



AgriExecutive

April, 2012

GREETINGS!

As this newsletter goes to press, it is clear how challenging agriculture is in Saskatchewan. Many areas are busy doing field prep, picking stones, even putting down fertilizer, while a small patch in the North East is slowly seeing ground again after a snowstorm that left between 12-18 inches of snow, with spring plans decidedly put on hold. Best of luck to all with your seeding, and calving this spring.

In February the SYA held its 6th annual conference and AGM in Regina. This event is always the highlight of our year, a chance for our members to reconnect with their peers from across the province. This event also sees a change in our Board of Directors as some terms expire. I would like to thank Daryl Frank and Kassandra Mohr for their past dedication to the SYA. I would also like to welcome Drew Fowler and Brad Schiltroth as new board members, and Jeff Prosko and Jason Ranger as returning directors.

The SYA is very excited to have a busy 2012 ahead! Check out our coming events, and keep an eye on our website as it will be getting a complete face lift in the coming months. The SYA website is set to become your go-to site on the web for markets, provincial coming events, forums with your fellow producers, and so much more!

Gwenda Voldeng, SYA GM

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Thank You.... to all our corporate partners! The SYA is a non-profit group, and these partnerships enable us to continue serving our members.

Coming Events

April 20, 2012

Sprayer Drift Session & PAMI Tour
Humboldt

June 20-22, 2012

SYA Booth at Farm Progress Show
Regina

June 20, 2012

SYA RIDER GAME NIGHT
Mosaic Stadium

July 2012

SYA – Field Tours
Date and location TBA

January 2013

SYA Conference and AGM
Saskatoon

SYA SPRING EVENT

You Should Be Spraying In The Wind

Where Drift Goes & How To Control It

Tom Wolf – Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada

Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute

Facility Tour & Information Session

Friday, April 20th, 2012

12:30 – 4:00 pm

PAMI Office, Humboldt, SK

SYA Members Only Event – RSVP To The SYA Office



Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada **Agriculture et Agroalimentaire Canada**



Meet the SYA team!

CHAIR

Rodney Voldeng, Naicam

VICE CHAIR

Jeff Prosko, Rose Valley

SECRETARY

Adrian Swarbrick, Unity

TREASURER

Jason Ranger, Shellbrook

MEMBER AT LARGE

Sheldon Mattus, Chaplin

BOARD MEMBERS

Derek Dery, Saskatoon
Drew Fowler, Eyebrow
Mike Schmaltz, Martensville
Brad Schiltroth, Ridgedale

General Manager

Gwenda Voldeng, Naicam

Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture Liaison

Daphne Cruise, Moose Jaw



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Thank You

Canadian Young Farmers Forum – AGM

The city of Halifax, Nova Scotia hosted another highly successful Annual Conference and Business meeting for the Canadian Young Farmers' Forum in mid-February 2012. Attendance was up slightly as many provinces have started leveraging their core funding from the CYFF to send additional non-voting delegates to the event. Halifax did not disappoint, and neither did the speaker lineup.

Farm Family Coach, Elaine Froese brought the good word on effective farm family communications to the fore, and she continues to help people all across the country hone their Business Continuance (*Formerly Succession Planning*) skills. Saskatchewan native Al Scholz captivated the crowd with his 'Who Will Feed The World' and do it sustainably message. It was interesting to see once again how the environmental and resource challenges faced on either side of this vast country and right up through the middle, are similar for all young farmers. Cathie Leimbach refreshed our Board Governance knowledge and Richard Philips delivered some thoughts on effective interaction and communication with those at the top of the political food chain in Ottawa.

The theme of the event was 'Educate, Energize, Empower', and the legendary Mike 'Pinball' Clemons was on the scene to hit all three as he invoked smiles, tears and pride from the delegation. He left the group hanging on a number of key concepts and principles, the greatest of which may be the Superhero nature of Canadian farmers. The greatest personal resonance I had with Mike was on his 3-part concept: 1. Don't feel sorry for yourself, 2. Don't complain, 3. Don't quit! Sometimes it's hard to roll out of bed and stare down the long-long list of To-Dos, To-Plans, To-Hires, To-Replace, To-Finance, etc., but hey, it's just life and we're all just trying to make a living. Mike challenged me personally to adopt a positive attitude in all I do, despite the challenges I face, and it's working so far!

A final word about the success of the event, it was due to the delegates, as always. It's remarkable to me to attend a agriculture event where the majority of the salutations on the last day are done over hugs, not handshakes. This, to me, is a testament to the friendships and partnerships that are built over sharing, supporting, learning and growing from and with one another. The greatest take home is having a support network across the country, that can be called on for whatever is needed. We farm as individuals, but we exist as an industry standing strong together. My challenge to you is to continue to 'Educate, Energize, Empower' one another, every day, for yourself and for the industry.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cedric MacLeod
Best Management Practices Program Coordinator

P.S.

The SYA was very pleased to have sent 6 participants to Halifax this year at a total cost to each person of less than \$250!! (flights and hotel included)

As an SYA member you have access to this annual national event, so keep your eyes open later this year for information on the 2013 conference, and YOU may be attending!

Gwenda

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Do you have neighbours, friends or family that are not currently SYA members, but should be?

The SYA is holding a membership drive – up for grabs are 4 tickets to the SYA Rider Night, June 20.

Here's how it works:

- *For each new membership received, BOTH the new member, and the existing member will be entered to win 2 Rider tickets each!*
- *Must be received by June 15th!*
- *Existing members, the more new members you refer, the better your chances are to win!*



Yes To Agriculture 2012 – SYA Conference and AGM

The SYA hosted their 6th annual Conference and AGM in Regina this past February. This event was bursting with not only great speakers and topics, but also with engaging, positive producers excited about the agriculture industry in Saskatchewan.

To touch on a small portion of the conference.....Richard Phillips, Executive Director with the Grain Growers of Canada, emphasized that our government will listen to a clear and concise message, come to the table prepared and have a well respected group of people behind you. Dr. John Fast split the delegates into groups based on their personalities, and it quickly became apparent how challenging it can be for several people of different personalities to work together even if they are from the same family. The SYA Board of Directors took their spot on stage during a producer panel Q&A. This moderator lead session touched on several areas of farm management such as succession planning, marketing, access to land opportunities as well as inquiries from the delegates. This portion of the conference was a great way for producers to share their struggles and successes, past – present – and future. We also enjoyed an evening of relaxation with an address from Roughrider Ritchie Hall, and a private games room at Casino Regina!

The annual SYA conference is a great place to make new contacts, get reacquainted with friends from across this vast province, and talk about the issues that matter most to young farmers, right now....whether that be current land prices, succession issues, farm financing, or employee relations.

The SYA Board plans to continue providing the tools our producers need to inspire and encourage the next generation of farmers in Saskatchewan.

Respectfully Submitted,
Adrian Swarbrick, Director – SYA

New Member:			Referred By:	
Address:				
Phone/Cell:				
Email:				
Payment \$20/person	<input type="checkbox"/> Cheque payable to SYA	Card Number:		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard	Name on Card:		
	<input type="checkbox"/> VISA	Signature:		

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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Thank You

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THINKING FWD.

