

# Minister's Message



I recently took part in the annual Agriculture Ministers' Meeting in Whistler, British Columbia along with other Provincial, Federal and Territorial Ministers of Agriculture. The meeting's main goal was to establish the basis for a new Agricultural Policy Framework (APF), to take effect in 2008. The result from this meeting is an initiative called Growing Forward.

Evolving from the current APF, Growing Forward will guide governments with a common vision – a vision of a profitable and innovative industry that seizes opportunities in responding to market demands and contributes to the health and well-being of Canadians.

The initiative has built on the ideas put forward by producers and other stakeholders through extensive country-wide consultations. Overall, it means building on past strengths, and developing the programs and services necessary to serve all members of the agricultural community.

From a production standpoint, there are now four new business risk management programs available that are more responsive, predictable and bankable. They include:

AgriInvest, replacing the coverage currently provided under the Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization (CAIS) program;

AgriStability, a margin-based program that provides income support when a producer experiences income losses of greater than 15 per cent;

AgriInsurance, includes existing crop insurance (now called production insurance) and other products and will expand to include other commodities; and

AgriRecovery, a disaster relief framework to provide rapid assistance when disasters hit producers, filling gaps not covered by existing government programming.

Overall, Saskatchewan is pleased with the general direction of the new APF, although some concerns still remain, especially with respect to the disaster relief framework.

The federal government has proposed that the disaster relief framework be funded on a 60:40 basis in the case of small disasters. This would continue the application of the unfair formula for national program funding, under which provinces like Saskatchewan – with large agriculture industries and small tax bases – bear a significantly higher per capita cost.

I am willing to work co-operatively with newly appointed Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz on these issues, and other challenges facing Saskatchewan's agriculture industry. I know the Minister believes in full federal funding for disaster assistance, a commitment he made at a candidates forum put on by APAS, the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan, during the last federal election. Mr. Ritz said "a separate stand alone disaster type program...it's got to be on an ad-hoc basis, we don't know what's coming out there...but 100 per cent funded by the federal government, no more 60:40...we will fund it 100 per cent."

Minister Ritz should understand that if agriculture programs do not work for Saskatchewan, they will not work for Canada.

After all, we represent more than 40 per cent of Canada's agriculture land base.

Our concerns must be addressed when provincial ministers meet with the federal government as scheduled in early September.

Sincerely,

Mark Wartman  
Minister, Agriculture and Food

For more information on Growing Forward, visit [www.agr.gc.ca/pol/grow-croiss/index\\_e.php](http://www.agr.gc.ca/pol/grow-croiss/index_e.php).

## FRCC lobby leads to freight savings



The Farmers' Rail Car Coalition (FRCC) is to be congratulated on the recent success of its lobby to reduce maintenance costs for railway hopper cars, says Agriculture and Food Minister Mark Wartman, vice-chair of the Saskatchewan Grain Car Corporation.

The lobby was part of the FRCC's effort to purchase the Government of Canada's hopper car fleet. While the FRCC met disappointment in that objective, the FRCC discovered during the development of its business plan that the railways were overcharging farmers for hopper car

maintenance and made a case to the federal government for a reduction in grain freight rates under the Grain Freight Rate Revenue Cap.

"This reduction in freight rates by \$67.5 million or \$2.41 per tonne will provide significant benefits to Western Canadian farmers long into the future," Wartman said. "The FRCC's work since 1995 and the Government of Saskatchewan's funding of over \$1 million to the FRCC have paid off for Saskatchewan producers. The FRCC deserves credit for bringing the issue of excessive maintenance costs to the public's attention and for leading the effort to have the federal government make immediate changes. I applaud the FRCC and all its member organizations."

The FRCC and its 17 member organizations represent over 90 per cent of the farmers in Western Canada.



# Forage declaration deadline is September 30

By Trilby Henderson  
Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation

With harvest underway for many forage producers, Crop Insurance reminds customers they have until September 30 to submit a Forage Declaration, reporting their 2007 production information.

As with all Crop Insurance yield-loss programs, your insured forage crop annual production is used to calculate claims and update your individual coverage. If you do not provide this information, your annual yield will be set equal to the production guarantee, which will reduce your future coverage. Customers who have second-cut production must also remember to contact Crop Insurance with this information. The corporation will be verifying a percentage of declarations, so it is important your declaration is accurate.

Each Crop Insurance customer received a yield declaration form via mail in July to report annual crop production (additional forms are available at [www.saskcropinsurance.com](http://www.saskcropinsurance.com) | [Forms](#)).

Forage Declarations may be submitted by mail, fax or phone. Customers may also complete their production information online via CropConnect. To enrol in this free service, call 1-800-422-1943, and be ready to offer your

current contract number and a valid e-mail address to a service representative.

If you think you may be in a claim position, you must contact Crop Insurance as soon as possible, so that an adjuster can assess your crop. The deadline to report a yield-loss claim is September 30. Your complete Forage Declaration must be submitted before you can register a claim.



### WORRIED ABOUT WILDLIFE DAMAGE?

If you notice wildlife damage to your crops, please contact Crop Insurance immediately. You may be eligible for payment under the Wildlife Damage Compensation Program. An adjuster must inspect the damage before you harvest the crop.

The Wildlife Damage Compensation Program is available to all producers. Although the program is administered by Crop Insurance, you do not have to be a Crop Insurance

customer to register a claim. To learn more about this program, please contact your local customer service office, or visit the Crop Insurance website - click on Our Programs | Core Coverage | Claims | Wildlife.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact Crop Insurance toll-free at 1-888-935-0000. Staff are available to answer any questions you may have; or
- Visit [www.saskcropinsurance.com](http://www.saskcropinsurance.com).



## WEBSITE FEATURE: MANAGEMENT SECTION

Lines of Business	
	Development
	Environment
	Food Safety
	Management
	Organics
	Production
	Research
	Statistics

On the left hand side of every page of the SAF website, at [www.agr.gov.sk.ca](http://www.agr.gov.sk.ca), you will find eight light-green link buttons under the heading Lines of Business. These links are the “gateways” to the different sections of our website. This month, we are going to look at what you can find under

Management on our website.

The Management section of the SAF website is divided into five categories:

### PROGRAMS

Under this link, you will find information on programs such as the Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization (CAIS) Program, SAF Pastures Program, Feed and Forage Listing Service, Livestock Loan Guarantee Program, as

- [Programs](#)
- [Business Arrangements](#)
- [Financial Planning](#)
- [Skills and Training](#)
- [Marketing](#)

well as links to Saskatchewan Crop Insurance.

### BUSINESS ARRANGEMENTS

The Business Arrangements section contains examples of different types of lease agreements, lease rate surveys and FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) related to leasing and contracting arrangements that producers encounter.

### FINANCIAL PLANNING

This category includes documents on costs of production in various areas, investment planning guides and links to programs specifically targeted to financial planning. You will also find the Crop Planning Guides here. The Crop Planning Guides provide information that can help estimate the income and cost of production for different crops on summerfallow and stubble in the

various soil zones in the province.

### SKILLS AND TRAINING

Under this heading, you will find documents related to farm employment, employment regulations and listings for human resource contacts. There is information and links to training programs such as the Canadian Agricultural Skills Service (CASS) Program and the Green Certificate Farm Training Program.

### MARKETING

The marketing category contains information about marketing cattle, feed, seed or vegetables. There is a list of special crop marketing companies, which includes their contact information along with the types of crops they handle. Information on the Canadian Wheat Board can be found in this category, along with an informational document on “How to Understand the Basis.”

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Email [webmaster@agr.gov.sk.ca](mailto:webmaster@agr.gov.sk.ca).

