



RC

RURAL COUNCILLOR

VOLUME 54 number 3
Fall 2021 ISSUE

PUBLISHED BY THE SASKATCHEWAN
ASSOCIATION OF RURAL MUNICIPALITIES

Publications Agreement #40062693

Agriculture and Environment

Responding to Negativity about Agriculture; Farmers and Ranchers Need More Support to Drive Economic Recovery; Severe Drought Major Concern for Saskatchewan Producers; Help Stop Aquatic Invasive Species; Informing Rural Land Access; Twine Recycling Taking Off in Saskatchewan; Is Saskatchewan Ready for Nuclear Power?

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Computer
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Killdeer Badlands, Grasslands National Park, Saskatchewan

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SARM

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our vision

By being the rural voice, SARM will effectively lead autonomous municipalities in creating a vibrant, diverse economy resulting in a strong, sustainable Saskatchewan.

our mission

SARM delivers timely, dependable programs and services to meet the needs of its members while influencing government policy and facilitating municipalities to work together to foster rural development and build strong, sustainable communities.



Minister's Message

By the Honourable David Marit
 Minister of Agriculture
 Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
 Crop Insurance Corporation

THE GOVERNMENT of Saskatchewan appreciates the importance of our agriculture sector and the economic activity it generates. Saskatchewan benefits from an excellent global reputation as a supply source thanks to the resiliency and hard work of our producers.

To effectively achieve a stable supply chain, we need to ensure Saskatchewan producers have the right supports to manage risk and feed our province, the country and the world. Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC) offers a comprehensive suite of business risk management programs to support our province's producers. Producers are encouraged to take advantage of these existing programs: Crop Insurance, AgriStability, AgriInvest and Livestock Price Insurance.

I recommend that producers consider contacting the specialists at any of our ministry's 10 regional offices across Saskatchewan. These specialists are available to provide information on alternative feeding strategies, pasture management, assistance with water testing or interpretation of feed and water test results. They can also help with pathfinding solutions, such as water pumping and moving equipment rentals.

The 2021 growing season has been extremely challenging, with minimal rainfall and extremely hot temperatures. We know this situation is already having an impact on the industry, our people and their communities. For grain farmers, yield potential and crop quality has been impacted in many regions. Our livestock sector is facing tremendous challenges sourcing feed, as well as challenges in securing access to water sources.

Agriculture is a vital part of our provincial economy, and we are taking steps to offer additional supports to producers through this extended period of drought conditions.

In August, we announced \$119 million in provincial support for livestock producers under the federal-provincial AgriRecovery program to help maintain the breeding stock. The program will provide a per head payment to female breeding animals, helping to offset costs of accessing feed and water. The direct support will allow producers to make decisions best suited for their opera-

tion. The intention of this program is to minimize herd reduction and dispersals. Producers do not have to be enrolled in existing business risk management programs to take part. The program is being administered by Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation.

In addition to the AgriRecovery response, we have taken a number of other concrete steps to support producers. These include:

- The maximum rebate for livestock producers under the Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program for dugouts, wells and pipelines for agricultural use is temporarily increased from \$50,000 to \$150,000, for the period April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022. The first \$50,000 will be based on a 50-50 cost-share, and the remaining \$100,000 will be on a 70-30 government-producer cost-share
- Federal and provincial agriculture ministers earlier this year made changes to AgriStability to eliminate the Reference Margin Limit (RML). Following changes to the RML, the deadline to enrol in AgriStability for the 2021 program year was extended from April 30 to June 30, 2021.
- The 2021 AgriStability interim benefit payment percentage is increased from 50 per cent to 75 per cent, so producers can access a larger portion of their final AgriStability benefit early.
- In response to the feed shortage this year, Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation doubled the Low Yield Appraisal threshold values for customers who salvage their cereal or pulse crops as feed.

I also recommend that producers consider contacting the specialists at any of our ministry's 10 regional offices across Saskatchewan. These specialists are available to provide information on alternative feeding strategies, pasture management, assistance with water testing or interpretation of feed and water test results. They can also help with pathfinding solutions, such as water pumping and moving equipment rentals.

I know there's a lot of uncertainty in the ag sector this year because of the drought conditions. The Farm Stress Line is available for support. The Farm Stress Line is a confidential service, available 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week, toll-free at 1-800-667-4442. Calls are completely confidential and are answered by Mobile Crisis Services Regina, a non-profit, community-based agency. There is no call display.

We have an incredibly strong, innovative and adaptable agricultural sector. The Government of Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation and the ministry are here to support Saskatchewan producers during this challenging time.



Minister's Message

By the Honourable Warren Kaeding
Minister of Environment

FOR MORE THAN A CENTURY, rural Saskatchewan has been the engine that drives the provincial economy. Over that same period, SARM has been the group that has kept that engine running.

The Government of Saskatchewan appreciates SARM's long and proud history of championing rural Saskatchewan and representing rural municipal governments. We also value the efforts of all SARM members, as you advocate for and represent the needs of your rural municipalities in the face of a changing rural landscape.

As we know, this is a challenging year for the agriculture industry and rural Saskatchewan. Compounding the situation has been the global COVID-19 pandemic, which dramatically changed the way we lived and worked over the past year and a half. However, people in rural Saskatchewan are resilient and have a history of overcoming challenges.

The Government of Saskatchewan appreciates SARM's long and proud history of championing rural Saskatchewan and representing rural municipal governments. We also value the efforts of all SARM members, as you advocate for and represent the needs of your rural municipalities in the face of a changing rural landscape.

As always, our government will be there to assist you on the path to recovery. In the Ministry of Environment, we continue to work on many initiatives to help sustain and protect our shared environment. In particular, I would like to highlight three projects we have underway that will benefit people throughout the province, but may be of particular interest to those in rural Saskatchewan:

Solid Waste Management Strategy – Since the strategy was launched in January 2020, we continue to develop new initiatives and have made progress on a number of fronts. Of note is the reduction in the number of operating municipal landfills in the province from 500 in 2015 to 139 in 2021. The closure and decommissioning of these landfills has enabled the development of regional landfills to share costs, create efficiencies for municipalities and better protect the environment.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) – In recent years, the Clean+Drain+Dry campaign has become synonymous with AIS prevention in the province. In addition to this popular program, the ministry has the Adult Invasive Mussel Monitoring (AIMM) Program in place to detect unwanted aquatic invasive mussels.

You can also learn more about the “don't let it loose” campaign later in this magazine.

Land Use Consent – Work continues on changes to *The Trespass to Property Act*, which will change provincial trespass legislation to place the onus on the individual seeking access to private property to obtain the consent of the land owner or occupier prior to entry. Along with changes to the Act, SaskLander continues work on an app that will allow recreational users, including hunters, to ask property owners for permission to access their land.

These projects and the many other initiatives that are underway are a sign of the Government of Saskatchewan's commitment to the environment and for keeping rural Saskatchewan strong.

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Severe Drought a Major Concern for Producers

By Ray Orb
SARM President

GREETINGS to everyone;

By the time you read this article, much of this year's harvest will have been completed. At the time this article was written, the early estimates on hay and forage yields were well below normal and many native pastures have already dried up under the siege of this summer's relentless heat. The crop yields have widely varied, from average crops in only a few areas, to below average or severely below average, throughout a large area of Saskatchewan's grain belt.

It's difficult to understate the long-term effects of this year's severe drought on crop land, but the livestock sector has been even more adversely affected. Some producers have been reducing their cattle herds by selling yearlings and spring calves earlier, and unfortunately, reducing their cow herd which is the foundation of the cow-calf operation.

To many farmers, this is truly a disaster, and it should surely raise a red flag of concern for the province. During a drought, grain farmers are still left with their farmland, but cow-calf producers may not be left with a cow herd, which is their livelihood.

It's difficult to understate the long-term effects of this year's severe drought on crop land, but the livestock sector has been even more adversely affected. Some producers have been reducing their cattle herds by selling yearlings and spring calves earlier, and unfortunately, reducing their cow herd which is the foundation of the cow-calf operation.

The provincial and federal governments need to do more to ensure the effectiveness of the *Farm Safety Net* programs in order to maintain the viability of the farm and ranch operations. Funding safety net programs, like *AgriStability* to at least 80 per cent, would be the starting point. However, that alone may not be enough if we are facing a longer-term drought.

We need to consider other options to grow our provincial economy, such as doing more value-adding in both the crop and livestock sectors. The recent announcement of the \$4 billion irrigation expansion along Lake Diefenbaker was welcome news for SARM, as was the announcement of more funding to expand irrigation in other areas of the province.

Saskatchewan desperately needs more grain and feed processing, but it also needs more livestock production in the

form of Intensive Livestock Operations (ILO) to foster feedlot, and inevitably, meat processing.

Rural municipalities are being criticized by some within the livestock industry in that RMs are part of the problem in the approval process, particularly with the Discretionary Use policy. SARM maintains that RMs are autonomous, and in many ways the RMs must have the right to decide which developments are to be located within their boundaries.

In 2006, SARM embarked on an exercise to discover whether RMs were a barrier to development with the *Clearing the Path* initiative. It was discovered that while RMs weren't a direct barrier to ILO development, there could be some things done to appease RMs in the development and permit processes.

One of those initiatives was a one-stop permitting process for trucking operations done through SGI. This would streamline the trucking route approval process for commercial truckers, and effectively make it easier for RMs to monitor the routes online. Unfortunately, this has yet to be done and is still an unresolved issue for SARM and the industry.

Another point of contention is the lack of consistent maximum road maintenance rates (which the province has recently addressed but has not put into effect). The new rates are expected to take effect in January 2022 within the Regional Area Transportation Planning Areas, something that SARM is supportive of.

This brings me back to the Discretionary Use policy. SARM does not want membership to lose this option and so will be approaching it from a different angle. We plan to survey our members and share the knowledge of the benefits of ILOs and will also provide examples of those RMs that have seen positive effects from existing ILOs within their boundaries. Next, we will ask which RMs feel they could foster new ILO developments and look at the option of pre-approved ILO corridors around the province (the same concept of pre-approved energy corridors being looked at on a federal basis).

In short, we need to know if your RM is ILO friendly and we need to know it sooner rather than later for the livestock industry to be better established in Saskatchewan. This is a way that we can help the province meet the expectations to grow our economy and to do it with resources that we already have at our disposal.

This period of drought may further delay ILO development, but it also may be the precise time to look at all the options.

In the meantime, I hope you enjoyed your summer, and let's hope for some meaningful precipitation that will raise everyone's expectations for next year.



Let's Continue to be **In this Together**

By Jay Meyer
SARM Executive Director

I HAVE BEEN fortunate to spend my entire career working on behalf of rural Saskatchewan, whether that was in the field of economic development, managing a municipality or the Executive Director of SARM. Throughout this time, rural Saskatchewan and its people have always been there for me; have always had my back. There was always someone to help guide me through tough times. This perseverance and desire to help is what the people of rural Saskatchewan are made of.

If there is one thing rural Saskatchewan can boast about, it is how rural people stick together in tough times.

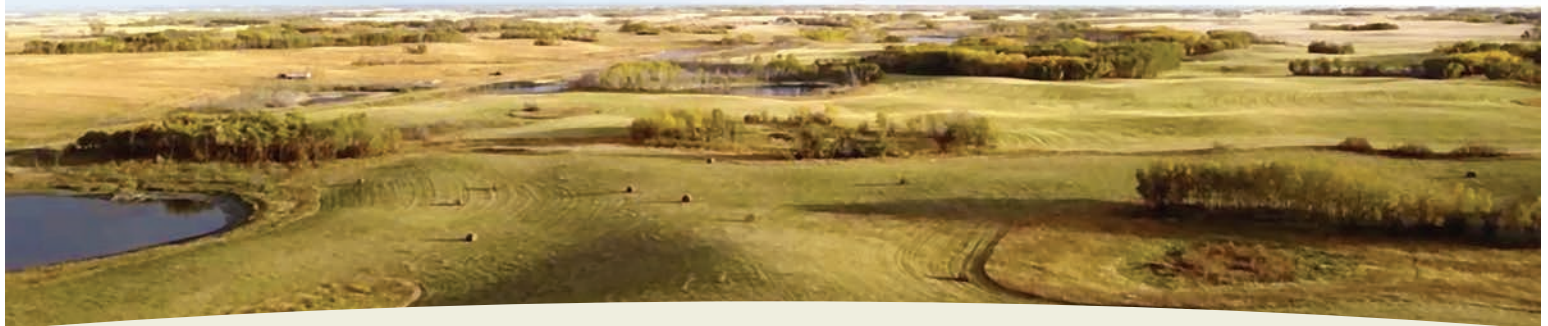
The agriculture sector is in a battle right now; a battle many producers may have not been hit with the likes of since the eighties or have yet to experience. These individuals chose a

lifestyle that could very well have been the riskiest decision of their lives. Whether they decided to enter the industry for the first time, or carry on a generational business, they did so to ensure we have food on our plates and BBQs to enjoy. These individuals have invested so much in our province and rely so much on elements beyond their control.

If there is one thing rural Saskatchewan can boast about, it is how rural people stick together in tough times. So, during these challenging times, get out there and support our producers. We all know a farmer or rancher. I ask that you pick up the phone or extend your hand and thank them for what they do because without them, none of us would have what we have. Whether urban or rural, we are all impacted by the hard work of our farmers and ranchers. Let us remember everything that the agriculture industry contributes to our local and provincial economies. And let us not forget, we are all in this together!

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– CHRIS AND JENNA HUBICK, STRASBOURG AREA RANCHERS AND DUC PROGRAM PARTNERS



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Species at Risk

By Larry Grant
SARM Director, Division 3

GOOD DAY LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

As I write this, we are in an unprecedented heat wave.

I would like to write a few words about species at risk in Saskatchewan, Canada, and North America. In Southwest Saskatchewan we have many species at risk, more so than anywhere in the province. Our ranchers and farmers are doing an excellent job of preserving habitat for these species. Southwest Saskatchewan has a large area of grassland available for species at risk, both tame grass and native grass. Some species at risk tend to thrive in certain areas and not do so well in others. Also, they tend to do better in some years and not so good in others.

I would like to thank the land managers and owners for their continued efforts to provide habitat for all wildlife, at risk or not. You are the reason that all of this wildlife has an excellent home to live and thrive in.

I have noticed that Leopard Frogs are one of these species. One year there will be lots of them, and then the next year you will hardly see any. You must look at species at risk over a long-term timeframe as the population will experience ebbs and flows as years go by.

I would like to take a bit of time to focus on two species at risk that are in my area. One is the Greater Sage-Grouse. Their area of habitation is largely in the United States, with only a small finger coming into Canada. Their numbers are down, according to counts, in the last number of years. They are very elusive and hard to count. Parks Canada and several ranches have Greater Sage-Grouse. They are doing an excellent job of providing habitat for these birds. One area of concern is predation. Forty or so years ago there were no racoons in our area; now we have many. Some people who live in our area trap and catch numerous racoons every year. Racoons will probably not kill Greater Sage-Grouse but will certainly take many of their eggs. Also, the Swift Fox was very successfully reintroduced right into the heart of the Greater Sage-Grouse area of habitation.



One other species at risk that I would like to talk about is the Black-Tailed Prairie Dog. Like the Greater Sage-Grouse, the Black-Tailed Prairie Dog habitat is only a finger that reaches into a very small portion of Canada. Black-Tailed Prairie Dogs run from Canada all the way through the United States and into Mexico. They are a very destructive rodent that destroys all habitat in areas where they reside. Their numbers in Canada are increasing exponentially and spreading rapidly. They are moving from Parks Canada land into neighbouring ranches. There is no grass or other vegetation to be had in areas where they choose to live. Ranchers are concerned about loss of grass and possibly their livelihood. There is no habitat for other wildlife species within Black-Tailed Prairie Dog colonies. The Black-Tailed Prairie Dog is a species at risk, but it is only a pest that is very destructive.

These are only two of the many species at risk that reside in southwest Saskatchewan.

I would like to thank the land managers and owners for their continued efforts to provide habitat for all wildlife, at risk or not. You are the reason that all of this wildlife has an excellent home to live and thrive in.



Is Saskatchewan Ready for Nuclear Power?

By Judy Harwood

SARM Director, Division 5

RECENTLY, as SARM Director for Division 5, I was invited to join a webinar sponsored by SaskPower called *Planning a Sustainable Power Future: The Potential Role of Nuclear Power from SMRs*. I would like to share the information that I found insightful.

Nuclear power could very well be Saskatchewan's future; are we ready and willing to accept it?

SaskPower stated, "we will explore the potential role of nuclear power from small modular reactors (SMRs) in Saskatchewan's power mix, as we work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the grid, there are many power sources being considered as Saskatchewan transitions from conventional coal." SaskPower also stated they are on track to reduce their greenhouse gases by at least 50 percent below 2005 levels by 2030.

SaskPower's current power options:

- Natural Gas (including co-generation)
- Utility-scale wind and solar
- Hydro from Manitoba
- Geothermal
- Biomass
- Carbon capture and storage

SaskPower's potential power options after 2030:

- Nuclear power from SMRs
- Provincial hydro: 10 years to develop
- Strengthening regional power lines
- Renewables + storage: promising, but still uneconomic
- Hydrogen: emerging technology

What about nuclear power? Is it safe? What about radioactivity and storage of used fuel?

There are three levels of radioactivity: Low (worker clothing), Intermediate (reactor components), and High (used fuel). The Nuclear Waste Management Organization is responsible for implementing Canada's plan for safe, long-term management of used nuclear fuel and waste.

Long-term Benefits of SMRs

A Conference Board of Canada study states that SMRs could generate \$1.6 billion in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for Saskatchewan between 2021-2032, and approximately \$8.8 billion over the 85-year life of an SMR fleet. It could also:

- Offset economic losses from the federal phase out of conventional coal
- Reduce reliance on electricity from natural gas and the risk of carbon pricing
- Support aggressive deployment of wind/solar

There are currently six nuclear power plants in Canada with a combined capacity of 14,071 megawatts.

Key Facts

- Canada is the second largest producer and fourth largest exporter of uranium in the world
- Nuclear power generation accounted for approximately 15 percent of Canada's electricity in 2018
- Nuclear power is a source of energy that does not emit greenhouse gases
- In 2019, 75 percent of Canada's uranium production was exported for use in nuclear power throughout the world
- Canada has developed a unique nuclear reactor technology called CANDU; there are currently 18 CANDU reactors in Ontario, one in New Brunswick, and 10 in operation outside of Canada
- Under Canada's nuclear non-proliferation policy, Canadian uranium can be used only for peaceful purposes

At the 2018 SARM Midterm Convention, rural municipalities passed a resolution to support energy infrastructure projects that have a positive effect on rural communities and the economy, and which create and support jobs in Saskatchewan. We should at least consider nuclear power as a way to deal with our climate challenge. Nuclear power could very well be Saskatchewan's future; are we ready and willing to accept it?

2021 RMAA Convention Report



By **Rose Zimmer** Executive Director Rural Municipal Administrators Association of Saskatchewan (RMAA)

ACTING ON THE WISHES of the majority of members, the RMAA board proceeded to compile a business focused agenda for a one day virtual convention. When faced with having to cancel the 2019 convention, the board passed an Extraordinary Circumstances Bylaw that allowed for an alternate method of holding an annual meeting and conducting electronic elections and other special provisions. Members had the opportunity to ratify the bylaw and vote on the audited financial statements.

A total of 320 administrators, associates and guests logged into the first virtual Convention of the RMAA. The theme, *Growing Through Virtuality*, was an appropriate choice given the challenges presented by the pandemic. Administrators and councils have done an admirable job of embracing technology and working through obstacles to serve their communities to the best of their ability. This resilience and adaptability is key for a sustainable community.

We provided a platform that enabled our association to conduct important business and provide educational sessions for our members. Two of the most popular sessions were by Employment Standards and Occupation Health & Safety (OH&S). The Employment Standards presentation provided information about labour standards legislation, compliance and processes, while the OH&S presentation dealt with harassment legislation and general safety. The presentations were well received and provided a plethora of information to be shared with councils. Members also heard from the Minister of Government Relations, the Honourable Don McMorris, SARM President Ray Orb, Target Sector Support Advisor

Don McCallum, and CEO of Saskatchewan Municipal Hail Rodney Schoettler, and they were treated to a special presentation on managing stress by Corrine Allen of Evolving Coaching Services.

While I am proud of how the association came together to meet in this manner, I feel the very best benefit to the growth of our administrative leaders, and to the municipalities they serve, is to meet in person. So much gets lost, misinterpreted, etc. when we take away the personal interactions. Professional development and continuous learning is so important for building a strong municipality. Change is ongoing, and it is important to keep on top of the changes that affect your municipalities. I am very thankful that councils encourage and provide opportunities for their administrators to attend as many pertinent workshops as possible; this is a direct benefit to the municipality and to the public served.

The new RMAA Executive for 2021-2022 is:

President	Guy Lagrandeur, Rouleau
Vice-President	Sheila Keisig, Balcarres
Immediate Past President	Wendy Gowda, LeRoy
Executive-Director	Rose Zimmer, Wolseley
Division 1 Director	Cheryl Barret, Moosomin
Division 2 Director	Cathy Ripplinger, Pense
Division 3 Director	Raylene Packet, Webb
Division 4 Director	Barry Hvidston, Canora
Division 5 Director	R. Doran Scott, Bradwell
Division 6 Director	Michelle Buechler, Paynton
Director Ex-Officio	Ray Orb, Cupar

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Value-added agriculture

Farming is an integral part of our provincial economy and our rural communities. The global population is estimated to reach nearly 10 billion people by the year 2050 – equating to an additional 80 million people each year from now until then. Saskatchewan has a rich agricultural tradition of helping to feed this growing world. It is uniquely well-positioned to do so – and is continually advancing its knowledge and capability in research, innovation and technology.

Saskatchewan will continue to prioritize developing trade relationships in the province's key markets for what it grows, processes and sells.

The Saskatchewan Growth Plan outlines an ambitious strategy for economic growth for the coming decade. Agriculture is a major part of this plan. Its goals, which place a priority on the diversification of our markets and the growth of our exports, are ambitious – and the province is on track to achieve them.

Canola is a big driver of agricultural growth. For example, Saskatchewan currently produces approximately 11 million metric tonnes of canola each year. As of 2020, Saskatchewan processes about four million metric tonnes of that canola, and is now poised to process even more. In a series of announcements this spring, several companies released plans that will substantially increase Saskatchewan's canola crush capacity. Richardson International's new investment will double the crush capacity at its Yorkton facility to 2.2 million metric tonnes of canola seed annually. As well, Cargill announced it will build a new plant in Regina that will have the capacity to crush one million metric tonnes annually. Viterra has also announced plans for a new canola crush facility in Regina which will create 2.5 million metric tonnes of capacity. Likewise, Ceres Global Ag released plans to build a new USD \$350 million integrated canola crush facility in North Gate,

with a capacity of 1.1 million metric tonnes. When these projects are completed in the next few years, Saskatchewan will well exceed its goal of processing 75 per cent of the canola grown in this province by 2030.

Another of the 2030 Growth Plan goals is to increase overall crop production in Saskatchewan to 45 million metric tonnes. In 2020, the province's total crop production was an estimated 39.1 million metric tonnes – and canola seed is anticipated to account for a significant amount of future additional production. The Canadian canola industry's strategic plan has a goal of 26 million metric tonnes of canola production in Canada by 2025 to meet the growing global market demand. Increasing the average yield of canola to 52 bushels per acre is supported by advancement in canola breeding programs and grower best management practices informed by the latest agronomy research. Increased processing capacity in Saskatchewan and across Canada is also complemented by infrastructure enhancements to export product out of the port of Vancouver.

Markets in Asia continue to be important for Saskatchewan's agri-food export growth. Earlier this year, the provincial government opened three trade offices in India, Japan and Singapore in addition to the office already in China. In May, an announcement was made to expand Saskatchewan's international presence with four new trade and investment offices in London, United Kingdom; Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam; Mexico City, Mexico; and, Dubai, United Arab Emirates. It's expected they will enable Saskatchewan to increase the value of its exports by 50 per cent, and help increase the number of international markets to which the province exports more than \$1 billion annually.

Saskatchewan will continue to prioritize developing trade relationships in the province's key markets for what it grows, processes and sells. Strengthening existing trade links is just as important as seeking new ones, and this work never ceases.



Help stop aquatic invasive species

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) are non-native animals or plants that can harm our native environment, economy and even human health when introduced to our provincial waterbodies. AIS can be spread in a number of ways, including water flowing between waterbodies, being transferred on watercraft and related equipment, and the discarding of live aquatic species.

Don't let it loose.

One of the most important things you can do to prevent the spread of AIS is to avoid the transfer of water, plants or other aquatic life between waterbodies.

Never release:

- Aquarium or water garden contents – Pet owners may be tempted to dump water, plants and aquatic pets that have become too large or difficult to care for into a local waterbody. If they survive, they may become invasive. They may also carry parasites or diseases that can impact local populations.
- Live fish – The release of any live fish into a waterbody outside of its natural habitat can be incredibly harmful to the released animal and local species
- Sportfish – It is illegal to transfer sportfish from one waterbody to another without a permit.

The release of any non-native aquatic species into a body of water, including lakes, rivers, creeks, ponds, ditches and storm sewers is illegal and can cause significant ecological and economic damage.

Report invasive species.

While many jurisdictions closely monitor terrestrial invasive species, invasive aquatic species may be overlooked. That's why we need the public to keep an eye out for AIS.

Early detection is key to preventing the spread of invasive species and can help ensure they are found and contained before becoming widely established. Quick action can reduce the impact on our native environment, reduce the need for costly interventions and minimize the impact on human health.

Your help provides us with information on where and how to respond. If you suspect you have found an aquatic invasive species, please call the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment Turn In Poachers & Polluters (TIPP) line at 1-800-667-7561 or report online at saskatchewan.ca/tipp.



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What does Beef 4-H look like?

Benefits of showing cattle through 4-H Saskatchewan

By Brooklyn Trask 4-H Saskatchewan

THERE IS A quote out there that goes along the lines of “You do not know teamwork until your partner is a 1,500-pound animal!” I was “forcibly” joined at the age of nine by my 4-H alumni parents. I was living and going to school in Saskatoon, and my only connection to the farm was my grandparents. My parents knew that 4-H would be a great opportunity as they experienced it growing up, too. They signed me up in the club they always wanted to be a part of – Saskatoon 4-H Beef Club.

4-H has taught me many life skills and has framed me into the person I am and love today.

I attended my first general meeting and was worried I would not fit in as I was only used to the city environment and helping grandpa move his cows occasionally. The 50 plus members of the club (at the time) welcomed me with open arms and were excited for a new family to join. It was only uphill from that point on.

My first year was a year of eye-openers. I was lucky to have a grandpa willing to show me the ropes of everything to do with showing cattle. I spent every weekend at the farm from about April to Regional Show in July. We had monthly meetings at Floral Hall (we still do today); we then split into our age groups to have a project meeting and often followed the meetings with freshly baked goodies! As a junior member – that was clearly the best part. The year runs from October to early July. Every year we would have a few special events, such as places like Saskatoon Livestock Sales, Hunter’s Bowling Alley or tour a local butcher shop or other fun excursions.

After a few years of settling into a routine, I found my stride in becoming passionate and dedicated to the program. Every year the club elects numerous members to sit on the executive. I started with



Brooklyn Trask and her 2020-2021 4-H steer, Moe.

the district meeting representative and moved my way through as vice president, president, and currently as acting treasurer. Not every member chooses to do this – each role is nominated and voted on every year. Most clubs allow a member to do one role for a maximum of two years to allow other members to step up and get involved.

The beef club itself is an exciting club to be a part of. Every year you purchase a calf and learn to feed, wash, clip, train, and so much more before the first animal meeting, typically in April or May. It can get repetitive, but all it takes is that one year you leave everything until June, and then you regret not working on your animal, and you never do it again... been there and done that!

Don’t have a farm to raise an animal on? No problem. Many families are more than willing to add another steer or heifer to their 4-H pen. I even had a steer

at a member’s farm for a few years as our family farm was too far away to have consistent feeding. I have one more year in 4-H as a member, and I plan to take full advantage of it as I am now a member delegate sitting on the 4-H Saskatchewan Board of Directors.

4-H has taught me many life skills and has framed me into the person I am and love today. I absolutely cannot wait to get back into a normal routine and have in-person meetings and events this fall. I truly hope more people investigate this rewarding program for themselves or their child(ren).

Have questions or want to find the closest club to you? Contact the 4-H office today, and they can connect you with your local club at 306-933-7727.



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Report online at www.saskatchewan.ca/tipp

Your SaskTIP call recently led to the discovery of 12 deer left to waste, and \$15,000 in fines!

On January 7th, 2021, Melfort conservation officers received a TIP call regarding a deer that was found dead in a laneway. The investigation led to the discovery of 12 dead White-tailed deer on a rural property that had been shot and left to waste. An interview with the land owner revealed that he had killed the deer because they were causing damage to his garden.

If not for the caller reporting the dead animal, this violation would have continued and its possible the responsible person never caught.





Responding to Negativity about Agriculture

By Clinton Monchuk Food & Farm Care Saskatchewan

BEING PART of SARM means you hold a strong value for agriculture. Personally, as a ratepayer in four different rural municipalities, my family holds a sense of pride in the food we grow. Our family farm is not dissimilar from others who farm and ranch in this great province. However, this pride can sometimes get in the way of meaningful engagement with consumers. We will periodically see differing opinions around the methods that we use to grow food, some of which are very negative. As with any difficult situation, it's best to de-escalate and respond with understanding and transparency wherever possible, rather than lashing out.

First response sets the tone

Take a few extra deep breaths. This will minimize the impulse of a knee-jerk emotional response. Seeing something negative about what we hold near and dear to our livelihood often provokes anger. By taking a few extra moments to calm yourself before you hit enter or open your mouth will set a better tone for any response.

Consider the source

Put yourself in the perspective of the person sharing the negative information. If you know this individual or group of individuals is from an anti-agriculture group. . . **DO NOT ENGAGE!** It is 100 per cent not worth getting into a food fight. No one wins. No minds will be changed, but your anger may get the best of you and you'll lose sleep. Mental health is important; there is no need to add extra stress.

If there is a genuine concern for food production in the comment, please engage. In Canada, less than three per cent of the population has a direct tie to a farm or ranch, so you may be the only person linked to food production this individual has ever interacted with. Realize their background information is limited around agriculture, so proceed slowly and explain the reasons why you do certain things.

Connect on values

There are a significant number of shared values that all humans have. Personally, I love to connect with others on family values as I've always said that family comes first in my life. By using this shared value, I can connect on the fact that our family consumes the products we produce on our farm. Someone without any farming experience can value that they wouldn't harm their own children, so they can relate to the safety I value in the food I produce and eat.

Personal examples

When you relate what you're doing back to your own family farm, engagement is higher and trust grows. Picking weeds over thousands of football fields (the approximate size of an acre of land) isn't feasible on a large scale if we want to feed a growing population. This is why we use herbicides. This may resonate with those who have gardens, as they will understand how weeds appear and need to be dealt with.



Photos (L-R): A milking demonstration at a local dairy farm; 2015 Regina Farm Tour of Craven Riverside Gardens in the Qu'Appelle Valley; Clinton Monchuk on his family farm; and the 2015 Saskatoon Farm Tour of Grasslake Farms' wheat and canola operation. Photo credits: Farm & Food Care Saskatchewan. Note: all photos were taken before the COVID-19 pandemic.



Show you care

I've never met a farmer or rancher who didn't care about their land or animals. Having an open, honest and transparent conversation about what you do and why will amplify your level of care for food production. Also, don't forget the golden rule when it comes to care: treat others how you'd like to be treated. Let's try to be more gracious to each other.

Further support

For those who want to delve deeper into this subject, Farm & Food Care Saskatchewan has developed a workshop called "Speak-Up Training" to help people communicate about food and farming. This workshop can be done individually online or in-person in a group setting. Both will increase your confidence in speaking with consumers about what you do on your farm or ranch.

Encourage your RM to become a member

At Farm & Food Care Saskatchewan, our mission is to connect the public to food and farming and we do this through engagement, programs and industry support. The success of our organization depends on partnerships with grassroots groups, including RMs. I would encourage you to speak with your RM council about becoming a member of Farm & Food Care Saskatchewan. For more information on membership or our programs, visit www.farmfoodcaresk.org.



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Farmers and ranchers need more support to drive **CANADA'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY**

Submitted by the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan

EFFECTIVE AGRICULTURAL POLICIES are critical to the success of Saskatchewan's agricultural sector and essential for the country's economic recovery as farmers and ranchers are setting new export records that significantly contribute to Canada's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). In Canada, agriculture is a shared jurisdiction between federal and provincial governments, and many agricultural policies are set out in five-year framework agreements between both levels of government.

The current Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) will expire in 2023, and consultations are now underway on the Next Policy Framework (NPF). These consultations are an opportunity to renew and recreate the agricultural programs, so the supports more fully meet the needs of farmers and ranchers in Saskatchewan.

Despite input from farm organizations, Business Risk Management (BRM) programs were not reassessed during the negotiations for the CAP agreement in 2016. Since then, Canadian producers have faced significant obstacles that demonstrate shortcomings with the current programs. The Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS) doesn't want farmers to go another five years without adequate programs that address these challenges.

Maintaining international trade access has become a major risk for producers. In 2017, India imposed tariffs on Canadian pulse exports, which reduced prices. The Indian tariffs were followed by an international trade dispute with China that resulted in restricted access for Canadian canola exports. Italy, Saudi Arabia, and Vietnam have also imposed additional restrictions on Canadian agricultural exports. These trade disputes are estimated to have cost Canadian farmers \$3.7 billion. Supply-chain disruptions within the last five years have also reduced income and created additional uncertainty. Saskatchewan producers are heavily reliant on rail transportation to access markets. In winter 2019-20, protesters blocked rail lines, leaving producers unable to sell their products and generate cash-flow to pay bills. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted additional supply-chain vulnerabilities. While the grains and oilseeds sectors generally fared well, the livestock sector experienced plant closures and reduced farmgate prices for cattle and other livestock.

Weather-related production risks are always a top concern for Saskatchewan producers. Since 2016, farmers and ranchers have experienced several years of wet weather during harvest, culminating in the 2019 "Harvest from Hell," when an unprecedented amount of the crop was left unharvested due to early snowfall and difficult harvest conditions. In 2021, Saskatchewan farmers and ranchers are facing a devastating drought impacting all parts of the agricultural industry. Governments are having to step in with additional supports because the current programs are insufficient.

Farmers and ranchers are investing more in their operations to increase production. These investments create additional

financial risks but generate significant economic returns for all Canadians.

Last year, Saskatchewan's farmers and ranchers set a record for agricultural exports, totalling \$16.9 billion. This new record came at a time when other sectors were slumping, but Saskatchewan's growing agricultural industry ensured the economy stayed afloat. As both levels of government are expecting agriculture to drive the country's economic recovery after the COVID-19 pandemic, it is critical that existing support programs are expanded and improved in response to the increasing risks that producers are facing in today's operating environment.

APAS has created a new NPF Task Force to provide feedback and advocate for changes within the new framework agreement. The Task Force will be made up of APAS Board members and producer representatives. This Task Force will ensure farmers and ranchers can provide feedback to the federal government on how to better support growth and sustainability in the agricultural sector.

Stay tuned to apas.ca for more details on the APAS NPF Task Force and ways to support and share their work.

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Agricultural Safety



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The Network is pleased to return to your school to deliver the program to reach new students!

FARM SAFETY EDUCATION DAY in your SCHOOLS?



WHAT IS A FARM SAFETY DISCOVERY DAYS?

DISCOVERY DAYS are a highly successful farm safety presentation delivered **in-person or virtually** by representatives from the *Agricultural Health and Safety Network* who travel directly to schools throughout Saskatchewan.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

The **DISCOVERY DAYS** are a **BENEFIT** to schools that operate within RMs that hold a membership with the *Agricultural Health and Safety Network*.

WHICH GRADES CAN PARTICIPATE:

DISCOVERY DAYS are tailored for children in grades 4-6 who are immersed in agriculture at home or in their community.

WHAT HAPPENS DURING A DISCOVERY DAY EVENT?

During each event, children are guided through fun and interactive farm activities. These activities include, but are not limited to, animal safety, chemical safety, hazard identification, grain safety, ATV, electrical safety and machinery safety.



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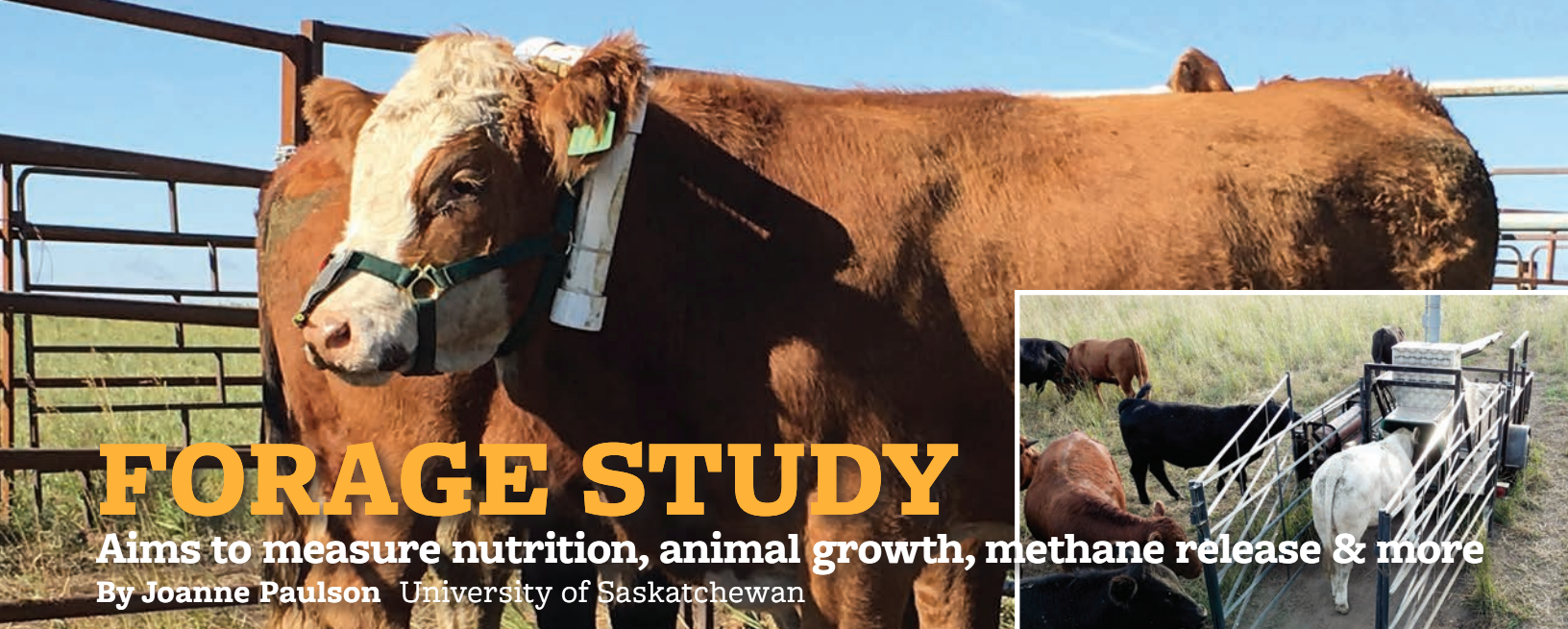
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FORAGE STUDY

Aims to measure nutrition, animal growth, methane release & more

By Joanne Paulson University of Saskatchewan



DR. BART LARDNER (PHD) has preliminary findings from his ongoing forage study: legumes in beef cattle forage bring benefits. Many of them.

Under his watchful eye, approximately 156 steers have been munching new forage varieties on 140 acres at the University of Saskatchewan's Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence, south of Clavet.

Lardner is a professor in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources' Department of Animal and Poultry Science, and he also serves as the Ministry of Agriculture Strategic Research Program Chair in Cow-Calf and Forage Systems. He's three years into a multi-year study known as "the effect of annual/perennial forage systems on several agricultural-related interfaces."

"We've put in a grass species with a legume species, and we feel legumes are really the solution to the long-term needs of sequestering carbon, capturing nitrogen, yet supplying that quality grazing," Lardner said in an interview.

It's not just a multi-year study, which began with the first plantings in 2018, but a multi-pronged study evaluating plant production, nutritive value, animal growth and performance, and more.

"We're also looking at the soil," he said. "We're hearing lots about fluctuating soil nutrient profiles, so we're measuring the nitrogen, the phosphorus, but more importantly, we're measuring the carbon."

"And, we're also looking at water dynamics. In 2021, with the lack of moisture, we can come out of this study and say okay, if you establish these forage systems on your farm or ranch in any eco-region of the province, then you can possibly mitigate the drought, the lack of rainfall, and still get adequate growth. And, that's

a really unique thing we've never done before."

His team includes graduate student Megan Wasden, who hails from a cow-calf operation north of Saskatoon and has been crucial to the project. They planted two perennial systems of grass and legume species.

Along with alfalfa, they've established a hybrid brome grass which can be cut as hay or serve as pasture, and with the legume sainfoin they've added the long-standing meadow brome grass.

The study is also evaluating annual forages, which are getting "a lot of buzz," to see whether they fit the mid-summer to fall grazing period. The two annual treatments are fall rye with berseem clover, an annual legume; and the second is a combination of brassicas with a pea and a barley.

Admittedly, there's a cost, but "input costs are set off by animal growth and performance by the reduced levels of methane by the potential capture of soil carbon and soil nutrients," he said. "That's why those two annuals are in there."

However, the annuals have struggled in 2021, "Whereas our perennials, especially our alfalfa-hybrid brome, have come out a winner. Alfalfa legume has a deep tap root and mines lower water tables, so it can mitigate the effects of drought."

Still, he recommends to producers, "Don't have all your eggs in one basket. Look at the smorgasbord of options you have out there whether you live in East-end, Saskatchewan, or Prince Albert or Assiniboia. Look at what's available. In my mind it's a blend of annual and perennial systems."

As all these parameters and systems are being studied, so is methane production,

as concerns rise over animal emissions in the climate change era. Lardner and his team are using two technologies to measure how much methane the steers are emitting.

In one system, the animals are fitted with a "fancy necklace" of halter and yoke. Sulfur hexafluoride gas is mixed with methane produced in the rumen and measured through nasal vapours with a tube.

The other system operates from a solar-powered trailer set up in the paddock.

"We set it up and lure the animals to come and have a snack. They come in and visit it, and while they're consuming the treat, we're capturing the nasal emissions. We're evaluating the two techniques for accuracy."

Clearly, since cattle weight is the most important outcome for producers, the team is also monitoring the animals, looking at average daily gain and calculating total beef production per acre or hectare.

The study is largely funded by checkoff through the Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association and also via the Alberta Beef Producers. Further funding has been provided by the Saskatchewan Agriculture Development Fund.

"Hopefully," Lardner said, "we can make a sound recommendation that the producers can look at establishing with adequate yield, quality and biomass with a suitable gain on animals, while at the same time capturing good levels of carbon and reducing methane output."

Photos (L-R): Lardner and his research team measure methane emissions from steers using a collar attached to a tube that sits over the nose. Photo: Lana Haight. A steer eats a treat while equipment in the trailer measures the animal's methane emissions. Photo: Tess Mills.

Twine recycling is taking off in Saskatchewan

By **Tammy Shields** Cleanfarms

WHEN IT COMES TO ag plastics recycling, Saskatchewan municipalities and producers have long been at the front of the pack. A permanent, government regulated grain bag recycling program has been in place since 2018. 45 collection sites, including many SARM members, are now part of a dedicated collection network that has helped Saskatchewan producers recycle close to 6,300 metric tonnes of grain bags in the last three years.

I am proud to be Cleanfarms' point person for Saskatchewan's grain bag recycling program. Believe it or not, I've been involved with grain bag recycling since 2010 when I helped set up one of the very first recycling micro-pilots in Milestone.

Recycling grain bags and twine reduces ag-plastic waste sent to landfill

One of the things that keeps me motivated is my day-to-day interaction with collection sites and producers. Everyone recognizes and appreciates the benefits that this program delivers in their communities and wants to do more to keep ag plastics out of landfills and avoid storage on farm.

Last fall, Cleanfarms tapped into this eagerness and launched a new pilot program to recycle baler twine from Saskatchewan farms. This new pilot is funded in part by the Government of Canada through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Canadian Agricultural Strategic Priorities Program (CASPP).

As a result, most of our grain bag collection sites are now helping producers recycle their used baler twine. (Net wrap or netting is excluded.) Collection sites provide producers with clear collection bags free of charge that are made from 30 per cent post consumer recycling content. Producers are asked to place loose twine in the clear collection bag and secure the bag before bringing it to a collection site. Twine is eventually shredded, pelletized and incorporated into a variety of new products like roofing materials and plant pots. More details about how to participate and a list of collection sites is available at www.cleanfarms.ca.

Recycling twine is a big 'win' on many fronts

This multi-year pilot project is important and timely for several reasons. More than ever, Canadians are looking for assurances that plastics are being kept out of the environment. This pilot, along with Cleanfarms' longstanding programs for empty pesticide and fertilizer jugs, as well as drums and totes, demonstrates the ag sector's commitment to managing plastics related to their products and packaging and recirculating them in the economy.

We also know that disposing of twine at a landfill is problematic because it twists around the wheels of equipment, which can be a costly fix. There is a lot of momentum in twine recycling outside of our province. In Alberta, province-wide pilots have been available since fall 2019 through the Alberta Ag-Plastic Recycle It! pilot program. To the east, a permanent, industry-



Tammy Shields among rolled grain bags awaiting shipment to recycling end markets.

funded grain bag and twine recycling program is rolling out in Manitoba. These two initiatives benefit Saskatchewan because it allows an organization like Cleanfarms, who is involved in these two initiatives, to develop economies of scale, build contractor capacity and transfer knowledge; all of which is important for successful recycling over the long-term.

As we move into the fall and winter months, I'm already thinking about potential partnerships with auction marts, feedlots and racetracks to enhance the twine pilots. I'm also doing some work with a local dairy farm to test out ways to collect silage and bale plastics.

Saskatchewan leading the way to added ag-sustainability

With all of the public interest surrounding plastics, it is reassuring to know that Saskatchewan is still leading the way in taking concrete actions to promote sustainability on farms across the province, thanks to hardworking producers who take the extra steps to make sure their ag plastics are recycled and the communities that support them.

On behalf of the Cleanfarms team, I can truly say that we are committed to doing our part and welcome your input into how we keep even more ag plastics out of landfills and farmyards and circulated back into the economy.

Tammy Shields is Cleanfarms' Western Region Program Coordinator. She can be reached at either 306-341-4460 or shieldst@cleanfarms.ca. Cleanfarms, Canada's leading agricultural stewardship organization, is best known for its empty container recycling program and unwanted pesticide and old livestock medication collection campaign. The organization has now launched 'Building a Zero-Plastic Waste Strategy for Agriculture', a multi year strategy aimed at increasing ag plastics recycling capacity across Canada.

SASKLANDER:

Informing Rural Land Access

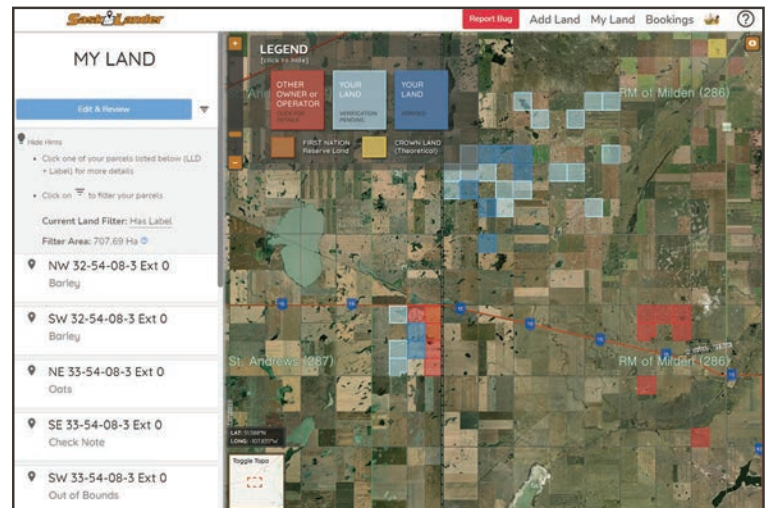
New online platform is now accepting early access sign-ups to help land owners and operators manage rural property access requests in Saskatchewan.

LAND ACCESS is a real issue for rural landowners. As winners of the 2019 Rural Property Access Challenge (SARM + Innovation Saskatchewan), the SaskLander team has been hard at work on a tech-based solution and are pleased to announce that Early Access has begun for the SaskLander platform. It's free for landowners to sign up right now, and we're offering a free year of recreational access service for early access participants!

SaskLander's mission is to empower rural landowners and operators with an easy-to-use online platform to manage land access. We will help operators facilitate recreational access on private property and support organizational-level access management with landowners as the focus. We aim to promote greater land stewardship and health and safety for all participants, while making rural land-based activities less difficult for all parties through informed access. Here are some of the features we provide:

- easily add your land to the platform in the 'Land Admin' role;
- we verify title holders to ensure accuracy and provide support for leased and crown land;
- set permissions for access types like hunting (including category, firearm type, etc), snowmobiling, hiking and more - for all your land at once or customized by parcel; and
- your personal information is kept private (including during access requests).

As another busy growing season gets underway, so too have the draws for some game - many are already thinking ahead to autumn, when baits appear and hunters seek access to land in



earnest. Maybe you're already fielding calls and walk-ups for other kinds of recreational access (ATV, hiking, etc). Everyone is keen to get outside this summer after being cooped up for so long. This summer, why not get in early on the benefits of SaskLander, the new made-in-Saskatchewan solution for land access!

For more information or to sign-up, visit sasklander.ca or contact us directly at info@sasklander.ca.

This summer, why not get in early on the benefits of SaskLander, the new made-in-Saskatchewan solution for land access!

SaskLander

INFORMING RURAL LAND ACCESS

Screen-Based Media

as Part of Saskatchewan's Economic Recovery



By Ken Alecxe SMPIA Executive Director

AS WE STRIVE to reopen our economy in the months ahead, screen media production can highly contribute to the Saskatchewan Growth Strategy. An export-driven industry, the creation of youth employment and spotlight on our “land of living skies” would be a big boost to the tourism industry, in both rural and urban communities. Recognizing the production of screen-based media takes a collaborative effort; the Saskatchewan Media Production Industry Association (SMPIA), a non-partisan organization, strives to operate in this same manner as a professional industry association.

Content in Demand



On a global basis, media has become an indispensable part of everyday life. Along with the launch of multiple new streaming platforms, the demand for online consumption has increased more than 60 per cent year over year. Although production slowed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, industry insiders anticipate the need to rapidly update inventories. This could be a tremendous business opportunity for Saskatchewan producers and our labour force.

Currently, two documentary series by local producers highlighting rural Saskatchewan living are examples of the possibilities an incentivized film and TV industry can bring. These programs, plus other Saskatchewan produced media shows, can be viewed on Citytv's cable channels or online (www.citytv.com).

- “Flat Out Food” into its second season, traces unique Saskatchewan ingredients from the field (or forest) to the plate. (www.facebook.com/flatoutfoodseries)
- “Dirtfarmers” Season 3 is a peek into the lives of two headstrong brothers as they fight insects, drought and equipment failures to keep their small family farm afloat. (www.angelenertainment.ca/dirtfarmers)

Growth Plan

The Government of Saskatchewan is pursuing a Growth Plan to build a stronger economy, communities and families this decade. We applaud this plan. In response to this roadmap, SMPIA is promoting actions to grow our population by keeping young people in Saskatchewan, increasing immigration, transforming our economy through innovation and technology, and increasing exports to international markets. It is entirely possible for Saskatchewan to reach for up to 1,500 annual full time equivalent new jobs over the next four years, plus direct spend by this industry to over 100 communities and their businesses across the entire province. SARM is a supporter of SMPIA's business case for a competitive incentive for the film industry to assist in luring business to rural Saskatchewan.

National and Provincial Case Studies

Screen-based productions is a \$9 billion industry in Canada, and it creates more jobs per million of production than virtually any other industry sector. An MNP study estimates the economic impacts in Saskatchewan from \$50 million in screen-based media production spending would result in: 781.5 FTE jobs.

A look to our neighbours shows that Saskatchewan has not kept pace with other provinces. In Alberta, *Heartland* is the longest running one-hour drama in Canadian television history. Over 14 seasons, this production has created over 4,500 jobs and supported 1,411 vendors.

Did you know that *Ghostbusters Afterlife*, a Hollywood budget full-length feature slated for release in 2021, originally looked to film in Saskatchewan? The production team opted for Alberta.

Manitoba saw over \$269 million spent in the 2018-19 fiscal year, creating over 2,000 jobs on 75 projects with about 40 per cent of filming done outside of their capital.

Total Economic Impacts

So where does the money go in screen-based media production? When a production sets up a shoot in any location, producers rely on local businesses for a variety of needs. A brief look at the supply chain indicates roughly 60 per cent would go to Saskatchewan labour, while 40 per cent go towards purchases of goods and services from suppliers all across the province.

With the strong demand for production facilities and locations, SMPIA has identified keen interest from multiple productions to film in Saskatchewan because of our unique landscape, skyline and history. The Soundstage, located in Regina, is among the largest and most comprehensive film and TV production facilities in Western Canada. It has huge potential to grow local talent and attract out-of-province projects all year long.

A Part of our Recovery

Attraction of substantial amounts of revenue has been realized in provinces across Canada that offer incentive programs. Implementation of a competitive incentive program is a key factor to allow Saskatchewan to attract investment and compete for a portion of the new demand anticipated post-COVID.

SMPIA welcomes continuous discussions with all levels of government and businesses as to how we can collectively attract investment to grow this industry.

Saskatchewan Industry	Total Employment (FTEs) per \$1 million of Economic Output
Screen-Based Media Production	15.62
Traveller Accommodation	11.64
Fishing, Hunting and Trapping	9.51
Truck Transportation	8.95
Animal Production (except aquaculture)	8.84
Forestry and Logging	7.56
Non-residential Building Construction	7.05
Breweries	6.51
Miscellaneous Wholesale Distributing	5.37
Telecommunications	4.48
Animal Food Manufacturing	4.26
Natural Gas Distribution	4.04
Conventional Oil and Gas Extraction	1.75

Boots on the Ground



By Colleen Fennig

SARM Division 6 Plant Health Officer



Photos (Left): Carri Zeller (weed inspector) helping Division 6 PHO install a grazing cage to protect newly released yellow toadflax weevils from being trampled before they can establish. (Right): Spotted wing drosophila trap set up in a cherry orchard. Photos by: Colleen Fennig, PHO.

WITHIN THE Pest Biosecurity Program (PBP) there are four different components. Many people are familiar with the Invasive Plant Control Program (IPCP), the Rat Control Program (RCP) and the Beaver Control Program (BCP) that rural municipalities (RMs) and First Nations Bands (FNBs) can access. What might not be fully understood or as well known is the Plant Health Network and the role that plant health officers (PHOs) play in other plant health biosecurity efforts. Biosecurity, in this case, refers to management practices that increase the resiliency of crops by minimizing threats. Management practices include using early detection and rapid response to identify and control emerging threats to plant biosecurity in the province. Threats include the spread of invasive weeds, crop diseases, insect pests and regulated pests such as rats, the Richardson ground squirrel and clubroot to name a few.

Since 2018, the role that the PHOs play in surveying for pests has gained momentum. In the past three years (2018-2020), PHOs have assisted the Ministry of Agriculture with over 1,000 crop/pest surveys and biosecurity measures. Biosecurity measures include releasing and monitoring for leafy spurge, scentless chamomile, yellow toadflax, hounds-tongue and nodding thistle biocontrol agents (insects). Crop disease surveys include crop diseases for field peas, canola, lentils, soybean, flax and chickpea. Insect pest surveys include the pea leaf weevil, lygus bug (in faba beans), diamondback moth, aster yellow leaf hopper, bertha army worm, swede midge and the spotted wing drosophila.

As an example of our biocontrol efforts, every year in early July PHOs aid weed inspectors, landowners and land managers who wish to collect leafy spurge beetles to release on their property. People can come to the collection site and are provided with a sweep net to collect beetles, packaging to contain the beetles, and information on how and where to

release the beetles. PHOs maintain a database of biocontrol release sites, and these sites are monitored for biocontrol survival, which in turn, can help landowners make informed management decisions.

PHOs have also played a major role in the provincial clubroot survey. In the first three years of the clubroot monitoring program, PHOs have surveyed over 2,500 fields for the presence of clubroot. The results have allowed the Ministry of Agriculture to create a distribution map, which is useful to gain a better understanding of where clubroot is within the province and allowing for better agronomic decisions to be made. In 2020, in addition to delivering free clubroot soil testing kits to RMs for ratepayers to use, PHOs also assisted landowners with testing the soil in their fields for clubroot. This service will also be available in 2021. Please contact your PHO for details.

Job evolution

PHOs are not limited to weeds, clubroot and crop diseases. As biosecurity threats or changes to regulations arise, PHOs work with the Ministry of Agriculture to tackle upcoming problems. In 2019, PHOs worked with orchard owners and the ministry to set up traps for the detection of spotted wing drosophila, an invasive fruit fly from Asia. In 2019 it was detected in traps but not in 2020. PHOs have also assisted the ministry with a strychnine study in 2019 and a strychnine survey in 2020.

Not all work and no play

Thanks to the inspiring article that came out in the last issue of the *Rural Councillor*, some of us took a day to visit attractions that we regularly pass on our way to do surveys. We were able to recharge by visiting a national historic site, eating a delicious meal made with local ingredients and splashing around in the North Saskatchewan River – without boots!

Saskatchewan RCMP

expands its tools for residents to stay informed and report crime

THE SASKATCHEWAN Crime Watch Advisory Network allows Saskatchewan residents to receive credible, accurate and timely crime prevention details from local RCMP detachments. When investigators become aware of an incident or crime, they can issue an advisory via the system, and local residents who have signed up will become aware of what happened in minutes!

RCMP detachments across the province have issued over 1,000 advisories. They are aimed at providing network members with timely crime prevention information related to their communities. Equipped with this information, citizens are in a better position to provide tips to their local RCMP detachment or municipal police service. So far the network has seen successes that can largely be attributed to members of the public, as their responses to advisories lead investigators to solve numerous crimes.

For example in March 2021, Morse Detachment received a report of a vehicle stolen from a local business. Officers issued an advisory asking citizens to keep an eye out for the vehicle. While police conducted patrols and neighbourhood inquiries to locate the vehicle, a local citizen contacted the detachment to advise about a vehicle matching the description. The citizen confirmed the vehicle's licence plate and guided officers to its location. One person was charged with

theft, and the vehicle was recovered and returned to the owner.

The Saskatchewan Crime Watch Advisory Network recently expanded to include additional police services and Livestock Services of Saskatchewan. Citizens can now receive crime prevention details from the RCMP, Estevan Police Service, Prince Albert Police Service, Weyburn Police Service, Moose Jaw Police Service, Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment - Conservation Officers, Dalmeny Police Service, Corman Park Police Service, and Wilton Police Service.

Livestock Services of Saskatchewan has also been added to the network to ensure producers are aware of issues specific to livestock thefts, missing livestock, and other investigations related to the industry.

Signing up is free and only takes a few minutes. You choose which agencies you want to receive notifications from and how you want to receive them – by text, email, phone call or the Everbridge mobile app! Visit www.saskcrimewatch.ca to sign up.

Saskatchewan RCMP introduces new way to report crime online

The Online Crime Reporting tool allows residents with a valid email address and internet connection to report select crimes online via computer or smartphone. When crime is reported to police, it provides a

clearer picture of the types and number of crimes occurring in an area. This can launch future police projects and initiatives. Crime statistics are also one of several components analyzed when determining officer deployments in RCMP detachments and units. Crime reported online is treated the same as crime reported in any other way.

The following crimes can be reported with the Online Crime Reporting tool:

- Damage/mischief to property <\$5,000
- Theft of bicycle <\$5,000
- Theft <\$5,000
- Theft from vehicle <\$5,000
- Lost or found property
- Damage/mischief to vehicle <\$5,000

Incidents must also meet the following conditions to be reported online:

- No witnesses or suspects;
- Item(s) lost or stolen must cost less than \$5,000;
- Vandalized property that will cost less than \$5,000 to repair; and
- There are no items involving personal identity, firearms, license plates or decals.

If an incident does not fall within the reportable incident types, your local RCMP detachment must be contacted. Check out the Online Crime Reporting tool at: <https://ocre-sielc.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/saskatchewan/en>.

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Q&A Getting to Know SARM's Newest Board Member

BOB MOULDING

SARM Division 1 Director

Q Why did you decide to be a SARM Director?

I am committed to rural Saskatchewan and am very interested in working with other leaders directing policy and the future of the organization.

Q What is your wish list for SARM over the next 5 years?

I'd like to have more communication with the individual RMs. I want to help the province grow and keep farming alive and prosperous.

Q What are some career lessons you've learned so far?

Communication is huge; so much is listening. We need to work together to find solutions to problems.

Q What positive things have come out of COVID for you?

A deeper appreciation for family and friends. I'm thankful for my lifestyle on the farm.

Q What were your biggest challenges during COVID?

I have family in the US, so not being able to see them and missing out on important milestones.



BOB MOULDING

BOB WAS ELECTED for the SARM Division 1 Director position at the June District Meeting. He has served rural Saskatchewan over the past 16 years in a variety of roles, including as a Councilor for both the RM of Abernethy and the RM of McLeod.

Bob and his wife Anne Marie have a small mixed farming operation just outside of Abernethy where they raise PB Charolais cattle and grain farm with their son. Bob has worked as an adjuster for Saskatchewan Crop Insurance for the last 15 years. He chaired Prairie Co-op for 15 years, chaired the Resolutions Committee for Federated Co-op, was a founding member of the Lower Qu'Appelle Watershed, is a former member of Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds and has a certificate in the Municipal Leadership Development Program.

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Member news



Rita Gauthier
RM of Moose Mountain No. 63
In Memoriam

Rita Gauthier passed away at Carlyle, SK on Monday, May 17, 2021, at the age of 94 years. Rita was the administrator for the RM of Moose Mountain No. 63 from October 1, 1973 to January 15, 1984. In her memory, the RM has made a donation to Friends of Moose Mountain Lodge, Carlyle, SK.

Ivan B. Ziegler
RM of Moose Mountain No. 63
In Memoriam

Ivan B. Ziegler passed away in May 2021. He was councillor for Division 1 with the RM of Moose Mountain No. 63 from 1973-78. In 1980, he was elected as reeve, and he held this position for two years until 1982.



Barry Raymond
RM of Auvergne No. 76
In Memoriam

Barry Alfred Raymond passed away on January 20, 2021, at the age of 80 years. Barry was born on February 5, 1940 in Ponteix, SK to Alfred and Bar-

bara (Paterson) Raymond. He attended Pinto River School in his early years and graduated from Aneroid School in 1957. He attended the School of Agriculture in Saskatoon for two years, obtaining his diploma. He then transferred into the College of Agriculture to obtain his Bachelor of Science Degree in Agriculture in 1963. He moved home to farm at Aneroid and married Gladys Geres of Bateman on August 1, 1964.

Barry is survived by his loving wife, Gladys of 56 years; son, Blair Raymond; daughter, Christina (Trent) Sayers; and grandchildren, Payton, Morgan and Colby Sayers.



Bruce Wedrick
RM of Arlington No. 79
In Memoriam

Bruce Wedrick, age 79 years of Shaunavon, died at his home on June 1, 2021.

Bruce served as President of Route 29 Snow Plow Club, joined the Shaunavon Elks, was on the board of Dollard Wheat Pool, and on the Shaunavon Co-op Board. He really enjoyed his time as Division 1 councillor for the RM of Arlington No. 79. In the 10 years that he served on council (1987-1996) he never missed a meeting. He enjoyed retirement and spending time on coffee row with his friends, and he treasured his children, Ricky and Donna, with much love for his wife, Pearl, and the memories of his son, Gaylin.



Walter Rusnak
RM of Insinger No. 275
In Memoriam

The family of the late Walter Rusnak announce his passing at the Theodore Health Centre on May 25, 2021, at the age of 83 years.

Walter was born on March 15, 1938, to Wasyl and Katie (Tomchyshen) Rusnak. He was born at home in the Mamornitz area. He received his education from Ascard School and Mamornitz School. He farmed with his parents, and on April 20, 1996, he married Barbara Steffenson.

Walter enjoyed the farm life, loved working on mechanical stuff, and he enjoyed welding for people. In addition to farming, he worked at Sturgis and Yorkton Livestock, as well as with Onslow's. He also served as a councillor within the RM of Insinger for 10 years, from January 2002 to October of 2011.

Cattle farming remained a passion for him and was still his main source of income. In addition to farming, he enjoyed playing cards (Troika), going to dances, and he especially loved a good polka.

He will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved him.



Henry Koob
RM of Viscount No. 341
In Memoriam

The death of Henry John Koob, beloved husband, father and grandfather occurred on June 8, 2021, at St. Paul's Hospital, Saskatoon. He was born in the Lucasville/Meacham area on November 26, 1931. He was the youngest of five children born to Rudolph and Clara, and he was raised on the family farm.

He continued farming on the family homestead after his parents' retirement. On July 21, 1959, Henry married Rose Nett of the Wilmont district. They spent many happy years together operating a mixed farm in the Meacham/Viscount area, and later when moving to Saskatoon to retire in 1996. Henry and Rose raised three children and took part in many community and church endeavors. Some of the organizations they were involved in include: the Lucasville and Meacham Community Clubs, the Meacham Curling Club, St. Edward's Parish Church, and 4-H. Henry also served as a councillor for the RM of Viscount, was a member of the St. Alphonse (Viscount) Chapter of the Knights of Columbus, and served on the local Co-op and Wheat Pool Boards.

Henry enjoyed down-hill skiing, coming to love the sport later in life and continuing to ski until he was 80 years old.

Wherever Henry went he was always able to strike up a conversation with anyone he met, and it was not long until he was counted as a friend by a multitude and variety of people. Always the family man, Henry continuously supported, encouraged and loved his family, and he had a special place in his heart for his eight grandchildren.

After Rose's death in 2007, Henry remained in their Saskatoon home, where he gained the reputation as being 'ambassador of the neighbourhood.' Neighbours and friends from near and far would gravitate to the house, or he would meet them for a coffee and a good old chat. In 2010, Henry became 'lucky in love' again when he married Dolores Williams. Henry and Dolores

were able to spend nearly 11 happy years of marriage together, and they continued to cultivate existing friendships, while creating new ones, especially when moving to Columbian Manor in December 2014. In May 2019, he was diagnosed with Myelodysplastic Syndrome, which later progressed into acute Leukemia. He was able to bravely battle against the disease for just over two years.



Allister Welch
RM of Viscount No. 341
In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Allister Welch on February 2, 2021. Allister was born on the family farm at Meacham on September 26, 1930 to James and Elva (nee Hennessey) Welch; he was their youngest child, having three older sisters. He attended the nearby York country school and completed his Grade 12 in Imperial. Allister then returned to the family farm, which he eventually took over.

He married Stephanie Pawluk of Watrous in 1954. In addition to farming, he was councillor for the RM of Viscount and served on the Lanigan Health Board. When he retired from farming, he worked for Municipal Hail Insurance.

Allister was very involved in his community, including the 4H club at Kildrum and the Meacham Curling Club. He was an active member of St. Edward's Parish in Meacham and a Knight of Columbus. He and Stephanie spent many years volunteering at the Craven Big Valley Jamboree as part of the Viscount Knights, frying burgers and being part of the only volunteer group serving breakfasts! They also become active members of the Saskatoon Old Timer's Association. They grew a big garden and spent time with family and friends, especially enjoying going out for coffee. Allister was fiercely independent, and after Stephanie passed away in 2012, he continued to live alone until failing health compelled him to move into Sunnyside Care Home. Allister will be remembered for his community spirit, work ethic, creative problem-solving skills, and mischievous sense of humour.



Douglas Allan Black
RM of Barrier Valley No. 397
In Memoriam

Douglas Allan Black passed away on June 12, 2021 at the age of 98. Allan was born in Wellwood, MB to Hugh and Mary Black the youngest of seven children. They moved to the Archerwill area in 1940.

Allan served as councillor for Division 1 of the RM of Barrier Valley from 1958-1968. Allan is survived by Alice, his wife of over 75 years, and their three sons, Lyle (Fay), Wayne (Betty), Keith (Denise) and their families. He had nine grandchildren and 13 grandchildren. He is also survived by brothers-in-law, Arnold (Jenny) Schweitzer and Erwin (Betty Schweitzer), and sisters-in-law, Josephine (Bert) Moors and Loraine (Orville) Burak, along with many nieces and nephews.



Murray MacPherson
RM of Silverwood No. 123
Retirement

Murray began his employment with the RM in 1978. In 1997 he was promoted to foreman, and he remained as foreman until his retirement on April 30, 2021.

Murray was an extremely knowledgeable and dedicated employee over his 43-year career. He was a great organizer and very talented and knowledgeable when it came to construction projects. He built many miles of roads over the years, and he took the lead on large culvert installations saving the RM from contracting out many big projects. He has been a great leader and role model, and he taught the remaining public works crew many valuable skills to carry on his legacy.

On July 22, the RM celebrated Murray's career with a retirement BBQ that

included council, employees, family and friends. Murray was presented with a plaque and travel voucher. The RM Council wishes Murray all the best in his retirement and hopes that him and his wife, Roxanne, can enjoy travelling more with their extra time. Congratulations on a remarkable career – your retirement has been more than earned and is very well deserved!



Terry Winter
RM of Gull Lake No. 139
Retirement

Terry Winter served as councillor for Division 2 from 1996-2016, as deputy reeve from 2001-2016, and reeve from 2016-2020. We want to thank Terry for his dedication to the RM and the com-

mittees he relentlessly served on, and we wish him the very best in his retirement. His wife, Marg, was forever by his side offering her support and ensuring he never missed a meeting!



Randy Vilness
RM of Marquis No. 191
Retirement

On behalf of the RM of Marquis, we want to recognize Randy for his 38 years of service as an operator/foreman and congratulate him on his retirement. Thank you for your years of hard work, dedication, knowledge and loyalty. From the ratepayers, council and staff, we wish you all the best in your retirement.



Ken Waldengerger
RM of Marquis No. 191
Retirement

Ken began working for the RM of Marquis in 1966 and became a member of council in 1988. In January 1989, he took on the role of reeve and held that position until his retirement in November 2020. We are grateful for his dedication to the RM, the knowledge he brought to the table and the many hours he spent serving the ratepayers.

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, we were unable to honor Ken with a retirement party. However, he was presented with a plaque and gift in the office by the administrator.

On behalf of the ratepayers, council and staff, we would like to thank Ken for his time and dedication, and we wish him all the best in his retirement.

A large green Merlo telehandler is shown in a barn, lifting a hay bale. The machine has "MERLO" and "TF35.7" written on it. The Merlo logo is in the top right corner.

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**Orville Minish
RM of Marriott No. 317
Retirement**

Orville served as councillor for Division 3 for the RM of Marriott No. 317 from 1996-2016 and as reeve from 2016-2020.

Pictured (L-R) is Reeve Wes Cairns presenting Orville with a clock and a Public Service Award certificate for his 24 years of service.

We thank Orville for his dedication to the RM, and we are grateful for the knowledge he provided throughout his service. Best wishes in your retirement.



**George Pilat
RM of Eye Hill No. 382
Retirement**

The RM of Eye Hill would like to thank our newly retired foreman of the Public Works Department George Pilat for his last nine years of service and congratulate him on his retirement. The RM reeve and council presented George with a personalized thank you gift. Pictured is George receiving his gift from Reeve Robert Brost in appreciation of his time spent in Eye Hill. George was previously employed with the RM of Senlac No.411.

George has dedicated many years to Municipal Public Service, and his knowledge, hard work, loyalty and dedication will be greatly missed. The RM of Eye Hill council and staff wish you all the best in your retirement.

The RM of Senlac No.411 would like to extend the following regarding George's retirement.

George started working for the RM of Senlac in June of 2003, and he worked for the municipality until April 2012. George started his career with the RM as a labourer, eventually advancing to the position of foreman.

The council, staff and ratepayers enjoyed George's easy-going personality, infectious laugh and his strong work ethics. The council, staff and ratepayers of the RM of Senlac wish him well as he enters his retirement years.



**Dennis Brown
RM of Barrier Valley No. 397
Retirement**

Dennis served as councillor for Division 4 for the RM of Barrier Valley from 2000-2021. Much of this time was dedicated to the RM and to the ratepayers over the years. On behalf of the ratepayers, council and employees, we wish to thank Dennis for his commitment and dedication to the municipality. We wish him the best in the future.



**Glen Steinhauer
RM of Marquis No. 191
Award**

The RM of Marquis would like to take this opportunity to thank Glen for his 24 years of service as a councillor. During his time on council, and still today, Glen served as a representative of the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS). Over the years, he made many friends and gave countless hours bettering our municipality.

On behalf of the ratepayers, council and staff at the RM, we would like to thank Glen for his time, dedication and hard work. You will be missed, and we wish you all the best in the years to come.



**David Schmidt
RM of Oakdale No. 320
Award**

The RM of Oakdale No. 320 would like to recognize David Schmidt. David served as Division 3 councillor from 1997-2020. David was presented with a Public Service Certificate and a clock by Reeve Darwin Whitfield in recognition of his 23 years of dedicated service. We are grateful for the knowledge that David provided throughout his service, and we wish him the best in the future.

**Member News
submission tips:**

- Photos: JPG, PNG, TIFF or PDF files at 300 dpi resolution. Check the file size. If it is <100 KB, it may not print properly.
- Try to send original photos not ones that have been scanned from printed documents or taken off of a website.
- Write-up length maximum: 250 words.
- Email submissions to sarm@sarm.ca.

Member News items can be submitted free of charge by RMs. Thank you for sharing your stories with us!

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