

SASKATCHEWAN Farmers' Voice

FALL 2023 EDITION



OUTSTANDING
The Leguee farm is up for a national award, and making history along the way

LIVESTOCK AND DROUGHT
Dry conditions and issues persist in the livestock industry

FARM DOGS OF SK
Farmer's best friend



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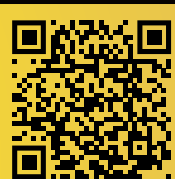


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SASKATCHEWAN Farmers' Voice

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The next issue of *Saskatchewan Farmers' Voice* will arrive in your farm mailbox in Spring 2024. 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.

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Accountability and Performance

BY IAN BOXALL

As the harvest season draws to a close, and we reflect on our collective progress, it is essential to recognize that several regions of the province remain under the daunting shadow of persistent drought and pest-related challenges. Numerous farms and ranches bear the weight of enduring years marked by crop failures and livestock grazing and feed supply issues induced by drought. Moreover, the current business risk management programs were not originally crafted to address the ongoing and severe drought conditions, highlighting the urgency of revisiting and adapting our support mechanisms.

Achievement and progress are a collaborative effort, and we are fortunate to work with many organizations dedicated to farmers' interests. These organizations play a pivotal role in advocating for policies and practices that benefit our community. Their contributions amplify our collective voice in our pursuit of positive policy solutions.

The performance of our organization reflects the dedication and hard work of our members and our partner organizations. As we strive for improvement, we must remember that our performance directly impacts the lives of farmers. It is our duty to

to make a meaningful difference. In the coming year, let us redouble our efforts, embrace accountability as a core value, and continue to collaborate with organizations that share our vision. By doing so, we can enhance our performance and bring about the success that farmers, ranchers, and rural communities deserve.

It is often said that talk is cheap, especially in the realm of agriculture policy, problem-solving, and progress. While discussions and conversations about pressing issues are essential for raising

“ Our commitment to accountability and performance goes beyond mere words. ”

awareness and identifying challenges, the true significance lies in translating words into concrete actions and solutions. Without the commitment to roll up our sleeves and actively engage in finding solutions, our conversations remain mere rhetoric. Real change and progress occur when we invest time, effort, and resources into developing and advocating solutions. In this process, we bridge the gap between the issues we discuss and the positive impact we hope to achieve, making a tangible difference for farm families across the province.

As we release our first APAS Accountability and Performance report, the



Ian Boxall, President, Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan

In the wake of these recurrent droughts, I want to emphasize the importance of accountability as our organization strives to create success for every farm and ranch family. Our success hinges on delivering on our commitments and being transparent, purposeful, and responsible in our actions.

ensure that our efforts are as effective and efficient as possible, delivering tangible benefits to farm and ranch families across the province.

Our commitment to accountability and performance goes beyond mere words. It is our guiding principle, motivating us

importance of not just talking about issues but actively developing solutions becomes evident. While acknowledging challenges is common practice, our primary emphasis remains on the strategic pursuit of viable solutions. The report highlights APAS's commitment to translating its focus and efforts into tangible outcomes. It's a testament to the belief that accountability is not merely about acknowledging challenges that impact agriculture; it's about delivering results through focused research and analysis, developing partnerships, and compelling advocacy.

There is work to do. We must acknowledge the need for continued effort, adaptability, and innovation to address challenges and seize opportunities for the benefit of the farming community.

Our livestock industry urgently requires innovative solutions to stabilize the herds, tackle persistent production insurance issues, and propel it towards growth. Meanwhile, the railway sector is

grain handling system raises concerns about diminished competition in the grain market. And as consecutive years of drought continue to affect many, there's an imperative to reevaluate existing programs and explore alternatives.

In closing, our dedication to advocacy, accountability, and the pursuit of success remains unwavering. We are here to serve, support, and champion the interests of our agriculture community. With your continued support and collaboration, we are confident that we will continue to make great strides.

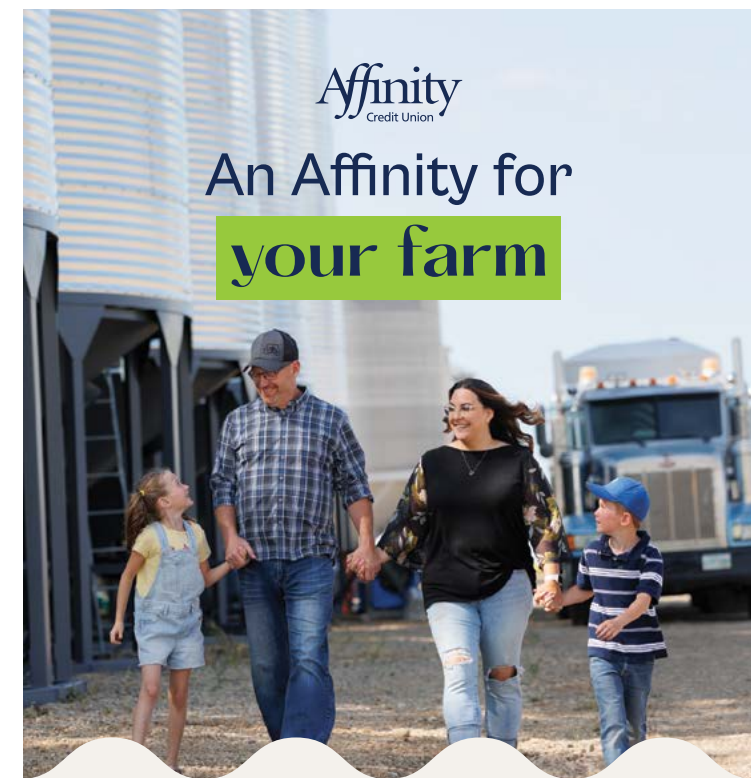
“ We must acknowledge the need for continued effort, adaptability, and innovation to address challenges and seize opportunities for the benefit of the farming community. ”

diligently striving to eliminate the MRE (Maximum Revenue Entitlement) to increase rates on grain shipments to the ports, in addition to charging a hefty \$36 million in carbon tax to Saskatchewan's farmers. The consolidation within the



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As the Months Go By!

It's been a busy period since our last issue. From district meetings and trade shows to national meetings and planning for our upcoming annual general meeting, APAS continues to work diligently on behalf of the province's agricultural producers.

JULY

All six APAS District Meetings completed: In early July, APAS held District Meetings in North Battleford, Manitou Beach, Nipawin, Weyburn, Moose Jaw, and Swift Current. We had an excellent turnout from APAS Representatives, and numerous resolutions came forward from the meetings. We also invited provincial MLAs to attend the meetings, so it was interesting to hear the thoughts of elected officials on the various issues, lobbying, and politics in general.

Test Weight Standards: On July 17, APAS and Sask Wheat sent out a joint news release to express serious concerns about the recent decision by the Canadian Grain Commission (CGC) to harmonize the primary and export standards for wheat test weights. As of August 1, 2023, primary wheat grades would be required to meet the higher export grading standards (e.g., #1 CWRS will require 63.3 lbs/bu vs current 60.1 lbs). On July 27, APAS sent a letter to Lawrence MacAulay, the new federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), requesting AAFC's intervention to prevent the harmonization of primary and export grading standards that was announced by the CGC on June 13. APAS also sent out an additional news release on this issue on July 26. On July 28, the Canadian Grain Commission repealed the regulatory changes.

APAS booth at Ag in Motion from July 18-20: APAS had a booth at Ag in Motion by Langham from July 18-20. Hundreds of people stopped by the booth to discuss the issues APAS is working on,



APAS President Ian Boxall attending the FTP meetings in Charlottetown in July.

entered a draw to win two lawn chairs, as well as pick up APAS merchandise and Cheezies.

APAS and CFA met with FPT Ministers: On July 19, APAS Directors attended the meeting between the Canadian Federation of Agriculture's (CFA) Board and Federal, Provincial, and Territorial Agriculture Ministers at the FPT Meeting in Fredericton. Numerous issues of importance to APAS and Saskatchewan's producers were brought up during the meeting.

APAS advocates for restoring federal funding to improve Saskatchewan's rural connectivity: On July 19, APAS made a submission to the CRTC which advocated for restoring operational funding for internet and cell phone networks in

rural and remote areas. This was one of the key recommendations that came out of the APAS Rural Connectivity Task Force Report. If the CRTC moves forward with making this change, it could result in millions of federal dollars coming back to Saskatchewan for improving rural connectivity.

SCA drought townhall meetings in Cabris and Cadillac: In July/August, the Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association (SCA) held a variety of town hall meetings regarding the drought in the southwest and west-central portions of the province. Meetings took place in Perdue, Kindersley, Cabri, Cadillac, and Central Butte. APAS Representatives attended these meetings to discuss the drought and what needs to be done to help producers.

AUGUST

APAS met with new federal Minister of Agriculture: On August 15, APAS staff and Directors had a meeting in Saskatoon with Lawrence MacAulay, the new

federal Minister of Agriculture. Numerous important issues were discussed, including the Canada Grain Act review, improving grain contracts, and the impact of the carbon tax on Saskatchewan producers.

Ian Boxall's op-ed in the Western Producer about improving grain contracts: On August 17, Ian Boxall had an op-ed in the Western Producer about the importance of improving grain contracts. Farmers have continued to raise concerns about the lack of transparency in grain contracts, so APAS has been advocating for more balance in grain contracts by improving the clarity of terms and conditions to create greater transparency and accountability for both buyers and sellers.

APAS on 620 CKRM: As part of APAS sponsoring CKRM's Country Cookouts

this year, APAS created three radio ads that played on 620 CKRM part of August and most of September. As part of sponsoring the Country Cookouts, staff attended events in Odessa, Weyburn, Wynyard, Wolseley, Balgonie, Bengough, Coderre, and Ituna.

SEPTEMBER

NA/EU Conference in Charlottetown: The Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA), in partnership with various other groups, hosted the North American/European Union Agriculture Conference (NA/EU) from September 12-14 in Charlottetown, PEI. The NA/EU is a biannual event that brings together farm leaders from the European Union and North America to discuss issues impacting agriculture. APAS was at the meeting.

Ian presented to the Senate Ag Committee on Bill C-234: On September 28, APAS President Ian Boxall presented to the Senate Agriculture and Forestry Committee to explain why it's important that the Senate pass Bill C-234 as soon as possible. Bill C-234 would remove the federal carbon tax from natural gas and propane used for grain drying and heating on farms, so APAS has been advocating for this important legislation since early 2022. APAS also sent an open letter to Saskatchewan's Senators, encouraging them to support Bill C-234 on September 26.

DECEMBER

APAS AGM on December 5-6 in Regina: The APAS AGM will be held on December 5-6, 2023, at the Conexus Arts Centre here in Regina. If you're an APAS Representative, please mark these dates in your calendar.



(L to R) APAS Executive Director Dion McGrath, CFA 1st Vice-President Todd Lewis, Minister for Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Hon. Lawrence MacAulay, APAS President Ian Boxall, APAS Vice-President Bill Prybylski after a meeting in Saskatoon.

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.

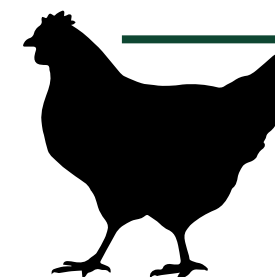
We have hidden a chicken among the pages of Saskatchewan Farmers' Voice for you to find. The chicken on this page is an example of the chicken you are looking for among the magazine's pages.

If you find the chicken, please visit apas.ca/find-the-chicken-survey to fill out a short survey to be entered in to win.

To be eligible, you must submit your email before December 1, 2023. 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. Only online entries will be accepted.

Good luck locating the hidden chicken!



Developing Leadership Skills and Understanding Ag Policy



Neil Gossner



Emiley Saunders



Julie Mortenson



Anne Remlinger



Nicole Rempel

Since 2015, APAS has hosted a program for young farmers across the province to develop their leadership skills and understanding of agricultural policy. APAS Young Leaders gain hands-on experience in developing and shaping policy recommendations, following these all the way to Ottawa to speak on behalf of Saskatchewan producers.

Along the way, they meet with high-level government and industry officials and work closely with the APAS board and committees, leaving them with the skills and the network to play a crucial role in leading Saskatchewan agriculture. FCC continues to sponsor of the program, which will allow five young producers in Saskatchewan the opportunity to see agricultural policy come to fruition from the grassroots of APAS District Meetings to the Canadian Federation of Agriculture's Annual General Meeting in Ottawa next spring.

Neil Gossner

Neil grew up on a Saskatchewan grain farm near Muenster with his parents and three older sisters. Following graduation, he took a 7-year farming hiatus in Calgary, Alberta where he studied and worked, expanding his knowledge in both business and sales roles. After meeting his wife, Amie, in 2014 Neil found his way back to the farm for the

2016 growing season. Neil and Amie built a house on the home section in 2018 and now live there with their 8-month-old daughter, Naomi.

For the first few years, Neil farmed alongside his Dad which led to his eventual takeover of Gossner Farms LTD in 2021. Since his return to farming, Neil has worked to grow and advance the farming operation through land acquisition, equipment upgrades, technology adoption, and infrastructure enhancements.

Over the last 8 years, in addition to learning how one's own decisions can impact a farming operation, Neil grew to realize how all levels of government, from federal down to the local RM, also play a meaningful role. This led to his decision to run for councilor in the RM of Leroy in 2022. Since then, he has enjoyed representing his neighbours on council, and looks forward to bringing back and implementing learnings from his experience with the APAS Young Leaders program.

Emiley Saunders

Emiley grew up on a mixed farming operation near Davidson, Sk. Presently, Emiley and her husband grain farm near Borden, growing wheat, canola, oats, faba beans and peas. She uses her farming experience to educate her

children on the importance and benefits of sustainable farming. Currently, she is the chairperson for Regional Housing Authority in Borden as well as the treasurer for the newly operational Borden's Little Sprouts Early Learning Center. She attended the University of Saskatchewan attaining a Bachelor of Arts- Sociology and Bachelor of Education. Emiley is passionate about teaching and learning and bringing opportunities to rural communities.

Julie Mortenson

Julie grew up on a small commercial cattle ranch in the Peace Country area of Northern Alberta, but she now resides with her husband (Logan) and their two young daughters (Avery and Paisley) on the family farm near Nokomis, SK. The farm began with Logans parents, but now includes Logan and two of his older brothers all currently farming full time together.

They run a mixed farm with roughly 6,500 acres of canola, wheat, barley, and peas, a commercial cow calf operation of about 250 head, and a purebred Hereford cattle seedstock operation of about 50 head.

Julie works full time off farm as an Area Marketing Representative with Richardson Pioneer and is heavily involved in the greater ag industry as a Director on the

Saskatchewan Hereford Association, the APAS Representative for RM #280, and is the first Youth Rep on the Canadian Beef Cattle Check Off Agency and Canadian Cattle Youth Council.

Julie is a graduate of Canadian Western Agribition's Next Gen Ag Mentorship program and SaskCanola's Learn to Lead course.

Anne Remlinger

Anne hopes the the APAS Young Leaders program will help her learn more about the thought process put into agricultural policies and how producers can be more involved in those decisions. Anne grew up on a sheep farm in central

Alberta. She completed her Bachelor of Science in Agribusiness from the University of Saskatchewan in 2022, then started to farm with her husband and father-in-law. Together they produce canola, flax, lentils, peas, and wheat. She strives to farm in a way that cares for the land and the people affected by the farm. She also loves the opportunity to share farming with others, which she does by volunteering with Agriculture in the Classroom and by inviting friends, family, and people she's just met to come visit the farm.

Nicole Rempel

Nicole was raised on her family farm near Nipawin, growing up surrounded

by agriculture. After graduating high school, Nicole attended the University of Saskatchewan where she majored in Ag Business at the College of Agriculture. After graduating in 2020, my parents provided Nicole and her fiancé the opportunity to return home, where they are now the fourth generation to manage the family farm. The farm currently grows grain and oilseeds as well as pedigreed seed, which is cleaned, and retail sold from the farm. Along with farming, Nicole works as a Business Relationship Advisor with Diamond North Credit Union. Outside of work, Nicole enjoys spending time outdoors and enjoys all kinds of do-it-yourself projects.

"The future of our industry is in the hands of next-generation farmers and FCC is committed to seeing their success. The APAS Young Leaders Program is an opportunity for our young farmers to realize their potential by honing their skills, making connections, and advocating for the future of agriculture. FCC is a proud supporter of this valuable program, and we are pleased our future industry leaders are seizing its opportunity."

— Justine Hendricks, FCC's President and Chief Executive Officer

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“We can’t wait. It needs to happen now.”

APAS President says there’s an urgent need for industry to develop long-term solutions to livestock sector struggles

BY DELANEY SEIFERLING



Trevor Green remembers his dad and grandpa telling him that livestock producers need one good year in every five to stay going.

But, having worked in livestock since the 90s, he doesn’t think those numbers are realistic these days.

“If you look at the livestock industry in the last 15 years it’s been pretty minimal margins, really since back to the 2000s,” says Green, who runs a livestock operation in Moosomin, SK, adding he recalls having maybe two good years in the last couple decades.

“There goes grandpa and dad’s theory,” he laughs.

This year’s drought, which has made feed supplies very tight for cattle producers only two years after the province’s last drought year, is only highlighting some of the longer-running challenges facing livestock producers like Green.

And these ongoing challenges – which include unpredictable weather, rising costs of farmland, marketing challenges and on-competitive rates – are driving home a stark reality: livestock production doesn’t hold much appeal these days for prairie producers these days.

The numbers are reflecting this reality. Between 2016 to 2021, acres dedicated to beef farming and feedlots in the province dropped by 26%.

And the decline will likely continue, Green says.

“After all these tough times we’ve gone through ... it’s just story after story I hear of people getting out, people not getting in and pastures getting broken up.”

“One sector does not work without the other.”

Saskatchewan Cattlemen’s Association (SCA) Board Chair Keith Day shared the same concerns in a letter to the federal agriculture minister Lawrence MacAulay published in early September.

“Many cattle producers in Saskatchewan have been hit by drought conditions, some for the fourth and fifth year, resulting in feed shortages going into the fall and winter,” he wrote in the letter, which went on to mention concerns that several more producers are considering exiting the industry.

The SCA is not alone in addressing these issues. It has joined groups like the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS) in calling on provincial and federal governments to increase Agri-recovery funding and financial supports to help livestock producers feed their herd through this winter.

In August, the Saskatchewan government announced it would distribute up to \$119 million to Saskatchewan livestock producers to help offset the costs of this year’s drought. On October 20th the federal government announced their contribution to the program.

But while this funding is welcomed by the industry, longer-term solutions are also needed, says APAS Board President Ian Boxall.

Developing these solutions has been a key focus of APAS for the last year. In April, the organization hosted a Livestock Summit in Saskatoon, which brought together industry-leading academic, business and producer experts to discuss and develop policy solutions.

One key theme that emerged from these discussions was the need for a sector-wide approach, Boxall says.

“One sector does not work without the other. Livestock doesn’t work if it doesn’t have feed grades and grain farming doesn’t work if we don’t have a place to sell feed,” he says.

“Success for all sectors in Saskatchewan is and should be the mandate of groups like us.”

Green says for him, the most critical piece will be offering livestock producers the same type of insurance program available to grain farmers in Saskatchewan.

"I can't ensure my production in any way in the livestock industry," he says. "I can insure an acre of wheat land for my yield and what I'm gonna get, but all I can get on livestock is a price on my calves."

He says payouts after a tough year are helpful, but they're not addressing the underlying problems with feed shortages.

"When it becomes apparent that it's a problem, it's generally too late in the year. A lot of the hay has already been sold; a lot of the crops are too far gone

to make grain feed out of. We have to have a permanent strategy."

Boxall agrees that offering livestock producers some form of longer-term stability will be critical and that the livestock industry should have the same access to insurance programs as the grain industry.

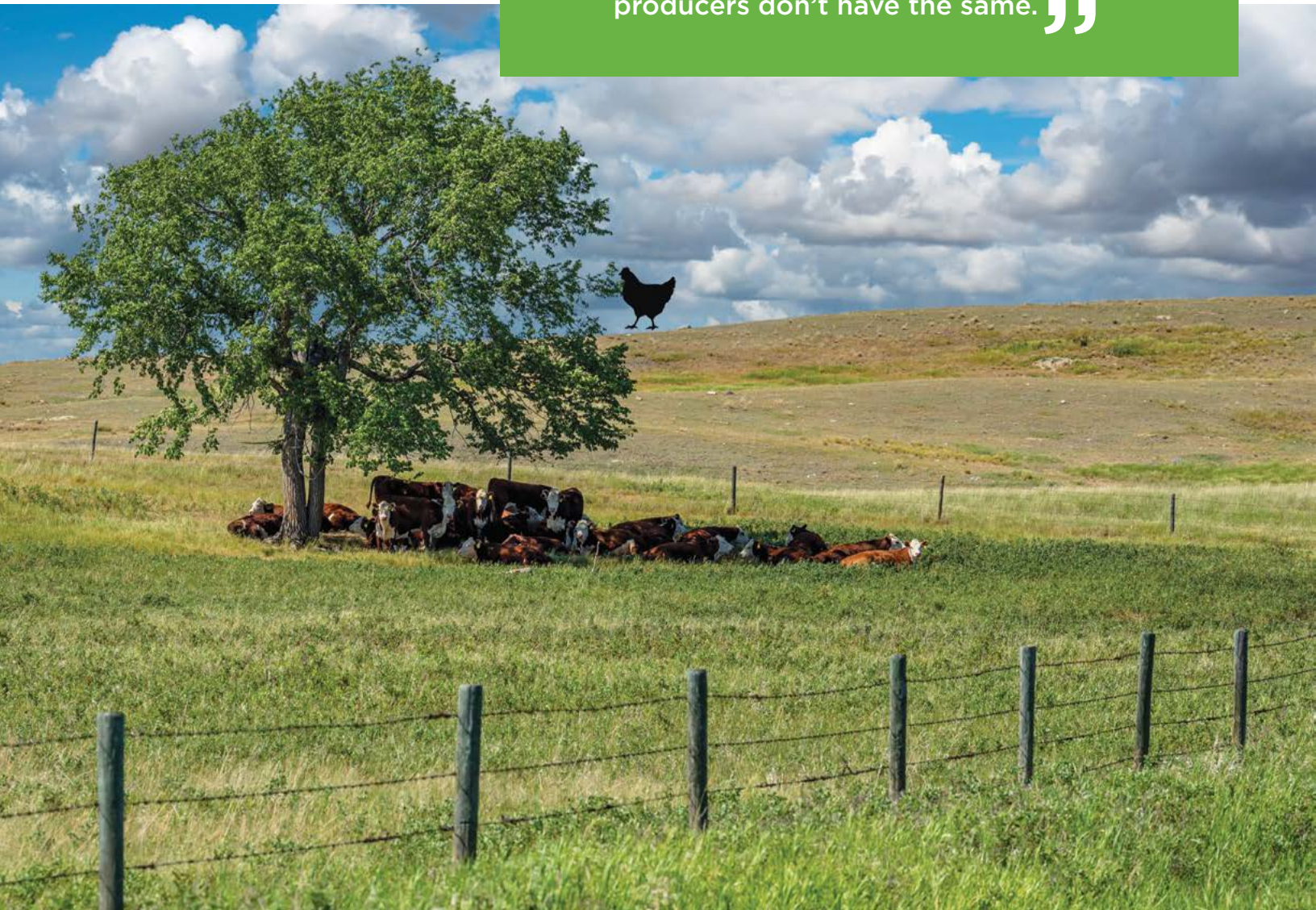
"It really shows the disparity in the system," he says. "On the grain side, we have crop insurance, we have safety nets that are bankable, understandable

and easy. The livestock producers don't have the same."

Another critical piece will be recognising the important role that livestock production lands can play in helping Canada meet its environmental goals, he says, and ensuring that an appropriate amount of farmland remains dedicated to livestock.

"Both provincial and federal governments have made a lot of comments about how wonderful pasture and

“On the grain side, we have crop insurance, we have safety nets that are bankable, understandable and easy. The livestock producers don't have the same.”



native grassland grasslands are to the environment. But yet, every year it's plowed under because it isn't profitable to keep. We need to ensure that that doesn't happen."

The details of a longer-term plan still need to be ironed out, Boxall says, but APAS has laid the groundwork and begun facilitating the necessary industry partnerships to get the conversation going and a plan developed to take to the government.

With the current phase of federal agriculture policy framework programs – including Agri-Recovery and Agri-Invest – having just launched in early 2023, it's a good time to be having conversations about how to make improvements for the next phase, which will begin in 2028, Boxall says.

"We have four years with industry partners and government to come up with a program that works."

But what has become very clear is that this is an urgent issue that simply can't wait any longer, Boxall says.

"Now's the time. We can't wait. It needs to happen now. So, let's get all the groups at the table and do it."

He says, with all benefits a strong and thriving livestock industry brings to Canada's economy and environment, and the agriculture sector in general, its loss would be detrimental – especially if it's preventable.

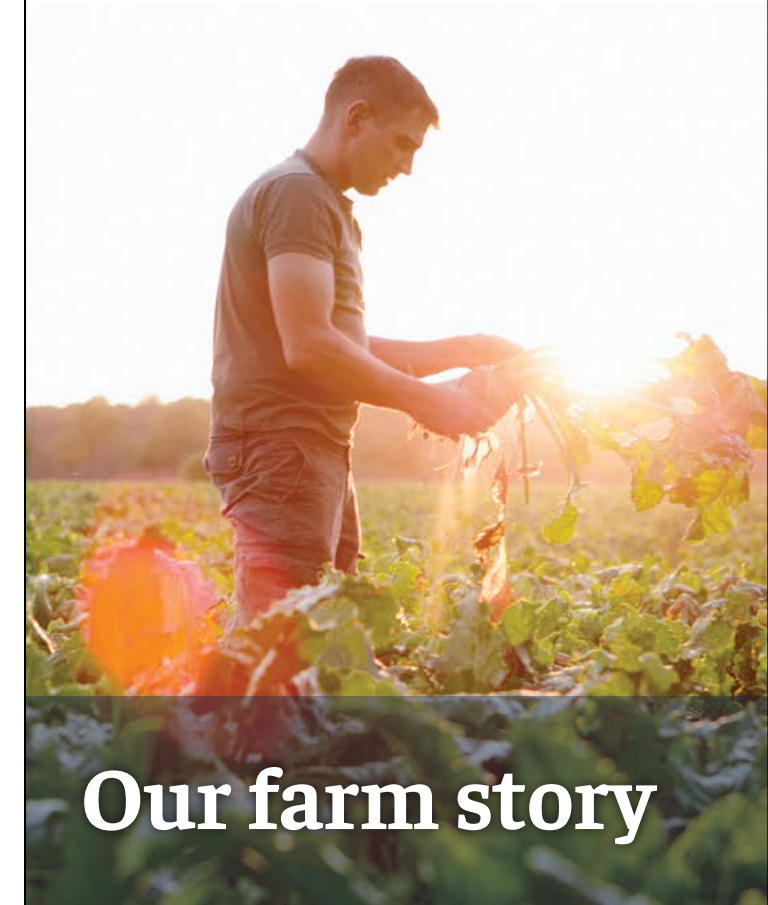
"We're seeing a herd decline in Saskatchewan over the last number of years, and it won't come back. That's the reality. Once guys have sold out and switched that land from hay and pasture into grain, they're not switching back."



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Accountability & Performance Review 2023



The Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS) is a not-for-profit organization solely dedicated to advocating for agricultural policies that bolster the success of farms and ranches across Saskatchewan.

Together with partners, we make a tremendous impact on agriculture. Our focus has helped deliver positive results for farmers across the province.



\$19.4M

NEW INVESTMENT
in SK programming per year in the new Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (SCAP) agreement - a 25% increase.

IN ADDITION TO:

\$17M+ in carbon tax savings when Senate passes Bill C-234.

\$6M in estimated savings from interswitching creating more railway competition to ship products and reduce producer costs.

\$4.5M in interest savings to Saskatchewan farmers due to the 100K increase in the Cash Advance Program recognizing rising input costs.

\$1M+ estimated savings due to the Canadian Grain Commission reversing its decision to harmonize test weights to the export standard.



\$55:\$1

\$55 return for every \$1 of member investment.



\$34M INCREASE

for AgriStability with the elimination of the reference margin and an increase in the compensation rate.

Quick Facts

- **134** member RMs
- **439** farmers engaged in farm policy discussions
- **77** RM meetings
- **2,130** internet speed tests across rural SK to assess connectivity challenges
- **230** days Board members advocated for Sask farm interests
- **12** government policy submissions
- **27** engagements with government elected and appointed officials
- **550** number of times APAS was in the news

Breakdown of APAS Budget



There's More Work to Do: Current Farm Policy Issues and Priorities

There are a diverse range of policy opportunities and challenges that Saskatchewan farmers are facing that impact a sustainable, resilient, and economically viable agriculture sector.

Regulatory Modernization and Transparency

Canada Grain Act Review:

- Protect farmers interests.
- Modernize grain contracts for transparency, consistency, accountability, and balance.
- Enhance export sales transparency and supply chain effectiveness.
- Grain grading modernization and inspection oversight at primary elevators.

Seed Regulatory Modernization:

- Protect access to farm-saved seeds.
- Enhance seed quality assurance and labeling.

Transportation and Supply Chain Resilience

Transport Canada Rail Review:

- Reduce costs and increase accountability.
- Protect the Maximum Revenue Entitlement (MRE).
- Expand Canadian Transportation Agency authority.
- Extended Interswitching and other tools.

Technology and Connectivity

Connectivity:

- Improve farm safety and operational efficiency.

Copyright Act Amendments:

- Support the farmer's right to repair farm equipment.

Economic Stability and Risk Management

Support for Cow/Calf and Other Livestock Sectors:

- Better insurance and risk management programs for livestock farmers.
- Targeted and timely AgriRecovery program for drought and other disaster relief.

Bunge-Viterra Merger:

- Assess reduced competition, concentration of market power, and negative impacts on local communities.

Farm Input Price Survey and Tracking:

- Enhance price transparency.

Provincial Wildlife Management:

- Enhance monitoring of wildlife populations.
- Review licensing and permitting policies.
- Address wildlife damage compensation and prevention programs.

Oil and Gas Surface Lease Payment Arrears and Site Reclamation

Environmental Impact and Sustainability

Carbon Tax Research and Advocacy:

- Address transportation impacts, including \$36 million in carbon tariffs to farmers on rail shipments.
- Mitigate the carbon tax on trucking livestock and feed to market.

Pest Management Regulatory Agency:

- Ensuring access to effective pest control products through science-based decision making.

Sustainable Agriculture Strategy:

- Represent Saskatchewan farmers in federal agri-environmental initiatives, including "Sustainable Agriculture" and "Fertilizer Emissions Reduction" strategies.

Introducing the Leguee Family

Family prepares to represent Saskatchewan on the national stage

STORY BY RYAN MCNALLY | PHOTOS BY MICHAEL BELL



“To stand up there in front of everybody and accept the award was very meaningful.”



The Leguee farm has achieved a remarkable feat in being honored with the provincial Outstanding Young Farmer award for 2023, marking a historic moment as the first-ever group of three recipients. Their exceptional journey now propels them to the national stage, where they will showcase their farm's achievements in Laval, Quebec this November.

On a rainy August day, as most farms yearn for the opportunity to be out in the

fields combining, the Leguee farm finds itself occupied with alternate tasks, deftly avoiding the persistent rain. Located just north of Weyburn, their farm specializes in the cultivation of grains, oilseeds, and pulses. However, their unique geographical position, characterized by flat terrain and limited natural drainage, renders them vulnerable to the weather, particularly heavy rains.

"We're all dry land, we have some pretty flat land, and we're pretty landlocked, so

we don't have a lot of natural drainage," Sarah said. "The weather and big rains can really affect what we do."

The Leguee family, consisting of siblings Sarah and Jake, brother-in-law Erik Nikolejsin, along with their dedicated staff, comprised of both full-time and seasonal workers. Each member contributes their distinctive skills to ensure the farm's continued success. Erik, who joined as a paid employee in 2017 before becoming a part-owner,

leverages his background as a heavy duty mechanic to address equipment breakdowns with finesse.

"Anything that's broken, I can fix it. If I can't fix it, I've got the right resources (to find a way) to fix it," he adds.

Sarah assumes the role of overseeing grain logistics, contracts, grain inventory management, and maintains equipment records. Meanwhile, Jake takes charge of financial matters and agronomy. When the need arises, all three enthusiastically operate a variety of farm machinery, including drills, sprayers, combines, and trucks.

Beyond their farm responsibilities, each family member is actively engaged in other pursuits. Jake is a director with Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission and has been running his farm blog titled 'A Year in the Life of a Farmer' for a decade. He was invited to join the Global Farmer Network in 2017 and is also a member of Bayer Crop Sciences' advisory council called 'Farmers Who Sustain.' His advocacy efforts

recently took him to Rome, Italy where he represented environmental concerns from a Canadian perspective.

Sarah, in addition to her farm commitments, serves as a volunteer firefighter with the Fillmore Fire Department, holding the position of Captain. She coaches girls' high school basketball in Fillmore and serves as a Rural Municipal Councilor in the RM of Wellington, where she is the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS) representative.

Sarah's involvement with APAS opened her eyes to the world of agricultural policy and advocacy.

"I never knew a lot about APAS until the RM of Wellington joined, and our neighbour, an RM Councilor and the APAS rep when I took his seat, so naturally, I wanted to do it," Sarah said. She acknowledges the importance of collective representation. "It's been an outstanding learning experience, even just learning how the meetings work, and the resolutions, and all of that, it has given me

many opportunities to learn about farm policy."

She also participated in the Youth Leadership and Mentorship Program (YLMP), now the APAS Young Leaders (AYL) Program presented by FCC, which provided her with valuable insights into the intricacies of advocacy and governance.

"That opened my eyes to a whole other avenue and part of advocacy. There were so many different things that I didn't know, and I know the government takes a long time to do stuff and to make progress on things, it seems like, but now I know why," Sarah said. "All of the meetings and all of the campaigning you need to try and do to make any change is really slow, and the bureaucratic process is slow, but if we're not there doing it, somebody else is going to be there doing it."

Sarah said experiencing it with like-minded people and learning from others who participated in the program while attending the Canadian Federation of Agriculture's Annual General Meeting in Ottawa was a highlight for her.

"We weren't just there watching; we were actually participating in everything," Sarah said. "We were part of the group and part of the entire process."

Jake shares a similar sentiment about the significance of active participation in policy advocacy. "We need to share our story, and we need to stand up for the industry that we're so proud of. It's not for everyone, but for those who have the interest, we need to take that step. We can't always wait for somebody else to solve our problems because sometimes they may solve them in a way we don't like."

“It’s been an outstanding learning experience, even just learning how the meetings work, and the resolutions, and all of that, it has given me many opportunities to learn about farm policy.”

The Award

The culmination of their dedication and hard work was the provincial Outstanding Young Farmer award they received during Canada’s Farm Show in Regina in June. This milestone event was a moment of anticipation and excitement for the Leguees, and they were genuinely surprised when they were announced as the winners.

“To stand up there in front of everybody and accept the award was very meaningful,” Erik reflected. “You could see it on Russ and Sharon’s (Sarah and Jake’s parents) faces, my wife’s, and everybody that it meant something to everybody.”

“When you watch those Awards (shows), you always think, ‘Oh, they knew before,’ but we didn’t know until Shannon announced it,” Sarah said. “It was really exciting and just a totally different experience from what we’ve ever been a part of.”

“I’ve never won anything like that, so it was a big eye-opener. The whole three days, meeting all of the new people, talking to everybody that’s won it prior, the alumni, the whole experience was just amazing,” said Erik.

This recognition also marked a historic achievement as the first-ever group of three winners from Saskatchewan in the program’s history. Their success underscores the importance of teamwork, and the diverse skill sets each member brings to the farm’s operation.

“The reason why we ran as a partnership of three is because we all have our own special talents; we all have our own skillsets,” Sarah said. “We can’t really do what we’re doing without each other and without our Dad, Mom, families, and staff.”

Sarah adds it’s been a totally different experience from what she’s ever been a part of.

“The best part was getting to know the people that have gone through the program, the alumni, and becoming a part of that,” Sarah said. “I think that’s really going to be beneficial to us down the road, and the people that came (after



winning) in the 80’s that were in the program, it’s a lifelong win.”

Jake says there are a lot of great farms out there that market well, grow great crops, and operate well, but it was really special to be recognized for the work they’ve done on their farm.

“It’s humbling in knowing that you’ve been selected for something like that, knowing that – like everybody else – we make our mistakes out here too, we have things that go wrong, and we have decisions that we make that don’t turn out,” Jake said. “I guess, on the whole, to receive that recognition felt pretty cool, and to share that with my family and Dad was extraordinary.”

The Leguee farm will now represent Saskatchewan at the national level in Canada’s Outstanding Young Farmer Program event in Laval, Quebec, in November. Their presentation will emphasize their vision to ensure the farm’s continuity for a fourth generation, emphasizing the significance of effective governance and communication within the family-operated enterprise.

“Even at this level, we need a lot of governance to make sure that we can go to work as a family and still have Christmas dinner as a family,” Jake said. “That means that we have to be willing to talk to each other, that means we have to be able to work on communication skills, that means we have to decide what roles we want to fill on the farm and hold each other accountable to those roles. We place a lot of emphasis on it to make sure that everybody on this farm feels valued, feels like their role is important, and feels like the other work is getting done. We need to have that diversity of skill set within this operation, and we’re really fortunate that we have three people here that bring very different skills to the table.”

As they prepare for this prestigious national competition, the Leguees hope to join the ranks of national winners from Saskatchewan, continuing to elevate the profile of the province’s innovative and dedicated farmers, as exemplified by last year’s winners, Upland Organics near Wood Mountain, owned by Alison Squires and Cody Straza.



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Ian Abbott
Seed Plant Manager
306-594-7766
ian@lindgrenfarms.com

Kaley Vanin
Sales Manager
306-621-5979
kaley@lindgrenfarms.com



Wanda Reid
DISTRICT ONE



Steven Donald
DISTRICT ONE



Bev Pirio
DISTRICT TWO



Jim Bateman
DISTRICT TWO



Don Connick
DISTRICT THREE



Kevin Gilbert
DISTRICT THREE



Ian Boxall
DISTRICT FOUR



Bill Prybylski
DISTRICT FOUR



Donavon Block
DISTRICT FIVE



Ryan Scragg
DISTRICT FIVE



Jeremy Welter
DISTRICT SIX



Devon Walker
DISTRICT SIX

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 #92 - Walpole: William Hollingshead
 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: Michelle Williams
 RM #181 - Langenburg: Mike Mitschke
 RM #183 - Fertile Belt: Wendy Bristow
 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 Jim 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: Jim 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 #219 - Longlaketon: Scott Hegglin
 RM #220 - McKillop: Wyatt Gorrill

RM #221 - Sarnia: Aaron Bachman
 RM #222 - Craik: Trewett Chaplin

DISTRICT THREE

Directors: Don Connick and Kevin Gilbert
 RM #75 - Pinto Creek: Glen MacKenzie
 RM #76 - Auvergne: Dale Davidson
 RM #79 - Arlington: Kevin Gilbert
 RM #106 - Whiska Creek: Tania Demencuik
 RM #109 - Carmichael: Don Connick
 RM #135 - Lawtonia: Sterling Dayne
 RM #136 - Coulee: Greg Targerson
 RM #138 - Webb: Bruce Gibson
 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 #395 - Porcupine: Bryan Young
 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

Director: Donavon Block and Ryan Scragg
 RM #254 - Loreburn: Ryan Glubis
 RM #279 - Mount Hope: Ian McNichol
 RM #280 - Wrexford: Julie Marie Mortenson
 RM #281 - Wood Creek: Glen Busse
 RM #284 - Rudy: Jean Harrington
 RM #309 - Prairie Rose: Garth Burns
 RM #310 - Osborne: Jack Gibney
 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: Jeremy Welter and Devon Walker
 RM #287 - St. Andrews: Kevin Sinclair
 RM #347 - Biggar: Robert Danychuk
 RM #349 - Grandview: Allan 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 Olsen
 RM #442 - Manitou Lake: Karl Koch
 RM #466 - Meeting Lake: Morris Prescesky
 RM #468 - Meota: Glenn Tait
 RM #470 - Paynton: Adam Bugg
 RM #471 - Eldon: Scott Owens
 RM #472 - Wilton: Devon Walker
 RM #499 - Mervin: Chris Nielsen

If your RM isn't currently part of APAS, ask your Council to buy a 12-month trial membership for only \$2024.

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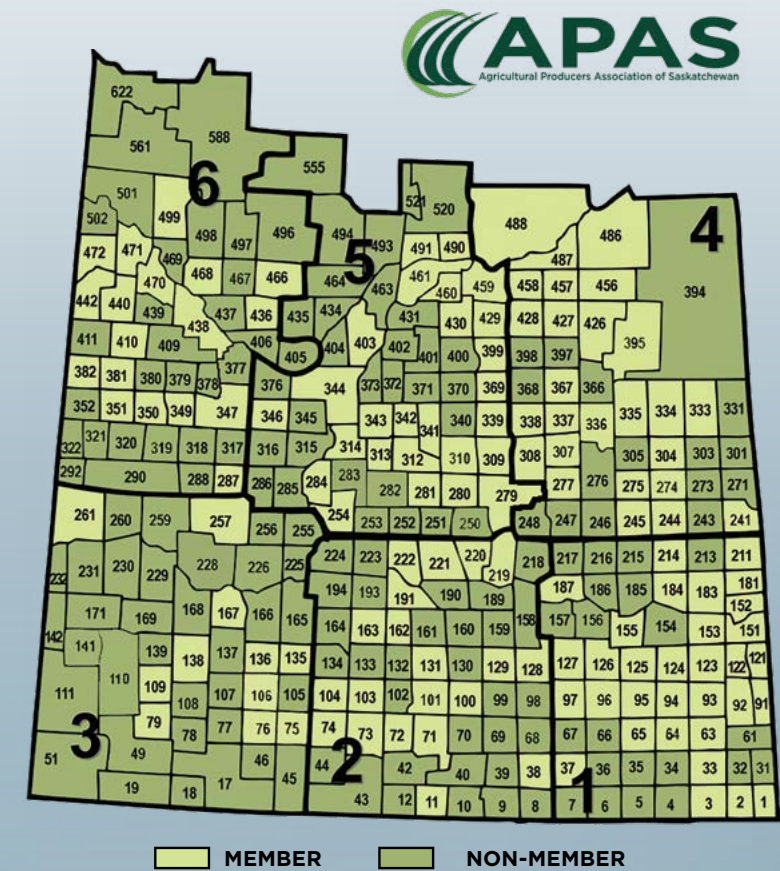
If your RM isn't currently part of APAS, ask your Council to buy a 12-month trial membership for only \$2024.

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 \$2024 for a 12-month trial membership.

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





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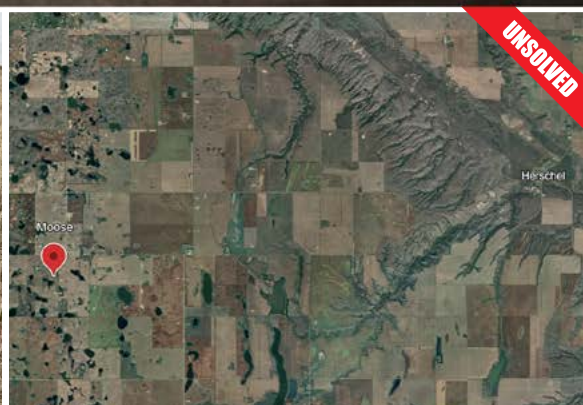
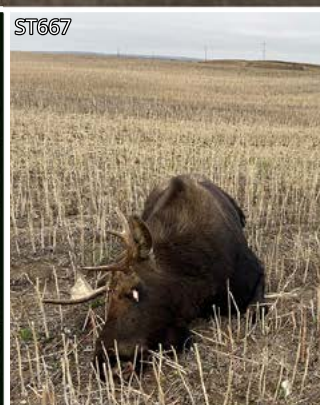


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HOW YOU CAN HELP

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Farm Animals of Saskatchewan



It's always a doggone good story when you are talking about a farmer's best friend. Farm dogs are not just pets but are also valuable assets for any operation. Dogs come in all sizes, shapes, and colours, and they help on the farm by herding, hunting, pulling loads, and providing protection. Here are a few top dogs in the province.

Hazel

Home: RM of Chesterfield #261

Age: 1 year old

Breed: Golden Retriever

Family: The Follensbee family

Rock picker for hire – Hazel is a one-year-old golden retriever that was born and raised on a grain farm in the Chesterfield RM.

She is still a bit afraid of the loud equipment on farms, but her parents, Morgan and Carson still take her out for combine rides to get the family all together. Even with

the fear of loud equipment, she is found very useful at other times in the season. She works for her spot on the farm. She is obsessed with rocks. She never wants to be left behind when there are rocks to pick but also wants all those rocks to be put in the cab and brought home with her. She has the best rock garden around. She will share any food, bed, blanket, or toy with her friends. But not "her" rocks.

Hazel is one of the smallest golden retrievers you'd ever see but embodies the true dog energy. Every day is a new day, and every new day will be better than the next in her world.

In her spare time, she likes to be friends with any human, cat or dog. She will play with any toy, try to eat anything once or twice even if it makes her sick and always tries to convince her owners that she is "sleeping" right after she runs into their bed.



Sadie

Home: RM of Wellington #97

Age: approx. 6 years

Breed: Border Collie x Pyrenees

Family: Jake, Stephanie, Asher, Grayson and Tristan Leguee

Sadie joined our family in the summer of 2019. We went to the Weyburn Humane Society to try and find a new dog and she was there waiting for us. She has since become a very loved member of our family and farm crew and makes many trips back and forth to the farmyard and our house during the day. Sadie's likes include a variety of things like chasing the farm cats, catching muskrats, getting all the treats, and giving copious amounts of kisses.

Her dislikes are when those said farm cats climb up trees, cooked vegetables (unless they are fresh from the garden), and perhaps when our youngest son likes to sit on her like she's a horse (though she doesn't show it). She takes her role of protecting our trees from deer and rabbits very seriously and you'll catch her napping often during the day. Sadie welcomes everyone with a smile and good luck trying to get away without a kiss.



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