



2015 STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

APRIL 2015

Seeding is right around the corner! For our new members, WELCOME! And for all members, SaskFSA has had a very productive winter season and we would like to share our progress with you.

FAREWELL

First we would like to acknowledge the resignation of our SaskFSA Executive Director, Warren Kaeding. Warren's passion and dedication to agriculture is truly inspiring. Through a combination of his character, expertise and leadership, SaskFSA has evolved to be an influential voice for Saskatchewan farmers. Thank-you Warren & all the best in your new endeavor with the Saskatchewan Party!

RESPONSIBLE DRAINAGE

A PROPOSED NEW APPROACH TO DRAINAGE IN SASKATCHEWAN
SaskFSA is a strong advocate for responsible surface water management and submitted a proposal to the Honorable Scott Moe titled, "The Perfect Drainage Policy" (<http://www.saskfsa.ca/current-issues/>). As a result, SaskFSA was invited to a roundtable discussion at the legislature involving the Minister of Environment, the Minister of Agriculture and officials from the Water Security Agency. The discussion was progressive and of significant value towards positive restructuring of Saskatchewan's current drainage policy.

ASAP – PARTNERS IN PRESERVATION

Wetlands and upland habitat are of value to all of society, upon which the farmer is predominantly responsible for. Now there is a value to the farmer as well – **ASAP (ALUS Saskatchewan Assiniboine Project)**. ALUS stands for Alternate Land Use System and is a new model for conservation. SaskFSA has partnered with the Assiniboine Watershed Stewardship Association (AWSA) and Delta Waterfowl under the ASAP acronym to provide farmers with an annual cash payment as an incentive to conserve and enhance natural wildlife habitat. Contracts will consist of 5 or 10 year terms, not in perpetuity and can be cancelled at any time. This is a pilot project funded through external resources. SaskFSA will be contacting members to enroll "preservation acres" into the program for the 2015 growing season.

Watch for an ASAP project near you and check for updates on SaskFSA Facebook and Twitter feeds.

SARM – CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

SaskFSA is continually working with SARM on the topic of conservation easements. Direct from the Minister of Environment – "Conservation easements are tools that are used to conserve biodiversity on private lands. Easements DO NOT allow the landowner to adversely impact adjoining property (by flooding or other means), nor do they prevent the removal of beaver dams for water management."

CONFERENCES

SaskFSA formed a new partnership with the **Manitoba Agricultural Water Management Association (MAWMA)**, a producer and corporate driven group, to mentor this emerging organization in the spirit of cooperation between the two provinces on sustainable water management solutions. SaskFSA presented at their March annual meeting. SaskFSA also presented at the **Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds (SAW)** annual April conference, topic being "Drainage from the Grassroots Level". Presentation was direct and to the point on how excess water can be a significant impediment to agriculture productivity. SaskFSA attended the **Saskatchewan Conservation & Development Association (SCDA)** annual conference in Saskatoon in March.

OTHER ACTIVITY:

- Board Meetings - January & March
- New SaskFSA board member – Frank Groeneweg – WELCOME Frank & happy to have you on board!
- March Membership/Information Meeting in Lipton - 70 people in attendance!

COMMUNICATIONS:

Membership ads in local Ag Edition newspapers
Updates to the SaskFSA website - www.saskfsa.ca
Social media ~ Twitter and Facebook networking

This organization is directed and led by farmers, for farmers. For more information please contact us.

THANK-YOU & HAPPY SEEDING!

SASKATCHEWAN FARM STEWARDSHIP ASSOCIATION

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