



AgriExecutive

An SYA Quarterly Publication

October, 2012

GREETINGS!

The SYA is very pleased with how 2012 has been shaping up. From our conference last February, to the sprayer demonstration clinic and PAMI tour, to time in Regina at the Farm Progress Show and Rider game, and a field tour day in July..... things have been busy. Looking into 2013 here's what we have in the works:

January 31-February 1, 2013 is the SYA Conference and AGM in Saskatoon.

The full agenda and registration form will arrive in your mailbox this November, we look forward to seeing you!

Commodity marketing workshops in early 2013.

Larry Martin of Guelph will be delivering Introduction to Commodity Marketing, and Advanced Commodity Marketing. The latter is for producers who have a solid understanding of the topic, and have been working with it for some time. Each of these workshops will be 3 days in length and participants will emerge with a solid plan in place to use on their operations. The SYA in partnership with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture is pleased to be providing significant funding for this initiative, to allow Saskatchewan producers a highly subsidized tuition fee. Workshop details, pricing and registration forms will be available later this fall.

Do you have a suggestion for a workshop, event speaker, industry tour, or another event you feel SYA members would enjoy and benefit from? Contact our office and pass on your suggestion!

We want to send YOU down the road to Ottawa for the 2013 CYFF AGM & Conference!

All current SYA Members have access to this national young farmer event.

This is your chance to meet your peers from across the country, share farming strategies, and make contacts to last a lifetime! Eligible attendees also have the opportunity to run for a position on the national CYFF Board of Directors.

March 1-5, 2013 – Ottawa, ON

Please contact the SYA office for further information no later than November 15, 2012.

Email: sya@saskyoungag.ca



Coming Events

January 31-February 1, 2013
SYA Conference & AGM
Saskatoon

February 2013
Intro to Commodity Marketing
Saskatoon

March 2013
Advanced Commodity Marketing
Saskatoon

March 1-5, 2013
CYFF Conference & AGM
Ottawa

Meet the SYA team!

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SYA Memberships

SYA memberships are \$20 per calendar year, per person. With membership you receive access to “member only” functions, discounts at all events, training and networking opportunities across Canada, and you will receive the AgriExecutive newsletter.

To become a member or renew please contact our office. Membership forms can also be downloaded from our website under “Membership Info”.

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Sustainable Agriculture: Why do farmers need to produce more?

In June 2008, Monsanto defined and announced its sustainable agriculture initiative. Since then what started out as a simple initiative has become a commitment to sustainable agriculture.

Monsanto's commitment is to produce more, conserve more and improve lives. We believe that in the hands of farmers, better seeds can help farmers increase yield, while lessening agriculture's impact on the environment. We are focused on helping farmers double their yields in canola, corn, soybeans, and cotton using one-third fewer key resources per unit of output. In the process, we think we can help improve people's lives, particularly the lives of farmers and those who depend on them around the globe.

But why is this commitment so important? Well, at the end of this day more than 200,000 new people will have taken up residence on the planet. The global population sits at roughly 7 billion with another 2 billion expected to join us by 2050.

With each passing day, someone – primarily in the developing world – is enjoying a higher standard of living. As people enjoy a higher level of income, they begin eating differently; changing their diet and moving up the food ladder from grains, breads and pastas to begin consuming more meat and dairy products.

If everyone on the globe today started to eat the way we eat in North America, this change would create a "daily" gap of 820 thousand metric tons of beef, pork, chicken and turkey to fill their plates.

The increased grain requirements needed to meet the surge in animal feed to produce the meats and cheeses and the extra production necessary to provide additional food for people would equal 2,673 million metric tons of major food grains and oilseeds. All totaled, this would require an increase in total acreage of 889 million hectares when calculated from the yield levels of the developing world; a little over half (56%) of the world's arable land.

The figures are startling. Some might say impossible when compounded by the effects of a changing climate, less water to feed thirsty plants and livestock, and other limited resources such as arable land.

There are no simple solutions. But if we can focus on the success of the farmer and provide them with tools that offer solutions to the challenges we are facing, we cannot only meet the needs of the growing economies in Asia, but begin to help the nearly 1 billion people who are chronically hungry today.

Realizing agriculture's full potential requires fundamentally shifting the way the system operates. It requires focusing on the near term and long term success of the farmer. And it requires putting innovative tools in the hands of farmers, supporting them with the right policy, infrastructure and markets.

You can learn more about Monsanto's focus in this area by visiting www.improveagriculture.com.



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"My grandfather used to say that once in your life you need a doctor, a lawyer, a policeman and a preacher but every day, three times a day, you need a farmer."

Brenda Schoepp