



Apas in Action. (Jan'10)

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Welcome

Second Edition of the APAS IN ACTION monthly update

Welcome to the second edition of the monthly **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.

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.

If you are receiving this a representative of a national or provincial farm organization we encourage you to share the information with your executive and staff.

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

2010 10th Annual AGM

Celebrating ten years of working for Saskatchewan farmers.

The tenth anniversary AGM will take place March 22-24 in Regina. We have an exciting agenda planned including two special events to celebrate our tenth and the CFA's seventy-fifth anniversaries.

All Member RMs (past and current) will be receiving special guest invitations to the March 23 banquet and keynote address by President of the CFA, Laurent Pellerin.

Additional details will be confirmed and announced soon. A detailed agenda, registration form and hotel information will be posted on our website in early February. So clear your agenda on March 22 to 24, 2010 and join us in Regina for the Tenth Annual APAS AGM.

Rail Freight Service Review

Grain transportation continues to be a priority policy issues for APAS

APAS has been invited by the **Rail Service Review Panel** to submit a written brief by the end of February outlining the organization's or its member's concerns with current rail freight service.

In planning for the review we see two levels where we can represent the interests of producers, based on who is the “shipper” of the grain:

- Farmers are really only shippers of grain when they load producer cars.
- Otherwise, the grain shipper is the commercial interest that has accepted delivery of producers’ grain – the CWB for Board grains and grain handling companies for non-Board grain.

Your Experience with Rail Service – Tell Us About It

We are doing a survey to gather information at both of these levels. Why?

- We want to give farmers an opportunity to be heard.
- We want direct feedback from farmers based on actual service experience.
- We want to ensure that APAS is able to represent farmers to the Service Review Panel.

The survey has been distributed to all APAS reps who will be asking local farmers to complete the short questionnaire (basically four questions) and to fax the results directly to APAS.

Farmers can also do the survey online - click [[HERE](#)]

Or farmers can print and fax the survey - click [[HERE](#)]

To learn more about the Service Review - click [[HERE](#)]

Board of Directors Report

January 2010

The APAS Board of Directors met in Regina on January 18, 2010. Agenda items included Reports from the President and General Manager, discussion of recommendations for actions to be taken and results on resolutions passed at the 2009 Mid Term Meeting, approval of the final agenda for the Annual General Meeting in March of 2010, and the current membership recruitment efforts being spearheaded by the BOD and supported by all staff members. In January, APAS Directors and staff met with more than twelve RM Councils to update them on APAS activities and policy priorities.

President's Agenda

January 2010

The APAS BOD met for its' monthly meeting on Jan 18. As is the case with all Board meetings the agenda was filled with extensive policy discussions as well as important strategic planning for the organization as we celebrate our tenth anniversary.

We had the opportunity this month to meet with the Ministry of Environment staff. It was a very productive meeting attended by Lyle Saigeon, Kevin Murphy, Nial Kuyek, Doug Faller, Norm Hall, and myself. Discussion involved Results Based Environmental Reforms, the need for a comprehensive Wetland Conservation Policy in Saskatchewan, and the potential for Ecological Goods and Services and Alternative Land Use Services in the province. Land owners rights and responsibilities, today and into the future are of the utmost importance for the APAS team.

Directors Ernie Briggs, Kevin Gilbert and I represented APAS at the Saskatchewan Beef Industry Conference and

related meetings in Saskatoon from January 20th to 23rd. It was an encouraging conference as it brought all the livestock groups together to work towards a set of common goals; which is a strategy that APAS has been championing loudly for the last year. There were presentations that focused on the need to work together, facing the challenges that doing so presents and the rewards that can be harvested.

Consumer preferences and demand are ultimately the largest drivers of the industry and there was an excellent presentation from the Food Marketing Institute on consumer considerations for producers. In addition the feasibility of Cattle Price Insurance in the province was discussed.

The most important messages for producers that I heard were this:

- There is still a future ahead of us;
- Accept that change is inevitable and prepare for it;
- Become involved in organizations and support your elected spokespersons;
- Be proud of what you do - feeding the world.

Staff Activities

January 2010

- The APAS Farm Estate and Succession Planning Webinar organized and delivered by Strata Benefits on Tuesday, January 26, 2010 was successful with 25 participants and very good content and resource people. Feedback has been positive and interest has already been expressed by participants for additional opportunities.
- Don Connick and Doug Faller are attending the KAP AGM in Winnipeg from January 27-29, 2010.
- Environment and Food Safety Committee Chair Norm Hall and Policy Manager Doug Faller represented APAS at a meeting hosted by the Ministry of Environment in Regina on January 19, 2010 to discuss development of the Saskatchewan Environmental Code. This is part of the review of the environmental regulatory framework that has been underway in Saskatchewan for the past 15 months. APAS has been involved in all four phases of the review to date.
- Doug Faller participated in the Ministry of Environment meetings described earlier, drafted Minutes of the Economic Trade and Strategic Growth Committee, finalized the Service Review and Contracts surveys and the packages sent to RM Representatives, analyzed next steps on the transportation policy agenda, and revised resolutions from the Mid Term and the Scholz Report for submission to CFA.
- It should be noted that the APAS/Scholz Report on New Entrant and Intergenerational Transfer Program Needs continues to receive positive media coverage with a major article in the January 21st edition of The Western Producer as well as in their editorial in the December 24th edition.
- Invoices for 2010 membership renewal were sent to our 62 member Rural Municipalities on Friday, January 22, 2010.
- Aj, Doug, Jeff Simpson, Garth Burns, Charles Boser, and Greg Marshall all contributed to the operations of the APAS booth at Crop Production Show. The surveys on contracts and producer cars were tested at the APAS booth and drew considerable interest.
- Nial Kuyek met with the Council of the RM of Orkney #244 relative to potential membership with APAS and Norm Hall and Nial Kuyek met with the Council of the RM of St. Philips relative to the potential of their RM rejoining APAS.
- Director Garth Burns met with six RMs to update the councils on APAS activities and Directors Norm Hall and Greg Marshall visited three more RMs during the Crop Production Show.
- Doug Faller, Nial Kuyek, and Greg Marshall were involved in a conference call with Dr. Andy Schmitz to discuss the 2010 Farming for Profit conference.
- Aj Thakker and Nial Kuyek met with Mike Hoffort, Vice President for Prairie Operations, and Brent Bender, Director for the Regina District, with Farm Credit Canada. Purpose of the discussion was to update FCC on the changes, directions, and priorities of APAS and to open discussion of potential sponsorship of APAS by FCC.
- The first monthly newsletter to APAS RM Representatives and Rural Municipalities was completed and distributed by email and fax. This would be the second addition you are reading now.
- Nial was on vacation from January 7 to 12 attending the State Convention of the Kansas Farmers' Union where he and his wife, Dale, served on a panel on health care to provide users' perspectives on the Canadian health care system.

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

February 2010

Feb 1 - Producer Payment Security Report - Steering Committee Conference Call

Feb 2 - APAS Grains & Oilseeds Committee Meeting - location tba

Feb 8 - Meeting with the Council for the RM of Piapot

Feb 9 - 2010 [SSCA](#) Annual Conference

Feb 9 - Meeting with the Council for the RM of Ituna Bon Accord

Feb 9 - Meeting with the Council for the RM of Torch River

Feb 9 - Meeting with the Council for the RM of Touchwood

Feb 9 - Meeting with the Council for the RM of Nipawin

Feb 10 - Meeting with the Council for the RM of Invermay

Feb 10 - Meeting with the Council for the RM of Willow Creek

Feb 10 - Meeting with the Council for the RM of Arbourfield

Feb 11 - Meeting with the Council for the RM of Tisdale

Feb 11 - Meeting with the Council for the RM of Barrier Valley

Feb 11 - Meeting with the Council for the RM of Ponass Lake

Feb 16 - BOD Meeting - Regina Inn, Regina.

Feb 17/18 - Saskatchewan Farmers' Markets - Strategic Vision Workshop

Feb 18 - West Central Municipal Association Meeting - Unity, SK

Feb 22 -24 - [CFA AGM](#), Ottawa, Ont

Feb 24 - CFA National Council Meeting, Ottawa, Ont

CFA Activity Report

Working for Farmers since 1935

Over the last year, the CFA has been busy advocating on behalf of Canadian farmers at the federal and international levels. We have been actively promoting our members' policy priorities, including business risk management, trade, food safety, environmental and science issues, rural issues, and transportation issues. The CFA and its farm leaders urge the government to work in partnership with us to act on the following priorities:

- **Agri-Flex and Business Risk Management programs**
- **Excise tax reduction**
- **International trade**

- **Transportation**
- **Climate change**
- **Food safety**
- **"Product of Canada" labeling**
- **Working with stakeholders**

To learn more about these and other issues, please click [[HERE](#)].

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 both current and back issues of the CFA activity report by clicking [[HERE](#)] (Current issue: Dec 2009)

New Members

Welcome to APAS

APAS Directors, Executive, Reps and staff welcome back the **RM of STAR CITY No. 428**, represented by RM councillor, **Warren Heavin** and the **RM of MARTIN No. 122** and representative, **Charles Adair**.

And a special welcome to new member, **the RM of WOLVERINE No. 340** who will be represented by their councillor, **Elsie Dale**.

We look forward to welcoming the RM Reps and Reeves from all three RMs in person at at the 2010 AGM in Regina in March.

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.

www.apas.ca | Email: info@apas.ca | Phone: +1 306 789 7774 | Fax: +1 306 789 7779