

**Action Taken on Resolutions Passed at the APAS 2008 AGM and the
2009 Summer Mid term Meeting**

Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan

Resolution

Whereas APAS membership is failing, a change must be made so that producers who wish to have memberships may do so and those who do not wish to have memberships may also do so;

Be it resolved that all Rural Municipalities levy a check-off on all acres to be shown on tax notices; and

Be it further resolved that all ratepayers then have the choice of whether or not to belong to APAS with the provision that refunds must be applied for on an annual basis; and

Be it resolved that the Board explore the feasibility and steps necessary to complement this change and report as soon as possible.

Action Taken

This resolution was referred to the Governance Committee for discussion and recommendation. The Committee viewed the “Be it resolved that all Rural Municipalities levy a check-off on all acres to be shown on tax notices” as impractical at this time as Rural Municipalities can not be mandated to levy a check-off. This could be an option in the future if there was agreement for general farm organization legislation that would require all producers to be members.

The Committee recommended and the Board adopted the following policy to enable individuals from Rural Municipalities that are APAS members to individually opt out of APAS membership:

- That APAS allow individuals from Rural Municipalities that are APAS members to individually opt out of APAS membership
- That management develop an application for withdrawal of membership that will require copies of tax receipts, signature of the RM administrator, and reason(s) for withdrawal. Applications will be available from the APAS office.

- The refund will be to the RM and will be deducted from their next year's membership dues. This will minimize administration.
- Refunds will not require Board approval. The board will receive information on refunds on a regular basis.

This policy will be implemented in the 2010 -2011 membership year that begins April 1, 2010.

Resolution

Be it resolved that APAS develop and implement a district structure to enhance communications with grassroots and to enhance policy development.

Action Taken

This was referred to the Executive and staff to pursue necessary enhancements. APAS already has a District structure so the challenge is to enhance the functioning of the current structure in communications, policy development, and other key areas. Some enhancements were achieved in 2009 with the introduction of a newsletter, enhancements to the APAS website, and the Committee and Resolutions process used for the 2009 Winter Mid Term Meeting.

This will be a priority for 2010 and will involve the Board of Directors, RM Representatives, and staff in the development of strategies.

Resolution

Be it resolved that APAS consider a membership incentive program to have Rural Municipalities sign up for more than one year at a time.

Action Taken

This resolution was referred to the Finance Committee and has yet to be dealt with by that Committee. The resolution will be considered early in 2010 as plans for member renewal for the 2010 – 2011 year are developed.

Resolution

That APAS consider increasing sponsorship limits with advertising rules and limits.

Action Taken

This resolution was referred to management. A new sponsorship program with increased limits will be developed in 2010.

Economic, Trade and Strategic Growth**Resolution**

Be it resolved that APAS endorse the concept of AgriStart and further develop it as an option for young farmers.

Action Taken

The Board of Directors viewed this resolution as typical of the need for new entrant and intergenerational transfer programs. As the resolution had a narrow focus, it was redrafted as follows and submitted to the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) AGM where it was adopted as CFA policy:

*Whereas the average age of farmers continues to increase and new entrants to the agricultural industry are needed throughout Canada; and
Whereas APAS has endorsed the concept of forgivable and/or interest free loans to attract young farmers; and
Whereas this is a national issue;
Be it resolved that CFA lobby for improved intergenerational transfer programs to attract young people to agriculture.*

In discussion of this matter, it became apparent that we lacked current information on this issue necessary for APAS and/or CFA to lobby for improved programs. APAS therefore contracted Al Scholz of A.N. Scholz and Associates Inc. to identify new entrant and intergenerational transfer programs that exist in Canada and internationally, to identify best practices, and to develop recommendations for the consideration of APAS. Mr. Scholz will present his report, "Strategies and Recommendations for New Entrant

and Intergenerational Transfer Program Needs”, to the Mid Term Meeting on Friday, December 4, 2009.

Resolution

Whereas the federal government has demonstrated over the past 10 years that they want to base farm support on margin based programs with some ad hoc money, and those programs have grown less supportive for the agriculture sector, both grains and livestock;

Therefore be it resolved that we lobby to change the calculation of the reference margins bringing drop in value of productive assets into the calculation for payouts.

Action Taken

The AgriStability program, its strengths and weaknesses, and necessary changes have been discussed by the Economic, Trade, and Strategic Growth Committee and the Board of Directors. In addition, this was the subject of an extensive discussion between the Presidents of APAS, KAP, and WRAP and experts from Meyers Norris Penny. It appears that federal and provincial governments will be reviewing safety net programs beginning in January of 2010. It is important that there be producer involvement in this upcoming federal-provincial review to ensure that this and other potential changes are considered.

Resolution

Whereas provincial borders are very restrictive in Western Canada; Be it resolved that APAS, together with Western allies, lobby to open borders inter-provincially in Canada.

Action Taken

This resolution was referred to the Economic, Trade, and Strategic Growth Committee and the Canadian Federation of Agriculture. As the scope of this resolution was very wide, it was changed to the following and submitted to the CFA AGM:

Whereas provincial borders can be highly restrictive to inter-provincial trade in livestock;

Be it resolved that CFA lobby for the elimination of barriers to inter-provincial trade affecting livestock.

When APAS representatives in a CFA Committee Meeting could not adequately respond to questions relative to the intent of this resolution, APAS withdrew the resolution from the CFA AGM policy resolutions to be debated. The intent of the resolution will be addressed by a resolution to the 2009 Winter Mid Term Meeting calling for an integrated inspection system across Canada that allows for the inter-provincial movement of provincially inspected killed livestock and processed meats.

Resolution

Whereas the risk of the primary producer has increased dramatically due to the volatility of commodity prices and input costs;

Be it resolved that APAS turn some of its focus on lobbying towards the industry partners that we have along the food chain (input suppliers and output handlers) and the need to share risk and prosper together.

Action Taken

This resolution was referred to the Economic, Trade, and Strategic Growth Committee. After the initial discussion, the Committee concluded that it requires more information relative to the intent of this resolution to evaluate potential strategies in support of the resolution. Specifics will be pursued with the mover of the resolution, Terry Hildebrandt.

Resolution

Whereas large investors may be using pension fund money to purchase farmland; and

Whereas individual farmers are required to utilize after-tax income to make principal payments on land;

Be it resolved that APAS investigate this issue and seek a level payment field for farmland investment.

Action Taken

This resolution was referred to the Economic, Trade, and Strategic Growth Committee where it has been discussed at two meetings. APAS Policy Manager Doug Faller will be doing more research on the matter for future discussion with the Committee.

Grains and Oilseeds

Resolution

Whereas current crop insurance does not provide producers with adequate coverage; and

Whereas a true representation of average yields combined with market prices might enhance coverage; and

Whereas this kind of insurance would allow producers to farm the markets and could attract producers to enroll in/Crop Insurance; and

Whereas this kind of insurance would reduce the need for other ad hoc programs and these funds could be transferred to fund a new crop insurance;

Be it resolved that APAS lobby both levels of government to implement these changes for the 2010 crop year.

Action Taken

Following the 2009 June mid term meeting where this resolution was passed, the resolution was forwarded to the Honourable Bob Bjornerud, Minister of Saskatchewan Agriculture, for his consideration and with the indication that APAS will be seeking a future meeting with him to discuss this and other priority issues.

Resolution

Whereas rail freight costs are an ever increasing expense for our producers; and

Whereas rail performance is lacking;

Be it resolved that APAS lobby governments to establish a board of industry, provincial government, and producers to resolve freight costs for producers.

Action taken

This resolution was referred to the Grains and Oilseeds Committee and discussed at their meeting on November 26, 2009. It was noted that a Rail Freight Service Review is currently underway and APAS and other farm organizations have been requesting a full rail costing review. The Committee viewed producer involvement as a very important part of this resolution. A resolution developed for the 2009 Winter Mid Term Meeting will carry forward the necessity of producer and general farm organization involvement in monitoring and decision-making by governments, agencies, and boards related to grain transportation infrastructure, service, and costing.

Livestock

Resolution

Be it resolved that APAS adopt the following policy positions for advancement to other farm organizations and federal and provincial governments as potential solutions to the current and ongoing crisis in the livestock industry in Saskatchewan:

Provide a sufficient payment on either a per-acre or a productivity basis to encourage producers to retain livestock, forage, and grass. Such a grass payment would provide producers with financial benefits in recognition of the responsible environmental stewardship of such land use.

Change Business Risk Management Programs to treat livestock producers equitable with grains and oilseeds producers.

Rollback Community Pasture rates because patrons would not be eligible for the grass payment. This would provide producers who use Community Pastures with a financial incentive to remain in the livestock industry.

Continue opposition to COOL legislation.

Action Taken

When the House of Commons adjourned in December of 2008 and the federal government committed to development of economic stimulus measures to be unveiled in late January of 2009, APAS wrote to the Prime Minister on December 18, 2009 with copies to Premier Wall and federal and provincial Agriculture and Finance Ministers to support the calls by Premier Wall and provincial Ministers for assistance to the livestock industry to be included in the economic stimulus initiatives. This policy resolution was presented as a solution for the beef industry.

On February 18, 2009, APAS wrote to Minister Bjornerud and Premier Wall presenting this policy for livestock as part of the wish list of Saskatchewan farmers and ranchers for the March, 2009 provincial budget and agricultural policy in Saskatchewan.

Also, in February of 2009, this was adopted as CFA policy at the CFA Annual General Meeting. While in Ottawa for the CFA AGM, APAS representatives met with Saskatchewan Members of Parliament, Boughen,

Goodale and Komarnicki, and the Liberal and NDP Agriculture Critics to lobby for this and other APAS policies.

Resolution

*Whereas livestock producers in Saskatchewan are currently experiencing very poor cattle prices through no fault of their own; and
Whereas some producers had paid back part or all of their cattle cash advance before the Saskatchewan government announced an extension of one year to pay back the principal amount of the cattle advance;
Therefore, be it resolved that APAS lobby the government to immediately re-lend or make another cattle cash advance available to producers (that have paid part or all of the original cash advance);
And, further that the repayment terms be unconditional except for a reasonable time frame.*

Action Taken

As this resolution mixed the cash advance program with the provincial loan program, it was referred to the Livestock Committee for further review. The Committee concluded that the resolution was directed at the provincial Short-Term Cattle and Hog Loan Program. This issue was then included in the February 18, 2009 letter from APAS to Minister Bjornerud and Premier Wall presenting the wish list of Saskatchewan farmers and ranchers for the March, 2009 provincial budget and agricultural policy in Saskatchewan. The communication commended the provincial government for the November 21, 2008 announcement of the optional one year deferral of the principal payments owing noting that this would be welcomed by cash-strapped producers. APAS also suggested the following changes:

- Producers who repaid their loans prior to the announcement should now be able to access the loans again for repayment in 2010.
- Producers who haven't yet accessed the loans should now be able to access the loans for repayment in 2010.

Resolution

*Whereas a Saskatchewan slaughter plant at Neudorf is in receivership;
Be it resolved that APAS join with the industry to lobby governments to keep the plant operational.*

Action Taken

This resolution was referred to the Livestock Committee. While slaughter and processing capacity is needed in Saskatchewan, the economics of this particular plant have been very difficult. Therefore, no further action is recommended relative to this resolution.

Resolution

*Whereas the reality of drought is once again challenging the beef producers;
Therefore be it resolved that APAS lobby Ag Crown Lands Administration to allow leasers to sublet currently unused grassland to beef producers without fear of penalty.*

Action Taken

Following the 2009 June Mid Term Meeting, this resolution was brought to the attention of the Honourable Bob Bjornerud, Minister of Saskatchewan Agriculture, for consideration as an additional measure that might assist beef producers who were struggling with drought conditions.

General**Resolution**

*Whereas 2% liquid strychnine is effective in controlling the Richardson Ground Squirrel (known as a gopher); and
Whereas gophers are increasingly problematic;
Be it resolved that the provincial government continue to make 2% liquid strychnine available to RMs in 2009.*

Action Taken

On December 11, 2008, it was announced that the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) approved the provincial government's application to extend the emergency registration of the rodenticide to July 31, 2009.