



APAS in Action June/July/2010

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Welcome

Welcome to the seventh edition of the APAS e-newsletter, **APAS in Action**, presented this time as a bi-monthly report for June and July, 2010. **If you are receiving this as an APAS Member R.M. Representative, Administrator, or Reeve (Member or Non-Member)**, we encourage you to share this information with your Council at your next scheduled meeting and with ratepayers in your R.M. as possible. Should you wish to print to distribute copies, a **printer-friendly version is available by clicking [HERE](#)**.

APAS successful in lobby for assistance for excess moisture to farmers...

APAS played a leadership role and proactively lobbied for assistance from the federal and provincial governments for the excess moisture problems experienced with the 2010 crop.

APAS began monitoring the situation in May and by May 31, APAS President Greg Marshall began to discuss with Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister Bob Bjornerud the need to initiate AgriRecovery to address the problem of unseeded acres. Discussions with Minister Bjornerud and Ministry staff continued throughout June and to the July announcement. By the time the announcement was made, President Marshall was involved in over 25 media interviews on the issue.

On June 17, APAS issued an urgent call to both levels of government to provide timely assistance to farmers, ranchers, and rural communities affected by this year's excessive moisture. APAS emphasized that this is a province wide disaster that affects both crop and livestock producers. APAS called on the Ministers to kick start the first step in the implementation of AgriRecovery through the appointment of a task team to assess the extent of the damage affecting unseeded acres, crop establishment and livestock production and to develop options and recommendations for response.

To draw further attention to the problem and to put further pressure on the governments, APAS organized a day long tour for Regina-Wascana Member of Parliament, Ralph Goodale, on June 30. Mr. Goodale toured the R.M.s of Prairie Rose, Leroy, and Lakeview and met with Councils to hear first hand from local farmers about what they are experiencing on the ground. Prior to the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Ministers meeting, Mr. Goodale issued two press releases calling on the federal government to immediately give Western grain producers basic reassurance with respect to the assistance they can expect from their governments.

Also, to draw further attention to the problem and to put further pressure on governments, APAS President Greg Marshall and General Manager Nial Kuyek participated in the CKRM 620 Newsline at Noon on Tuesday July 6 to discuss the losses that farmers are experiencing. Most importantly, they received calls from farmers and R.M. Reeves outlining the situations in their areas and their views on the need for assistance.

At the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Ministers' roundtable with the Canadian Federation of Agriculture on Tuesday July 6, APAS President Greg Marshall had the privilege of addressing the meeting on behalf of Western Canada and CFA members to request that the federal and provincial governments provide assistance to the disaster situation that has been created by excess moisture in the spring and summer of 2010.

Following the announcement of the Excess Moisture assistance of \$30 per acre on July 8, APAS commended the federal and provincial governments for the quick response and action in assistance to producers who were unable to seed or who have lost seeded crop due to flooding. APAS also expressed concern that forage and livestock producers

were left out of the program and has been in communication with both levels of government to seek additional measures to assist forage and livestock producers.

While no single organization can take credit for an announcement like this and governments ultimately make the decisions, no single organization did more than APAS to represent farmers and ranchers in achieving this result.

APAS Board Meetings

The APAS Board of Directors met in Regina on June 15 and July 20 and 21, 2010. The June 15 meeting included a discussion with the Honourable Bob Bjornrud, Minister of Agriculture, relative to the excess moisture problems that have affected the seeding and establishment of the 2010 crop. The July 19/20 meeting included discussion on producer payment security options and potential collaboration with ACC Farmers Financial, a financial services institution owned by Ontario commodity organizations, on farm financial issues in Saskatchewan.

CFA Roundtable at Federal/Provincial/Territorial Ministers' Meeting

As a member of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA), APAS participated in the CFA Roundtable with Federal/Provincial/Territorial Ministers in Saskatoon on July 6, 2010. Discussion included CFA's National Food Strategy project and other current issues. APAS President Greg Marshall had the privilege of addressing the meeting on behalf of Western Canadian and CFA members to request that the federal and provincial governments provide assistance to the disaster situation that has been created by excess moisture in the spring and summer of 2010.

Edsforth Study

The Edsforth Study was publicly released at Farm Progress Show by APAS, the Canadian Wheat Board, CFA, Keystone Agricultural Producers, and Wild Rose Agricultural Producers. The Study estimates that overpayments by farmers to the railways in the 2007/2008 and 2008/2009 crop years would have averaged \$6.87 per tonne. APAS and these organizations continue to call for a full railway costing review.

Farm Progress Show

Farm Progress Show asked APAS to organize their International Business Reception for 1000 guests using exclusively Saskatchewan grown and processed food products. APAS Communications Consultant, Aj Thakker did his magic in pulling together a flawless event. The food was cooked in six cultural variations to illustrate how Saskatchewan food products are eaten in Canada and around the world. It was a gourmet adventure and truly a celebration of the quality of Saskatchewan food and food products. APAS thanks the many commodity organizations and suppliers who contributed to the event.

Grains Innovation Roundtable

President Greg Marshall participated in a meeting of the Grains Innovation Roundtable where discussions focused on regulations, processing, trade, research, and communications.

Agriculture 2020: Challenges and Opportunities

President Greg Marshall participated in this consultation process with Canadian farm leaders being conducted by the federal and provincial governments relative to the future of the Canadian agricultural sector. President Marshall used this opportunity to raise the need for improvements to existing safety net programs.

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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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