



Apas in Action. (Dec'09)

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Welcome

First Edition of the APAS IN ACTION monthly update

Welcome to the first edition of the monthly APAS e-newsletter, **APAS IN ACTION**, a brief e-newsletter dedicated to bringing you the latest news on how your general farm organization is working for Saskatchewan farmers. We want to share with you our progress on an array of important issues.

Over the last year, the APAS has been busy advocating on behalf Saskatchewan farmers at both the provincial and federal levels. We have been actively promoting your policy priorities, including business risk management, inter-provincial and international trade, livestock support, environmental issues, inter-generational and new entrant transfers programs, and grain transportation issues.

If you are receiving this as an APAS Member RM Rep, we encourage you to regularly share up-to-date information with the council and ratepayers in your RM.

If you are receiving this as an Administrator or Reeve of an RM (Member or Non-Member) we encourage you to share the information with your council at your next scheduled meeting.

The **APAS IN ACTION** monthly update will be distributed to you by email at the end of each month in order to ensure that timely information is available for your next monthly RM Council meetings. *(We apologize for the tardiness of this first issue, but were unable to complete it prior to the end of December 2009 due to the Christmas break)*

Please feel free to circulate this newsletter to your council, local producers and interested ratepayers. Should you wish to print or mail it out or distribute copies at local meetings, **a printer-friendly version is available by clicking [HERE](#)**.

2009 Winter Midterm Meeting

"Best meeting in years!" according to delegates.

The 2009 Winter Mid Term Meeting of the **Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan** (APAS) took place **December 3 & 4, 2009** in Regina. The primary objectives of the meeting were to:

- Expand or revise APAS policy positions on key issues for advancement to government decision-makers, other stakeholders, and to the CFA AGM;
- Provide an opportunity for delegates to hear directly from a wide range of speakers and presenters on priority policy issues;
- Deal with necessary APAS internal business; and provide an orientation session for both new and returning APAS Representatives.

The opening morning included the President's Address, General Manager's Message and Policy Committee Meetings & Reports. Thursday's agenda continued after lunch with a special session on Rail Transportation, with panelists from the Keystone Agricultural Producers, the Producer Car Shippers of Canada and the Churchill Gateway Development Corporation.

Friday morning kicked off at 8 am with a special presentation titled: ***“Strategies and Recommendations for New Entrant and Inter-generational Transfer Program Needs”***. The report by Al Sholtz of A.N Sholtz & Associates is the result of an APAS initiative with a stated objective of “providing an overview of the inter-generational transfer, new entrant attraction and immigration programs currently offered across Canada with recommendations for the province of Saskatchewan”.

At 10 am, representatives from Sask Flax, Sask Canola, Sask Cattlemen and Sask Pork shared their views on the current state of their respective sectors. Policy Resolutions ([DOWNLOAD HERE](#)) were debated at 1 pm, and the meeting adjourned by 4.00 pm.

Learn more about the 2009 Winter Midterm Meeting [\[HERE\]](#)

New Entrant & Intergenerational Transfers

APAS study released December 2009

APAS commissioned A. N. Sholtz & Associates of Saskatoon in the spring of 2009 to undertake a study with a stated objective of “providing an overview of the inter generational transfer, new entrant attraction and immigration programs currently offered across Canada with recommendations for the province of Saskatchewan”.

The final study entitled: [Inter-generational and New Entrant Transfer Programs](#) was presented at the 2009 MidTerm by author, Al Sholtz.

While attracting new entrants to farming has been identified as a new crisis situation, there is a current leadership gap in addressing the challenge. Government must play a role in policy and legislation, but it is only one of several key stakeholders. And while it will take a collaborative and committed approach by all stakeholders to fully address the challenge and develop a thoughtful and effective long-term solution, there are numerous things that can be started immediately by farm organizations, the government and industry.

Though there is no silver bullet to attracting new entrants (of all ages) to agriculture, the recommendations presented in the report do address the key elements of a multi-faceted approach to making a difference.

Download the executive summary, the complete report or learn more [\[HERE\]](#)

To receive a printed copy of the full report, please email info@apas.ca or call Sonia at 306-789-7774 x112

SPECIAL NOTE: To help prepare Saskatchewan farm families for the future, APAS has arranged a FREE on-line seminar on Tuesday, January 26, 2010 at 10 am. An overview of proper farm estate and succession planning will be presented by Meyers Norris Penny, Daystar Financial and the Wealth Planning Group.

For more information or to register, follow the links at www.apas.ca

Grain Transportation

Grain transportation continues to be a priority policy issues for APAS

APAS was pleased when the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-food Committee agreed on the following motion on December 8, 2009: *“That the Committee recommend to the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food and the Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities that the Government of Canada take such steps, commence such inquires and/or amend such Canadian legislations or regulations as may be required to forthwith prevent the delisting and subsequent closure, for which notice was given by Canadian National, of 53 designated producer car loading sites in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta and the removal of the shunt lines providing service to such sites, for such period of time that the Government of Canada, in its opinion and in consultation with all stakeholders, determines advisable and in the best interest of all concerned”*

On December 23, 2009, APAS applied to the Canadian Transportation Agency for a Level of Service complaint against Canadian National Railways and its decision to delist 53 producer car loading sites including 24 in Saskatchewan. Click here to view the letter to the CTA and their response. While APAS will not further pursue this Level of Service complaint, the application and subsequent news release by APAS were effective in raising further public and farmer awareness of this issue.

In January and early February, APAS will be busy preparing a submission to the Rail Freight Service Review. Stay tuned on this matter by clicking [\[HERE\]](#).

Board of Directors Report

December 2009

The APAS Board of Directors met in Regina on December 18, 2009. Agenda items included Reports from the President and General Manager, Evaluation of the December 2009 Mid Term Meeting, discussion of recommendations for actions to be taken on resolutions passed at the Mid Term Meeting, a potential Sponsorship Policy for APAS, a draft agenda for the Annual General Meeting in March of 2010, and the draft budget for 2009-2010.

President's Agenda

December 2009

- Participated in a strategic planning session of the Western Canadian Grains Research Foundation BOD.
- Met with councils for the RMs of Emerald and Preeceville with District Four Director Norm Hall.
- Media activities included interviews with CJTR 91.3FM in Regina, the Wheat, Oat and Barley magazine, Western Living, the Western Producer, CTV as well as participating with Al Sholtz and Ryan Anderson in Jim Smalley's NewsLine at Noon on CKRM during our Midterm meeting.

Staff Activites

December 2009

- APAS Policy Manager, Doug Faller continues to expand and enhance the transportation policy related content to the website based on the feedback and response that the railway session generated at the Winter Midterm meeting. Click [\[HERE\]](#) to learn more. Doug also developed a detailed Recommendations for Actions to be Taken on Resolutions for Board discussion and participated in a conference call of the CFA Business Risk Management Committee.
- Aj continued to focus on expanding website content and functionality and expanding the capabilities of APAS new interactive telephone system. Aj also pursued arrangements for the Crop Production Show, prepared for a discussion with the Board on APAS Sponsorship Policy, and met with Guy Ash of the Canadian Wheat Board to discuss APAS sponsorship of WeatherFarm.
- A majority of Sonia's time during the week was devoted to follow-up on matters from the Mid Term Meeting

and preparations for the monthly meeting of the Board of Directors.

- GM Nial Kuyek participated in the monthly conference call with the General Managers of KAP and WRAP. Items discussed included the Producer Payment Security Project (which has received approval for funding at a lower cost level), rail issues, weather based derivatives, upcoming annual general meetings, the potential for joint resolutions, and agenda items for the Prairie Farm Leaders meeting to be held in Edmonton on January 8, 2010. Nial and some of the District Directors met with the Council of the RMs of Pleasantdale, Clayton, St. Philips, and Cote in early December to discuss the potential of membership with APAS by these municipalities.

For more information about the weekly activities of the APAS staff, click [[HERE](#)]

For past President's, Executive's, District Directors' Reports and staff updates for the period of December 2008 to the present, please click [[HERE](#)].

Upcoming Events

January 2010

Jan 6 & 7 - WRAP AGM in Edmonton, AB

Jan 8 - Prairie Farm Leaders Meeting in Sherwood Park, AB

Jan 11-14 - Western Canadian Crop Production Show, Saskatoon

Jan 12 - Meeting with the Council for the RM of Hazell Dell

Jan 12 - Meeting with the Council for the RM of Sasman

Jan 13 - Meeting with the Council for the RM of Elfros

Jan 13 - Meeting with the Council for the RM of Clayton

Jan 14 - Meeting with the Council for the RM of St. Philips

Jan 14 - Meeting with the Council for the RM of Lakeside

Jan 18 - BOD Meeting - Hillsdale Room, Regina Inn, Regina.

Jan 19 - Sask Ministry of Environment Consultation - Director Norm Hall & Policy Manager, Doug Faller will attend.

Jan 19 - Meeting with the Sask Ministry of Environment - President Greg Marshall, GM Nial Kuyek, Director Norm Hall & Policy Manager, Doug Faller will attend.

Jan 26 - Free APAS Succession Planning webinar – [Register Here](#)

Jan 27 -29 - [KAP AGM](#) in Winnipeg, MB.

Click [[HERE](#)] for more upcoming events.

CFA Activity Report

the latest news on how CFA is working for farmers

CFA's monthly Activity Report is a brief e-newsletter dedicated to bringing you the latest news on how CFA is working for farmers. We want to share with you our progress on an array of national policy fronts.

Each month you can download the current and back issues of the CFA activity report by clicking [[HERE](#)]

APAS is

Saskatchewan's general farm organization formed to provide farmers and ranchers with a democratically elected, grassroots, non-partisan, producer organization based on rural municipal boundaries. As the united voice of thousands of agricultural producers in Saskatchewan, we strive to represent the views of a wide variety of agricultural stakeholders in order to form comprehensive policies that can benefit all sectors of society.

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