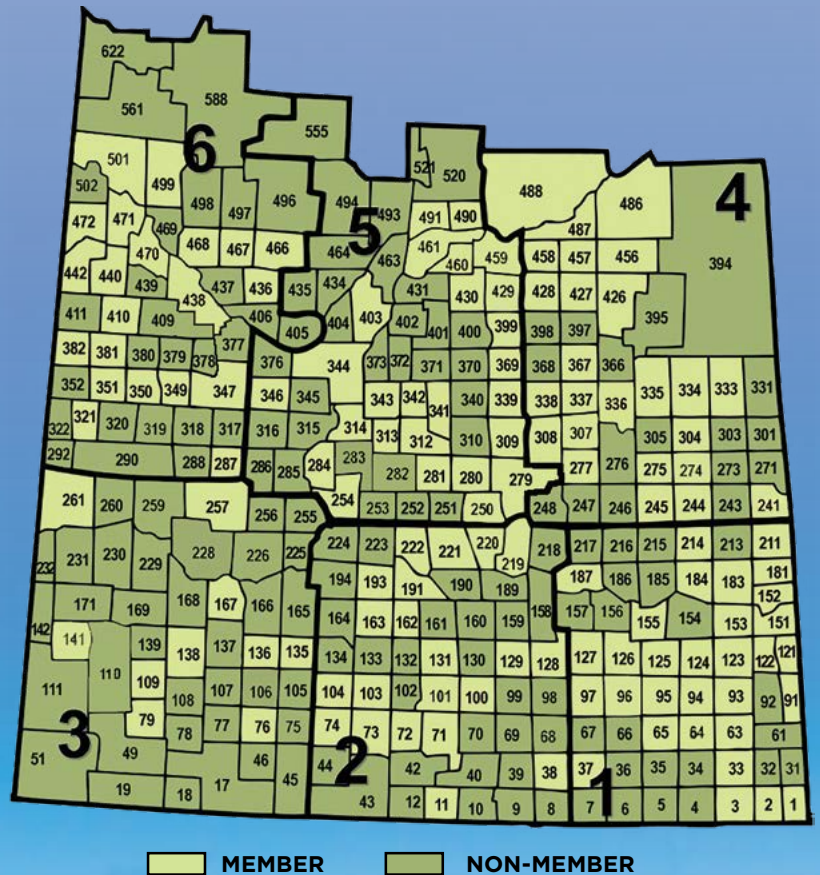
If your RM isn't currently part of APAS, ask your Council to buy a 12-month trial membership for only \$2023.

134 RMs already support APAS – add your voice by joining today.

**STEP 1:** The RM administrator contacts Curtis Hemming at 306-789-7774 and schedules an APAS presentation for the Council.

**STEP 2:** The Council votes to join APAS and pays \$2022 for a 12-month trial membership.

**STEP 3:** The Council chooses an APAS Representative to participate in all APAS activities.





# PTO GENERATORS



**8 WEEKS 8%  
SAVES \$**

Pre-order your Baumligh generator now for delivery in 8 weeks and get an 8% discount



# BAUMALIGHT™

**FINANCING  
AVAILABLE**  
LEARN MORE ONLINE!

**BAUMALIGHT.COM**

Adair Sales & Marketing Company Inc. 306-773-0996 | [info@adairreps.com](mailto:info@adairreps.com)

MANUFACTURING OF MINI SKID STEERS AND A VARIETY OF ATTACHMENTS INCLUDING  
BRUSH MULCHERS | ROTARY BRUSH CUTTERS | STUMP GRINDERS | PTO GENERATORS | TRENCHERS  
PTO POWER PACKS | AUGER DRIVES | DRAINAGE PLOWS | TREE SPADES | FLAIL MOWERS | BOOM MOWERS  
TREE SAWS & SHEARS | TREE PULLERS | FELLER BUNCHERS | EXCAVATOR ADAPTERS | SCREW SPLITTERS

**MANUFACTURED  
IN CANADA**