

2016 ENDS & MOVING FORWARD IN 2017

SASKATCHEWAN FARM STEWARDSHIP ASSOCIATION

THANK-YOU to all members who submitted their 2017 membership fees and **WELCOME** to all new SaskFSA members! SaskFSA membership currently represents ~1,000,000 acres!

REMINDER: Membership fees were due Dec 31st. Please remit payment by cheque or WE NOW ACCEPT VISA.

DECEMBER 2016 UPDATE - QUILL LAKE PRODUCER MEETING



SaskFSA, in partnership with the Quill Lakes Flood Impact Group (QLFIG) and the newly formed Quill Lakes Watershed Association (QLWA), hosted a Town Hall Producer Meeting in Quill Lake on December 20th.

Objectives of the meeting were to provide a platform for producers to unite, to provide information on BILL 44 and the direction of the AG Water Management Regulations, to facilitate a discussion forum to express concerns, discuss solutions and to invite producers to join SaskFSA.

The WSA mandate to close or consolidate all agriculture drainage within the 2.2 M acre basin poses a monumental threat of back flooding productive AG land. Once the ditch blocks and consolidations are full, the water will still drain towards the basin. The focus needs to be on a combination of long term solutions to be able to maintain a reasonable lake level. For every 1 cm rise of the lake, the economic loss is estimated at \$500,000 per year, just for crops alone, not including infrastructure!

Producers packed the hall from surrounding communities. SaskFSA will continue to work with the QLFIG and QLWA and will be arranging a PHASE II meeting to work on the solutions identified from this initial meeting.

MOVING FORWARD IN 2017

SaskFSA's objectives for 2017 include working directly with the Ministry of Environment, to involve the Ministry of Agriculture and Economy and to align with our AG Industry partners to amend the legislation changes to the Water Security Agency Act and to interject a more realistic approach to the AG Water Management Regulations.

- . REFOCUS – SaskFSA redefined strategy to work with WSA & Ministry of Environment TOGETHER
- . JAN 10TH Meeting with Minister Moe - BILL 44, Drainage Regulations
- . Producer Support / Liaison to get drainage projects registered
- . AG Industry Alliance – educate our AG Industry Partners, build alliances

SK AG WATER MANAGEMENT REGULATION OBSTACLES & BILL 44 – refer to <http://www.saskfsa.ca/current-issues/> for a refresher on the regulation obstacles from the DECEMBER Stewardship Update.

GET YOUR FARMER FRIENDS INVOLVED. THERE IS STRENGTH IN NUMBERS. THESE CHANGES WILL AFFECT EVERYONE IN AGRICULTURE.

WE NOW ACCEPT VISA - for a membership form visit www.saskfsa.ca/join-today/ or email mthorpe@saskfsa.ca to pay by VISA.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU – Let us know what is happening in your area or if you require assistance, please contact any member of the SaskFSA board. Contact information below or available at <http://www.saskfsa.ca/contact-us/>.

SASKATCHEWAN FARM STEWARDSHIP ASSOCIATION

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