



## Apas in Action. (August'10)

### Welcome

Welcome to the latest edition of the monthly APAS e-newsletter, **APAS IN ACTION**, dedicated to bringing you the latest news on how your general farm organization is working for Saskatchewan farmers. **If you are receiving this as an APAS Member RM Rep, 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 RM whenever possible. Should you wish to print or mail it out or distribute copies at local meetings, a **printer-friendly version is available by clicking [HERE](#)**.

### August 2010

The Canadian Federation of Agriculture held its summer semi-annual meeting in Halifax from July 27 - 29, 2010. Representing Saskatchewan's farmers and ranchers was APAS President Greg Marshall along with Directors Arlynn Kurtz and Todd Lewis and General Manager Nial Kuyek.

Tuesday, July 27 and the morning of Wednesday, July 28 were devoted to meetings of the CFA Committees. In addition to a variety of speakers on key issues, the semi-annual meeting included Committee reports and discussion of key resolutions before the membership. APAS resolutions calling for CFA to lobby the Federal government to restore core funding levels for public agriculture research to indexed 1994 levels and to increase the AgriInvest contribution rate on eligible net sales to three percent were both adopted as CFA policy.

Throughout the soggy summer of 2010, APAS has been monitoring and communicating with governments and industry stakeholders on the continued excessive moisture concerns of members. Following last month's federal-provincial announcement of the \$30/acre excessive moisture payment, APAS continued to press for additional support for livestock producers who were also affected by this year's excessive rain. Unfortunately, both Minister Ritz and Minister Bjornerud maintain that existing programs are sufficient to cover current needs.

On August 11, APAS met with representatives of all major Saskatchewan banking and credit institutions and the Federal Ministry of Agriculture to discuss the potential credit crunch that might impact some producers in the spring of 2011 and beyond. All participants agreed that the impact and possible solutions will not affect every area or farm; but there is ongoing concern for some areas of the province. APAS and ACC Farmers Financial are currently working on a proposal for a credit program specifically designed to assist those Saskatchewan farm and ranch operations that are most affected by this and similar situations.

APAS President Greg Marshall and Environment Committee Chair Norm Hall along with FNA-STAG CEO Bob Friesen had an opportunity this month to meet with the Honourable Dustin Duncan, Saskatchewan Minister of Environment, regarding the province's proposed carbon credit regulations and the possible resulting challenges and opportunities for agricultural producers.

Activities within the democratic structure of APAS in August included the Board of Directors meeting by conference call on August 17 and a District One conference call meeting later in the month. District Four and Five organized a highly successful joint meeting in Humboldt where APAS RM Representatives from across the two districts highlighted conditions in their specific areas. The **Economic, Trade & Strategic Growth** and the **Environment & Food Safety** Committees also took time this month to meet in Saskatoon to further discuss and develop APAS policy positions on a variety of current issues.

While on the topic of committees, APAS welcomes the Saskatchewan Alfalfa Seed Producers Association, Saskatchewan Bison Association, Saskatchewan Horse Federation, Saskatchewan Organics Directorate, Saskatchewan Soil Conservation Association and the Chicken Farmers of Saskatchewan as APAS Associate Members. APAS looks forward to the depth of knowledge and new perspectives they will bring to our policy committees and processes. The active involvement of provincial commodity groups is an important element to the growth and continued success of APAS.

And finally, this month, APAS announced a new strategic partnership with the Farmers of North America (FNA) that will benefit APAS members across the province. All rural ratepayers in APAS Member RMs can immediately receive a discount on new memberships in FNA and will be able to fully participate in all FNA programs, discounts, and activities. [Details and application forms](#) are available on the APAS website ([www.apas.ca](http://www.apas.ca)).

**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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