

## 2022 SaskFSA AGM - Executive Director's Report

**WHO IS SASKFSA** - A progressive group of agricultural landowners who value Saskatchewan's land and water resources. We advocate for responsible management of those resources and lead discussions around driving practical policy change.

**OUR VISION:** To advocate for progressive land and water management policy driven by agriculture landowners and supported by the citizens of Saskatchewan.

### OUR INTENTION:

- Work with government and regulatory agencies to create win-win land and water policy that is easy to understand and that benefits farmers and the environment.
- Develop and communicate a cost / benefit analysis that demonstrates the importance of proper land and water management practices to the economy of Saskatchewan.
- Engage, develop, and maintain positive relationships with all stakeholders interested in land and water management.
- Be recognized as the leading source of information on land and water management practices and challenges in the province.

### MEETING AGENDA:

- 8:45 AM**    **Welcome & Presidents Report** - Myles Thorpe, SaskFSA President
- 9:00 AM**    **SaskFSA AGM: 2022 Recap, Drainage Policy, Collaboration for 2023**  
- Candace Mitschke, SaskFSA Executive Director  
- Blair Harris, SaskFSA Treasurer
- 10:00 AM**    **SaskFSA/IHARF Year 2 - Why We Manage Temporary Water**  
- Christiane Catellier, IHARF Research Associate, Kyle Heggie, SaskFSA Vice
- 10:30 AM**    De-Watering Break
- 10:45 AM**    **WSA Update: Progress, "Mitigation" Update & YOUR Solutions**  
- Leah Clark, WSA Term Executive Director, Agriculture Water Management
- 12:00 PM**    LUNCH
- 1:00 PM**    **DRAINAGE . SUPER . SPEAKERS:**  
**#1: Leading Edge Drainage Research - Lindsey Pease** - Asst Professor, Extension Specialist in Nutrient & Water Management, University of Minnesota  
**#2: Lidar, Data Management & Networks - a MB Perspective**  
- Kody Webber, Northern Plains Drainage  
**#3: What Does Drainage Mean to Your Business??**  
- SaskFSA Board of Directors
- 3:00 PM**    **SK Drainage on Working Landscapes**  
- Shawn Jaques, WSA President & CEO
- 3:15 PM**    **Closing Comments / Adjourn**



## THIS IS THE “WHY” OF WHY WE NEED TO MANAGE WATER ON THE AG LANDSCAPE



Promoting sustainable water management and drainage BMPs to improve land conditions and further develop marginal acres simply makes sense.

**Drainage** is a critical business risk management tool for Saskatchewan agriculture producers. Drainage increases farm efficiency and productivity. Properly designed water management systems have many agronomic, environmental and economic benefits.

AGRONOMIC	ENVIRONMENTAL	ECONOMIC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Earlier seeding, longer growing season</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long-term, improved crop water usage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased yield on existing acres</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced plant stress and disease</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced peak water flow</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marginal acres in production</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deeper root system</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved water quality</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced production risk</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved nutrient use</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced soil erosion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased land value</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced soil salinity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced nutrient loss</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ROI of land improvement expense</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced compaction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced nutrient / input overlap</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protection of public infrastructure</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved soil health / biology</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved water infiltration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tax revenue to local RM's</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consistent field conditions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved soil health / biology</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AG contributions to local rural communities</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased yield</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provincial economy</li> </ul>

Safe & reliable food production is big business, and all factors are important.

**“Best When Managed”** is a SaskFSA slogan. It is relevant to many aspects of farming, whether it be managing excess water, dealing with drought conditions, managing nutrients, crop inputs, salinity, crop rotations etc. Regardless of the business, resource, or concept, it is always “Best When Managed”.

## SASKFSA POLICY SOLUTIONS

We have been at the discussion table for 11 years. As a board we are cohesive and are fully committed to working with regulators and government to create win-win land and water policy solutions. We have seen a tremendous amount of positive change within WSA over the last 2 years in particular with new leadership, new personnel, the openness to ideas and solutions, the willingness to come to the field and to work together. **We have a long way to go yet but this COLLABORATION is critical.**

## SASKFSA POLICY SOLUTIONS 2022

- CHANNELIZATION & CHANNEL CLEARING
- REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE (RFA)
- SK WATER MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION REVIEW
- SHARED WETLAND POLICY (WSA, DU, FARMER PARTNERS)
- MITIGATION PLENARY 1 – JUL 2022
- AGRICULTURE ZONES / EXEMPTIONS / REGISTRATIONS
- MITIGATION PLENARY 2 – DEC 2022
- DRAINAGE ENHANCEMENT NETWORK CONCEPT (DEN)

## SASKFSA POLICY SOLUTIONS 2023

- STREAMLINE PROJECT - LEGISLATION / REGISTRATIONS
- MITIGATION PLENARY 3 – FEB 2023
- SK WATER MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION REVIEW
- REGIONAL DIFFERENCES / FLEXIBILITY
- INCREASE THE NUMBER OF SUCCESSFUL DRAINAGE APPROVALS IN SK
- LEADING ROLE IN “MITIGATION” POLICY DEVELOPMENT

& ANYTHING ELSE IN BETWEEN...



## TEMPORARY WATER IN POTHoles VERSUS PERMANENT FUNCTIONING ECOSYSTEMS

A quick recap on how we classify water on the agriculture landscape. A temporary wetland in the middle of the field that is farmed through is not healthy – for the farm or the environment. Versus a stable, healthy, functioning, permanent wetland that provides ecosystem benefits.

It is important to validate both cropland zones and habitat zones in SK. ENABLE landowners to manage their land for crops and livestock production while promoting healthy ecosystems where the land is not agriculturally productive.



### TEMPORARY WATER:

CLASS 1 –> 1-3 DAYS

CLASS 2 –> 1-2 WEEKS

CLASS 3 –> 1-2 MONTHS

### SEMI/PERMANENT WATER:

CLASS 4 –> BIG SLOUGH

CLASS 5 –> LAKE

## MINISTER FIELD TOUR

The AG Zone concept is what we discussed when Minister Jeremy Cockrill and MLA Warren Kaeding joined us for a shop meeting and a field tour in July.

The conversation was around managing temporary water through both surface and sub surface drainage, the benefits to the farm and the health of the working landscape in doing so.

No year in farming is ever the same. It takes a long time to get dry, and 1 day to get wet. 2021 dried up all the temporary water in many areas of the province and in 2022 Mother Nature restored it, even on the highly managed fields. These weather cycles proved that no matter how hard we try in the PPR, we will never get rid of all the temporary water (or Class 1-3 wetlands). This in itself is validation for exempting temporary water within AG zones, allowing farmers to manage them with drainage and simplify the drainage registration process.

This is what the crop looked like from the road this year... AND This is what it looks like from the air.

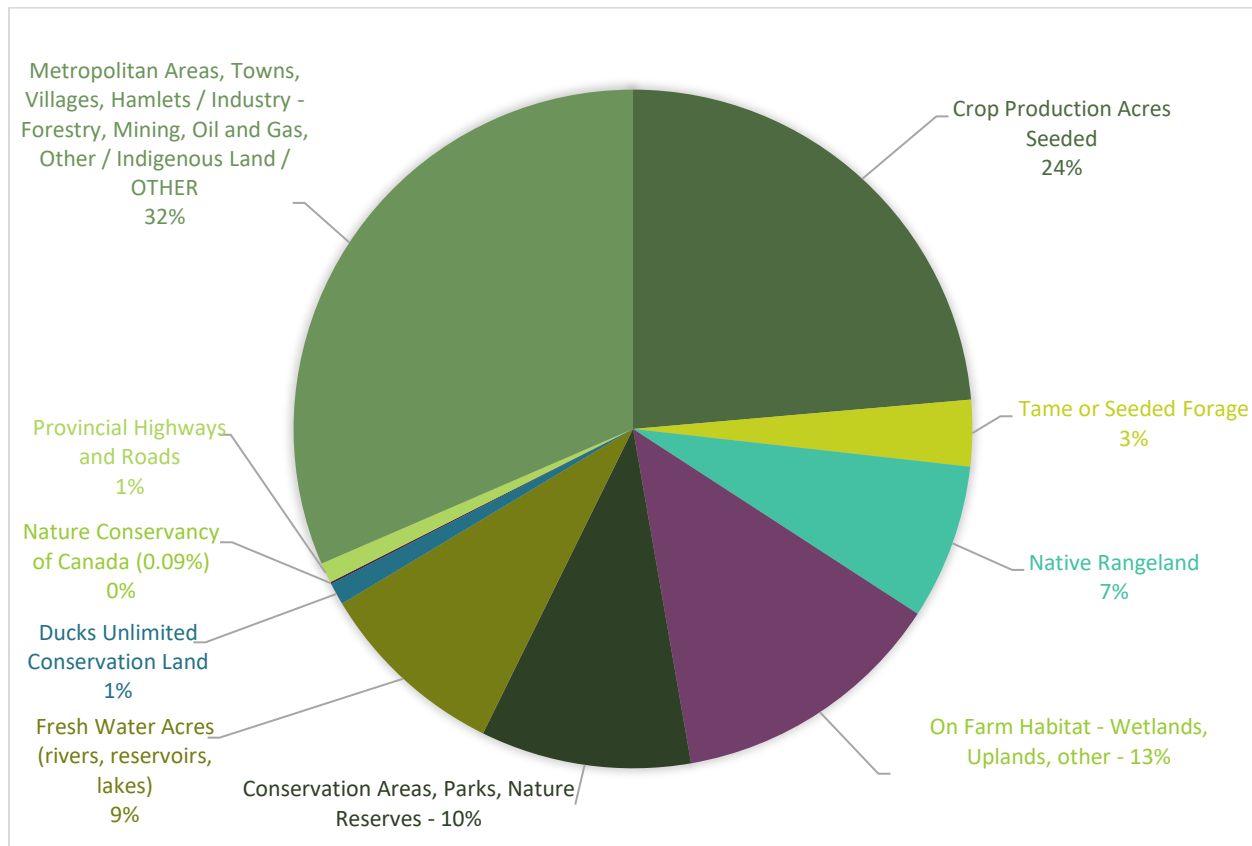


**Do not assume.** When you are trying to explain or discuss water management do not assume people understand.

**Show them.** Take the time to take them to the field to show them how you are managing your resources, how you operate your farm business and your role in environmental stewardship.

Field tours, one of the best ways to educate people on the importance of drainage to the farm and local communities.

## LAND USE ACRES IN SK



### Its all about balance.

SK hosts 44 of CDN farmland. We are an AG producing province. Policy needs to be realistic, relative, and relatable while providing the balance of food production, progressive business and a healthy landscape.

Of that 44%:

- Annual crop production accounts for 24% of our total land base
- Forage, pasture and rangeland 10%
- Habitat areas (or stewardship acres as we like to call them) within farmland at 13% (that's about half the annual crop acres)
- Nature reserves and parks 10%
- Fresh water acres 9%
- Conservation acres at ~2%

### The data is not yet complete.

Despite the fact that we host most of CDN farmland, there is a pretty good balance between AG and the environment in SK.

## DRAINAGE ENHANCEMENT NETWORK

SaskFSA has started conversations around a Drainage Enhancement Network (DEN). Water management silos exist all over this province. We also have a wealth of knowledge and extension across our borders that we need to utilize and learn from.

**MISSION:** Develop a Saskatchewan Drainage Extension Network to connect landowners, agricultural organizations, industry, and researchers to share and improve knowledge on progressive drainage practices in Saskatchewan to support soil health, crop management and healthy landscapes.

### OBJECTIVES:

- To promote partnerships with stakeholders interested in drainage, soil and crop management, and environmental quality in agricultural landscapes.
- To provide technical information and economic analysis to government and policy makers to expand and support agriculture drainage in SK.
- To develop outreach educational programs, events, workshops and materials.
- To maximize efficiency and viability of existing and potential agriculture acres in SK.

### BACKGROUND:

- **Responsible agriculture drainage is a critical business risk management (BRM) tool on the farm.** In many areas, it may be the most important BRM tool, providing the biggest return on investment (>\$85/ac). We need more resources and information sharing and collaboration on drainage within SK hence the DEN proposal – modelled after the YEN Concept. **Better results through sharing data and collaboration!**
- **Saskatchewan is made for crop production. Drainage is essential for crop production.**
  - SK hosts 44% of Canadian farmland
  - Agriculture is the main economic driver of the Saskatchewan Provincial GDP
  - Of the 161,087,998 acres of land in Saskatchewan:
    - 24% of those acres are in annual crop production
    - 2% are in perennial forage and pasture
    - 13% are habitat acres hosted by farmers (wetlands, uplands, native pasture)
- **Saskatchewan farmers rely on agriculture drainage and irrigation to be competitive and survive.**
  - 150,000 + quarters benefit from drainage = 24 million acres (all land relies on proper drainage)
  - 10-year plan to irrigate up to 500,000 acres of land in west-central and southern Saskatchewan
  - For irrigation acres to be highly productive, they also require a proper drainage system



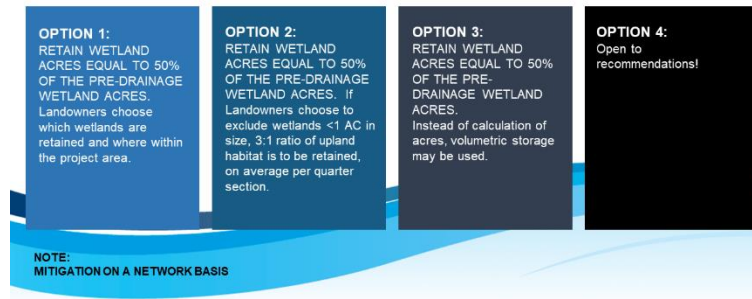
- Focus on managing and maximizing crop production acres within AG production zones / working landscapes
- **Efficiency gains are required for SK agriculture in the areas of overall productivity, economics and sustainability to maintain global competitiveness.**
  - Enhanced crop production and yields through management and technology
  - Improve soil health and conservation
  - Improve ag water drainage and understandings of water resource utilization on farm
  - Evaluation of risk management and average net income of SK farm
  - Viability of the farm for the next generation
  - AG is a foundational pillar of the SK Growth Plan
- **There is a larger environmental / conservation movement to protect habitat and preserve water quality in SK.** We require more public awareness of agriculture practices (especially responsible drainage), and to change the narrative to the positive role that farmers have in role in preserving soil health, water health, habitat and the health of their environment / farm business.
- **Saskatchewan's Growth Plan 2030 targets for agriculture:**
  - Increase crop production to 45 million metric tonnes (MMT) by 2030
  - Grow Saskatchewan's agri-food exports to \$20 billion
  - Increase agriculture value-added revenue to \$10 billion.
  - Crush 75 per cent of the canola Saskatchewan produces in Saskatchewan.
  - Process 50 per cent of the pulse crops Saskatchewan produces in Saskatchewan.
  - Double meat processing and animal feed value-added revenue to more than \$1 billion.
  - Increase the value of exports by 50 per cent.
  - Grow the number of international markets to which Saskatchewan exports more than \$1 billion.
  - Expand irrigation in Saskatchewan.

**More to come on this concept in 2023.**



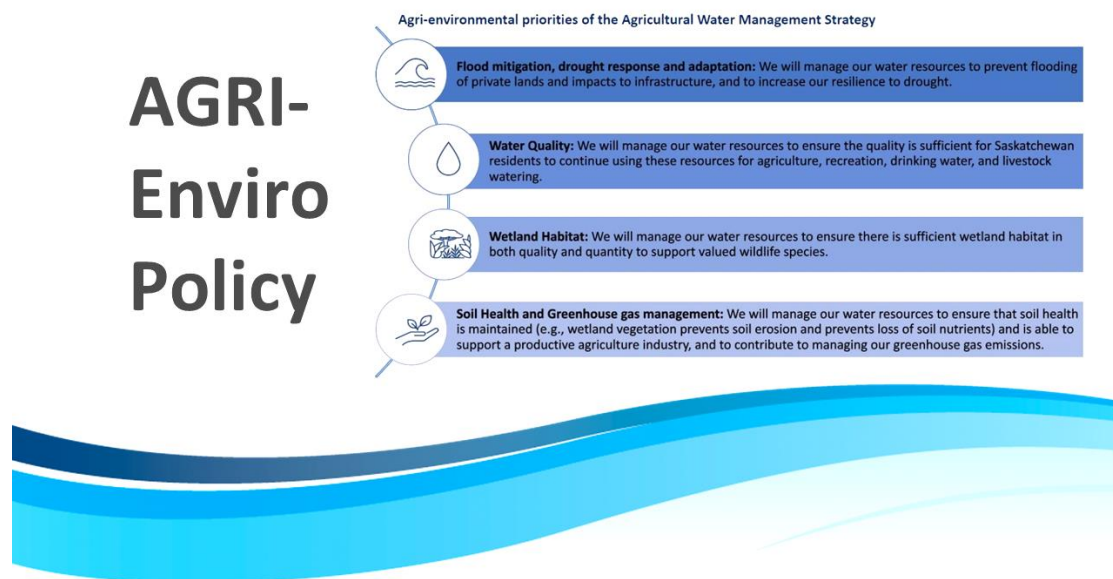
## HOW DO WE BUILD A MADE IN SK “MITIGATION” POLICY

### MITIGATION



Some of you know exactly what this image represents - it represents **CHANGE**. This was the WSA mitigation policy in 2019. In response, SaskFSA conducted a province wide focus group in April 2020, involving key stakeholders with different interests, from different target risk areas to build **NEW SOLUTIONS** for a practical, agriculture wetland mitigation plan.

And this is where we are today:



We are proud to say that this is a result of SaskFSA efforts, persistence and patience. Today SaskFSA is considered an amplifier stakeholder by WSA. It is no longer a mitigation policy – it is an agriculture water policy, now encompassing the 3 priorities we have been advocating for since 2015 – soil health, production efficiency and economics – in addition to water quantity, quality and habitat.

- 70 stakeholder groups have been invited to contribute to the conversations
- Plenary 1 in July has set the framework
- Plenary 2 in Dec discussed the outcomes
- **Plenary 3 will be in early 2023 to develop the HOW**

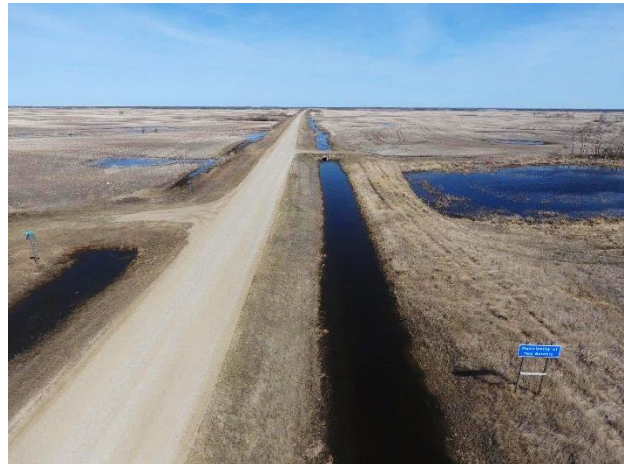
## COLLABORATE - CONNECTIONS, KNOWLEDGE, SHARING

You as farmers are conducting field scale science every time you step in the field. We learn by doing. We learn what not to do, what is not practical and what creates roadblocks. It is important for all of us to work together. If you have challenges, data or ideas, we want to hear from you!

### TETLOCK C&D FIELD TOUR – MARCH 2022



### 600 CREEK SPRING RUN OFF TOUR – APRIL 2022





## HEBERT GRAIN VENTURES FIELD TOUR – AUGUST 2022

SaskFSA and Hebert Grain Ventures hosted a Drainage Field Tour. Heberts have been working with PAMI and WSA to do an agronomic and economic analysis of ag drainage within 4 demonstration projects.

And we know this - Learning is always better in the field!



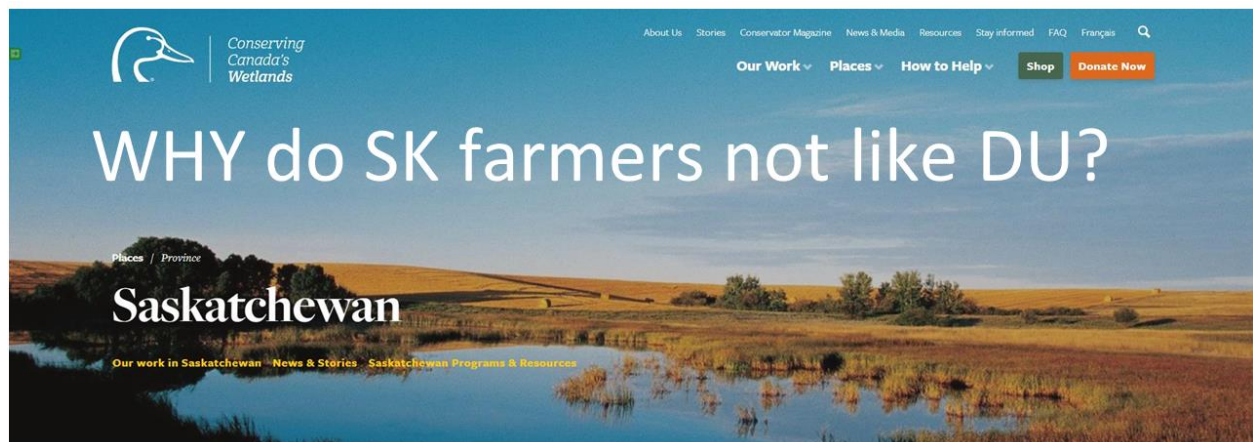
## PROVINCIAL NETWORKS & RELATIONSHIPS ARE IMPORTANT

SaskFSA board directors are involved in community associations, crop association boards, on RM councils, C&D boards and involved in various other water related networks.

SaskFSA executive sits on the following committees:

- APAS Land & Environment Committee
- ALUS – Alternative Land Use Services
- Water Council for SK
  - Non-government, industry based council focused on SK water resources, use and planning – other members include SAW, ARBI, Mosaic, Evraz, Associated Engineers, University researchers, and conservation groups
  - Agriculture is outnumbered on this council, important to be part of the conversation

And we have conversation like this one:



- DU national reached out to us for a meeting, so we shared our thoughts with them
- They are to respond with a “What We Heard” document



## STRATEGIC OUTLINE FOR 2023

There are 5 main strategic pillars for 2023. Strategic planning will continue with a strategic planning meeting in January 2023. Please contact SaskFSA Executive Director Candace Mitschke for more information.



## SOLUTIONS

- BOARD STRATEGIC PLANNING – JAN 24
- POLICY – SOLUTION PROPOSALS
- BI-WEEKLY WSA CHATS
- GROUND ZERO LEARNING & SHARING

## NETWORKS

- DRAINAGE ENHANCEMENT NETWORK
- LANDOWNERS, INDUSTRY, SCIENCE, REGULATORS, ENVIRONMENT
- MEMBERSHIP GROWTH - > SHOP MEETINGS, NEW GEOGRAPHIES
- BRING A FARMER FRIEND
- FRIENDS OF FARM STEWARDSHIP

## AWARENESS / INFORMATION

- DRAINAGE WORKSHOP – MAR
- SPRING BMP TOUR – APR
- FIELD TOUR – AUG
- IRON DEMO – POST HARVEST

## DATA & TECHNOLOGY

- SASKFSA / IHARF YEAR 3
- ON FARM DATA ANALYSIS
- MEMBER / INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS
- CROP INTELLIGENCE

## COMMUNICATIONS

- MEDIA / EDITORIALS
- VIDEOS
- SOCIAL MEDIA
- MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP UPDATES
- MEMBERSHIP SURVEYS
- WEBSITE REFRESH

## FINANCIAL REPORT 2022

### Saskatchewan Farm Stewardship Association Inc.

#### Income statement

For the year ended June 30, 2022

	2022		2021
<b>Revenue</b>			
Memberships	\$ 123,420	\$	129,370
Programs	10,750		6,510
Rebates	0		0
Registrations	100		0
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>134,270</b>		<b>135,880</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Advertising	\$ 0	\$	0
Bank charges	1,067		1,062
Consulting Fees	32,940		42,197
Conventions	14,330		2,329
Honorarium	1,800		750
IHARF Project	9,040		0
Lapsed pledges	78,539		25,436
Memberships	844		378
Office	892		596
Professional Fees	856		766
Sponsorships	600		5,000
Website	312		1,241
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>141,221</b>		<b>79,754</b>
<b>Current surplus</b>	<b>\$ -6,951</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>56,126</b>
<b>Opening surplus</b>	<b>\$ 188,125</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>131,999</b>
<b>Closing surplus</b>	<b>\$ 181,174</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>188,125</b>

## 2023 BUDGET

<b>Revenue:</b>	2022 BUDGET	2022 ACTUAL	2023 BUDGET
Memberships	135,000	123,420	135,000
Rebate (GST)			3,500
Registrations		100	
Friend of Farm Stewardship	10,000	10,750	15,000
<b>Total Revenue</b>	145,000	134,270	153,500
<b>Carry Over Surplus</b>		-6,951	
<b>Working Revenue</b>		127,319	
<b>Expenses:</b>			
Website Hosting / Maintenance	3,000	312	2,000
Advertising / Communications	5,000	0	7,000
Office	4,500	892	4,500
Bank, Audit, Legal Fees	1,250	1,067	1,500
Accountant	1,000	856	1,000
Travel / Accommodation / Meetings	5,000	6,680	10,000
Conventions / Meetings	5,000	0	6,000
Trade Show Fees	2,000	0	2,000
Memberships / Sponsorships	500	1,444	1,000
Professional Fees			
Executive Director (\$50/hr)	60,000	40,590	76,800
			3,840
Administrator (\$25/hr)	0	0	0
Summer Student (\$20/hr)	8,000		5,000
Professional Consultant	5,000	0	0
Research & Development	10,000	9,040	15,000
Board Honorariums	10,000	1,800	10,000
<b>Total Expenses for Year</b>	120,250	62,681	145,640
<b>Residue End of Year (JUNE 30)</b>		64,638	
<b>Current Balance DEC 12, 2022:</b>		57,345	

The 2023 SaskFSA Board of Directors will be Myles Thorpe (President), Ryan Maurer (Vice President), Blair Harris (Treasurer), Kyle Heggie, Dave Zerr, Joe Widdup, Harvey Guenther, Cody Real, Norm Hall, Cam Weibe, Neil Rathgeber and Tim Mitschke.

## THANK YOU

To all SaskFSA members for your continued support. Your partnership and membership is vital to continuing our advocacy efforts on behalf of agriculture in Saskatchewan!

And to all Friends of Farm Stewardship for your sponsorship towards drainage education and research. Awareness and field scale, farmer led data is critical to supporting policy development.

## A HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR FRIENDS OF FARM STEWARDSHIP!

For supporting SaskFSA education efforts around responsible drainage, the importance of drainage for business risk management and improving soil health!

Sponsorship is used for field research, information meetings, field tours and public awareness communications.

