

SASKATCHEWAN FARM STEWARDSHIP ASSOCIATION

Change is all around us! Thank you to all members that attended the SaskFSA AGM & Conference 2017 as well as the SK Agriculture Discussion Forum that SaskFSA organized for the Sask Party Leadership Candidates. The determination of our new Premier on January 27th is guaranteed to bring about change which we will work with strategically to bring about positive outcomes for agriculture land use policy. Please take a read on the latest initiatives and changes happening with SaskFSA. We look forward to the opportunities that 2018 will bring.

AG FOCUS DISCUSSION FORUM – SASK PARTY LEADERSHIP CANDIDATES

SaskFSA hosted one of the most well attended Leadership Candidate events, moderated by Shaun Haney of Real Agriculture. All 5 candidates spoke to different questions posed by the event partners and questions from the floor. View the live broadcast on our Facebook page at [@SaskFSA](#) and an excellent summary of the discussion by Shaun in his Jan 4th podcast at [Real Agriculture - Jan 4 Leadership Debate Podcast](#).

SASKFSA & WSA POLICY WORKING GROUP – REPLACED BY WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (WAC)

For two years SaskFSA has worked meticulously to incorporate practicality and to advocate for the right to farm efficiently and progressively during the development of the AG Water Management policy. Despite many changes including shuffling of Environment Ministers and personnel within the Water Security Agency (WSA) SaskFSA made a significant impact through various policy items including:

- Delay of the 10% wetland restoration clause, flexibility within the 10% wetland retention
- Evaluating and providing more land control options and emphasis / promotion of WSA and land owners all working together
- Changing the mentality and messaging that drainage is negative to promoting the benefits of responsible land and water management
- Removal of the "no infilling" clause to allowing producers to infill 2.47 acres
- Awareness of Bill 44 and impact on land owners – resulted in the development of the NEW provincial Water Advisory Committee (WAC)
- Logic around placement of adequate outlets – still requires work
- Identification of inefficient procedures and conditions – still requires work

Many challenges still exist with the AG Water Management Strategy. There is a new VP of Regulatory within WSA and there is **no longer a SaskFSA / WSA Policy Working Group which has been replaced by the WAC**. SaskFSA is on the WAC and is dedicated to working with the industry members including SaskCanola, SARM, APAS, SCDA, Western Canadian Wheat Growers and Ducks Unlimited. There have been 3 meetings to date and progress has and will be slow as there is a detailed education process that needs to happen before policy changes will be evaluated. Mitigation and restoration strategies are back on the table.

SASKFSA AGM & CONFERENCE – NOVEMBER 16TH 2017

This is always an important meeting for membership to get informed about SaskFSA initiatives and to become engaged as a member. SaskFSA has a very simple mandate to advocate for workable policy for agriculture land and water management. The 2017 AGM meeting included SaskFSA updates, our impact in 2017 and strategy for 2018. An excellent line up of guest speakers and tradeshow displays spoke to different approaches and use of technology to manage both land and water resources for sustainable and progressive production. The Western Producer featured an article on Marla Riekman's presentation on Managing Salinity, read more at [Salinity Solutions Begin with Water Management](#).

SASKFSA – 2018 A YEAR OF STRATEGY

As presented at our AGM, 2017 was a year of impact. Our mandate for 2018 is a year of strategy. Our first strategy meetings were held early January. More information to follow in the very near future on the outcomes of these strategy meetings!

#BESTWHENMANAGED – Land and water are always best when managed. Remember to use this hashtag and tag [@SaskFSA](#) when sharing your story.

HOW TO APPLY FOR AN AG WATER MANAGEMENT PERMIT – CHECKLIST

If you are interested in starting an AG water management project, here is a guide to get you started – [Applying for an Ag Water Management Permit](#).

MEMBERSHIP FEES DUE

If your SaskFSA membership is up to date, THANK-YOU! Invoices will be mailed out in January. Your support is valued and fundamental to continue working on influencing progressive and policy development for responsible land and water stewardship.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU - If you have some concerns in your area please contact any member of the SaskFSA board. Contact information is available on our SaskFSA website at [Contact Us](#).

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT. TALK TO A FARMER FRIEND AND GET THEM INVOLVED!

There are producers you know that should be involved. Influence increases with numbers. Have the conversation.