

Provincial Council of Agriculture, Development & Diversification (ADD) Boards

News Update Fall 2009

Producers, industry and government working for agriculture in Saskatchewan



220-333 25th Street East
Saskatoon, SK
S7K 0L4

Phone 306-955-5477
Fax 306-955-5473
Toll-free 1-866-298-7222
www.saskpcab.com

I confess that it's been a difficult task carving out this fall issue of the PCAB newsletter - and it's certainly not due to a lack of news. On the contrary, the last few months have been some of the busiest ever around the PCAB office. Here are some highlights of what you'll find inside this issue.

Farm Stewardship Program Running Full Tilt

In April, the provincial government announced that the popular Farm Stewardship Program would be continuing under Growing Forward and that PCAB would be the new delivery agent. Since that time, we've been in high gear hiring new staff, developing program materials, and processing a flood of applications and claims. Our field staff have also been very active helping producers with the application process. For more information on this exciting program, see page 6.

Swift Current Calls on PCAB for Assistance

The city of Swift Current dominated the headlines this summer as it battled a rat infestation. While PCAB does deliver the provincial pest control program with an emphasis on Norway Rats, urban municipalities typically fall outside the jurisdiction of the program. However, after being approached by the city to provide some technical input, PCAB readily agreed to offer a presentation at a town forum. Afterwards, PCAB coordinated an effort of trained pest control officers working with city officials to address the infestation. For more information on this effort and the results, see page 5.

Summer is the Time for Field Days

After the crop is in the ground and the cattle are in the pasture, it's a great time to take in a field day to learn from other producers useful and progressive techniques of farm and ranch management. Our watershed awareness field staff took advantage of the field day season by showcasing numerous producers utilizing remote watering systems. These systems protect sensitive riparian areas, maintaining water quality and quantity as well as improving herd health. For more information on some of these field days, see page 2 & 3.

Joel Mowchenko
Executive Director

*Our Website has a fresh
new look! Check it out at:
www.saskpcab.com*

In This Edition:

Watershed Awareness Initiative Pasture and Livestock Watering Tours Summer 2009	2-3
Pest Control Program PCO update Rats in Swift Current	4-5
Environmental Farm Plan/ Farm Stewardship Program Board of Directors Spotlight	6-7 7

Jody Oliver, Watershed Awareness Coordinator
1-866-298-7222 ext 202
jody@saskpcab.com

Pasture and Livestock Watering Tours hosted by PCAB's Watershed Awareness Initiative, Agri-Environmental Group Plans and the Agricultural Council of Saskatchewan Summer 2009

Redberry Lake Biosphere, Hafford area - August 4, 2009

Forty producers gathered at the Redberry Lake Biosphere Reserve and Education Centre, August 4th to participate in a pasture and watering system tour and information day. The tour was hosted and had funding provided by PCAB's Watershed Awareness Initiative (WAI), Redberry Lake AEGP and the Agriculture Council of Saskatchewan (ACS). Representatives from various organizations were present including PCAB, Saskatchewan Watershed Authority (SWA), Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), Agri-Environmental Services Branch (AESB), North Saskatchewan River Basin Council (NSRBC) and Solar West.

The day started with a demonstration from Solar West - showcasing one of their remote solar watering systems and how the product will work on elevated land, over hilly terrain, and the type of battery needed. This demonstration was followed by stops at three sites showcasing three different water systems (which were projects completed through the Redberry AEGP). Each producer talked about how the system worked for them and their grazing system. Producers had the important opportunity to ask about, discuss and compare different watering systems to see what could fit on their own farms.

The first stop on the tour was at Andrew Hawrysh's operation, where a solar watering system uses a well as the water source. This system **provides water to multiple paddocks, aiding in his rotational grazing system which incorporates bale grazing**. Discussions about the effectiveness of bale grazing in increasing stand productivity as well as the functions of healthy rangelands followed. Jeremy Brown, PAg with SWA discussed the forage variety seeded by Andrew and compared bale grazed vs. non bale grazed sites. He also discussed the effect on bare ground and litter on the site and their relevance to pasture production/health.

The second stop was at Kelly Wall's operation, where a winter watering system with a **heated electric pump/float system in a shallow well is used in conjunction with swath grazing**. This system consists of a 20 foot culvert in the bank of a hill that protects the pipes from freezing (ground heat) and supplies approximately 170 head (note: this is also one of the systems noted in the *Livestock Watering Systems in Saskatchewan: Producer Experiences* handbook, page 40). Discussions pertaining to nutrient contamination risks to surface water from cattle vs. waterfowl took place due to a large naturally occurring wetland.

"The field day provided a great opportunity to bring together livestock producers to witness off-site watering systems and pasture management methods. It was a day full of visual and written information, idea sharing and friendship..." Vivian Nemish (Freelance reporter, *The Battlefords Regional Optimist*).



The third stop was at Darrel and Peggy Walker's custom grazing operation, looking at a **pasture pipeline and home built tire troughs**. The combination of their **rotational grazing system** and pipeline systems was explained to the group, as well as brush management using chemical and mowing to improve grazing potential of the land. Attendees also looked at the trenching implement used for the pipeline installation.

Kelly Wall's Trough with heated electric pump/float system on a shallow well

Creelman Area – July 30, 2009

Fifty five producers were shuttled around to 4 different stops to see first hand beneficial management practices that enhance both agriculture operations and the environment.

The first stop was Barry Good and Elaine Moat's place. Here we observed a **remote winter watering system, remote summer watering system, rotational grazing and electric fencing**. Barry talked about his different systems and the pros and cons of each and how they fit into his operation.

Second stop was Gary Moss's pasture. Both a **winter watering system and portable summer system** are being utilized to protect the dugout in this 320 acre pasture. As well Gary discussed his systems and how they fit in his operation. There was much interaction amongst the group asking questions and sharing their experiences.

Next the tour went to Gooseberry Lake, where we stopped at Randy Foss's pasture. Here Randy and Les Johnston have **fenced out the lake, cross fenced pasture into 3 paddocks, and set up a solar watering system** so cattle do not access the lake. PCAB and SWA did a water infiltration demonstration and reiterated the importance of having litter on your pastures. This was done through 6 inch tubing pounded into the ground areas representing healthy pasture and unhealthy pasture showing how long a heavy rain-fall would take to soak up and what the effects are to the watershed. Litter was explained and we were shown how to calculate lbs/acre of litter on a pasture and what was considered healthy in this area.



Last stop was to Les and Linda Johnston's native pasture. The group split up and **identified native range plants, and discussed indicators of rangeland health**. To end the day we went back to Nisku Farms (Les and Linda Johnston), for a roast beef supper and socializing.

Both field tours included presentations by each organization present providing a brief description of programs they offer/ administer. In kind support for the event was provided by SWA, DUC, Sask. Ministry of Ag and AESB. Financial support was provided by the Agriculture Council of Saskatchewan through the Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food Saskatchewan (ACAAFS) program provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

Meet our Watershed Advisors!

For more information on the Watershed Awareness Initiative or to enquire about increasing watershed awareness in your area, contact one of our local advisors:

Kim Robson
Southey, SK
306-746-2204

Julie Mackenzie
Hazenmore, SK
(306)264-3884

Digit Guedo
Waskesiu Lake, SK
306-663-4100

Gord Vaadeland
Big River, SK
(306)469-2356

Jill Debenham
Kennedy, SK
306-736-8980



Watershed Awareness Initiative

Debra Amundrud, Pest Control Coordinator
1-866-298-7222 ext 206; (306) 222-6367—cell
debra@saskpcab.com

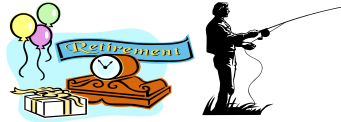
Travis Quirk, Pest Control Coordinator
1-866-298-7222 ext. 204
travis@saskpcab.com

Upcoming Events:

- Zone 1 Meeting**
November 3, 2009
- Yorkton Trade Show**
November 11-14, 2009
- Canadian Agribition**
November 23-28, 2009

Retirements

A Big Thank You goes out to Doug Johnston - Pest Control Officer for all your hard work and dedication. All the best in your retirement.



Travis Quirk, Russ Wyatt, Debra Amundrud

Ron Wood

As a token of our appreciation, PCAB was pleased to present gifts to Russ Wyatt as the first Pest Control Officer to submit his Rat Infestation Sheets, and Ron Wood as the first Pest Control Officer to submit pictures for the PCAB Newsletter.

Rat Programs—Then and Now

About 10 years ago at the Pest Control Officers Conference in Weyburn, the Sask. Deputy Minister of Agriculture suggested that she would like to see grant money be used for cleanup of vacant farmsteads. District 8 ADD Board decided to make available a \$1,500 grant per R.M. per year, providing the RM or ratepayer put up \$1 for every \$2 of grant funding.

This is the 10th year that District 8 has had the Rat Cleanup Program which dealt mainly with cleaning up vacant farmsteads. Since 2005, grants have also been available for old buildings on occupied farms that are or could become rat harbourage. Since 2005, the \$1,500 grant is also available to towns and villages for cleanup of rat harbours in their jurisdiction.

In 10 years they have cleaned up 248 sites, the majority being vacant farmsteads, as well as 5 garbage dumps, 2 farmer owned elevators and rat harbours in 10 towns and villages.

A number of RM's have cleaned up most of their vacant farmsteads, with the exception of absentee landlords or uncooperative owners. RM Councils continue to promote this program as they know that vacant farms that are cleaned up reduce bait costs and costs for future Pest Control Officers visits.

Keep up the Good Work—ADD Board #8 !



PCAB promotes a clean up program identifying sites that can be demolished or cleaned up. PCAB invites you to submit an application for the clean up and demolition of abandoned farm yards or agricultural sites aiding in rat control.

We encourage the recycling of demolished buildings to be donated to various organizations to utilize the materials in projects such as bait stations, bird houses, bat houses, raptor stands, plant holders, picture frames, etc.



Mosquito & Biting Fly Course



PCAB works with Sask Health to promote awareness in regards to the West Nile Virus Program. This year our main focus is education and awareness. We feel there is no one better to promote this program than our Pest Control Officers. The Pest Control Officers have a strong history of promoting education and awareness regarding pest control and of ensuring the health and safety of Saskatchewan residents.

If you are interested in taking this course, please feel free to contact me at 1-866-298-7222 or by email at debra@saskpcab.com.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to enhance your service to Saskatchewan residents.



We now have electronic version of Rat Inspection & Monthly Inspection Sheets available on our website www.saskpcab.com

We have in stock - *Warning Rat Poison* signs in adhesive back, also *Poison Rat Bait Do Not Touch* labels, brochures on *Zero Tolerance for Rats, Prevention Baiting & Protect Yourself - West Nile Virus*. If you need any supplies feel free to call me at 1-866-298-7222 or by email at debra@saskpcab.com.

A new product out from Bell Labs - ZP Rodent Bait - Kills Rats, Mice & Gophers, contact Russ Templeton at 1-800-418-9242 or at rtempleton@belllabs.com

Remember your Rat Inspection Reports are due November 30, 2009.



Rats in Swift Current

The city of Swift Current found itself in the media spotlight in the middle of August as reports of rats running rampant throughout the city and people getting bitten by rats made national news headlines. This unwanted media attention brought the rat issue to the forefront of concerns of residents and business owners of Swift Current. Given the high level of media attention and the intensity of public pressure, the City of Swift Current decided it was time to enlist outside help to address the situation.

City Council Meeting

PCAB along with provincial and health region representatives were invited by the city to attend a city council meeting and public information night to make some recommendations on how to deal with the rat problem.

The council meeting was attended by representatives from the health region, the province, local residents and business owners. The city, which up until this point had been relatively discreet, gave a full report regarding the actions that had been implemented. Each invited representative was invited to speak and make suggestions or give comments regarding the rat problem. Travis Quirk, a PCAB Pest Control Coordinator, informed the city of our pest control program and offered PCAB's services to coordinate a group of pest control officers (PCOs) to complement the efforts of the city's bylaw inspectors. The city didn't have a strong background on rat control and the PCOs would be able to provide valuable knowledge and experience specific to dealing with rats. This suggestion was well received by the city council but they felt that they needed some more time to evaluate their current efforts before implementing a new strategy. The public meeting was held that evening and it was attended by over 400 residents. Travis gave a power point presentation on preventing, identifying and eradicating rat infestations. The presentation was well received by both the residents and the city. City representatives enjoyed the presentation and requested a copy which they have put onto their website.

Luckily enough, PCAB was able to recruit PCOs Gerald Wagner and Stewart Biech to help in fielding questions from the public as our booth was swarmed by residents once they found out that knowledgeable experienced pest control experts were in attendance. Gerald and Stewart also gave some suggestions to the city representatives in attendance and commented on the practices of the private pest control companies.

Dealing with the Landfill

Shortly after the meetings the city landfill was identified as an area with a severe infestation and was heavily baited to reduce the number of rats. The city's landfill was an ideal environment for the rats to survive and thrive with large amounts of food present and concrete structures available to nest in from the demolition of the old hospital. Stewart Biech was contracted by the city to deal with the landfill on an ongoing basis to remedy that situation.

Pest Control Officers to the Rescue

It became apparent that the current city wide eradication strategy wasn't working so after evaluating the situation the city then requested that PCAB help them by organizing a group of PCOs to carry out property inspections within the city. On September 2nd PCAB Pest Control Coordinators Debra Amundrud and Travis Quirk met with 5 PCOs (Tom Anderson, Ron Voeltz, Jim McDowell, Clem Andreas and Don Dyck) and individuals from the city of Swift Current's engineering department including bylaw inspectors in Swift Current. The city's engineering department had been recording all rat sightings and was able to generate an infestation map. The city was then subdivided and each PCO was assigned an area to inspect. Debra joined one of the Pest Control Officers and a City Worker to inspect one of the assigned areas. Travis joined one of the PCO's for the remainder of the morning and they headed out to the northeast part of the city where the sightings had been numerous. The businesses there were very welcoming and took immediate action to address areas of concern and took the opportunity to ask questions regarding both their business properties and their private residences. The following 3 weeks saw an additional 3 PCOs (Norbert Kratchmer, Ron Wood & Clifford Gilbert) join the effort in Swift Current. Recent reports from the city indicated that they were very pleased with the PCO's efforts, that the city has made great strides in controlling the rat population and that the public reception to the entire rat control strategy was positive.

Swift Current's unfortunate problem served as a good reminder to communities across the province and increased the awareness that rat problems are no laughing matter.

Here at PCAB the rat infestation in Swift strengthened our resolve to ensure that there is a uniform, effective pest program province wide that would be able deal with these types of situations before they escalate in severity.



Superheroes

Left to Right: Tom Anderson, Clem Andreas, Jim McDowell, Don Dyck, Ron Voeltz

Environmental Farm Plan/Farm Stewardship Programs

Jessica Clay, Farm Stewardship/EFP Program Coordinator
1-866-298-7222 ext 208 jessica@saskpcab.com

EFP

Under the new Growing Forward Initiative announced in April 2009, the Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) program is once again being delivered by PCAB. PCAB has now been delivering the program for 5 years and to date, 10,655 farms have completed the EFP process. The EFP program is a confidential and voluntary process that allows producers to identify environmental risk on their farms and to create a plan to mitigate the risk(s). This past year, there has been a decrease in the number of producers completing an EFP. In the 2010/2011 fiscal year, PCAB is looking at offering an EFP re-assessment workshop for producers who have completed their EFP in 2005. This will give producers an opportunity to re-visit their plans and assess what they have or have not completed, and to identify priority environmental areas they would like to address in the future.

Completing an EFP enables the producer to apply for the Canada-Saskatchewan Farm Stewardship Program (CSFSP) which is cost-share incentive program to assist producers in mitigating environmental risks identified in their EFP such as decommissioning wells or relocating livestock confinement facilities.

CSFSP

As of April 1st, 2009 PCAB is also delivering the Canada-Saskatchewan Farm Stewardship Program (CSFSP) and is seeing an increasingly large number of current EFP clients applying for this cost shared funding. More than 1800 applications have been received since April and they continue to roll in. PCAB has been working hard to ensure that the applications and claims are processed within the 6-8 week timeline that has been set out. PCAB has been overwhelmed by the response of the producers to the CSFSP and the interest that producers have in making positive changes on their operations to better the Environment. Until recently, Saskatchewan was the only prairie province delivering the Farm Stewardship Program. To date, PCAB has sent out close to \$1,000,000 to assist producers with making environmental improvements and has approved an additional \$3,000,000 for projects. The 12 PCAB Regional Program Representatives deliver the EFP workshops and are available to assist producers with applying for the CSFSP. Please contact your local representative if you'd like more information on the EFP or CSFSP (see next page for details).

Although PCAB is the vessel by which the delivery of these two programs to Saskatchewan producers is possible, the producers and the land owners who are implementing these projects on the ground level are the true environmental champions. Without the producers willing to embrace environmental improvement, we are simply an organization delivering an agricultural program. So to all the producers out there taking better care of the environment by accessing our programs, we offer a big "Thank You"!!!!



ENVIRONMENTAL FARM PLAN

EFP

Sustainable Futures

Important Notice

In June of 2009, the First Nations Agricultural Council of Saskatchewan Inc. (FNACS) ceased operation and is therefore no longer delivering the EFP program to First Nations producers and communities. Producers and communities who have completed an EFP through FNACS can still apply to the CSFSP for cost share funding and should contact PCAB for more information.

Regional Program Representatives

The following Program Representatives are the primary contacts for both the Farm Stewardship and the Environmental Farm Plan Program. To obtain information on either of these programs, please contact the Program Rep in your area.

Michael Zentner Leroy, SK 306-287-8180	Candice Frederiksen Edenwold, SK 306-771-2352	Kevin Olson Plenty, SK 306-932-7071	Darren Steinley Rush Lake, SK 306-741-0803
David Pattyson Tribune, SK 306-861-9913	Tom Brown Turtleford, SK 306-845-7084	Blaine Haubrich Swift Current, SK 306-677-7779	Morgan Leigh Melfort, SK 306-921-6631
Chyanne Werezak Radisson, SK 306-827-2244	Tom Treen Preeceville, SK 306-547-3383	Mindy Neufeldt Waldheim, SK 306-945-7759	Jim Pollock Moosomin, SK 306-435-3592

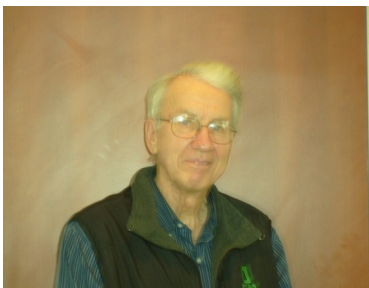
PCAB's Board of Directors Provides Connection to the Grass Roots

PCAB prides itself on being a producer driven organization. We endeavour to deliver our programs in a way that works for the producers we serve. We maintain our connection to the grass roots in several ways – through our producer based field staff and peer review committees, by feedback from producers who access our programs, and by hiring office staff who are either active farmers or who still have a connection to the farm. However, the primary way we stay connected to the grass roots is through our producer based Board of Directors.

PCAB's board consists of 2 elected representatives from each of the 6 Regional Agriculture Development and Diversification (ADD) Councils. These councils are in turn made up of representatives from the 41 District ADD Boards across the province. Board members thus represent all agricultural regions in the province and all have close ties to their rural communities. For more information on PCAB's organizational structure or the board of directors, feel free to contact the director from your region. (Please see next page for Board Members)

Director Profile

Allan Oliver is the current Secretary of the PCAB Board of Directors. Allan has been a member of the District 7 ADD Board since its inception in 1988. Allan manages the family farm near Aneroid, together with his wife and son. They grow grains, pulses, oil seeds and forages. A large focus of the Oliver farm is on research and demonstration. Projects have included work with soil conservation, saline soil reclamation, camelina, fertilizer trials, and glyphosate tolerant crops. Allan's list of community engagement includes involvement with the Co-op, Fire and Ambulance Committees, the RM (Reeve), 4H, Cubs and Scouts, and numerous school and church activities.



PCAB is extremely fortunate to have a board of directors made up of agricultural producers and active community members, like Allan, who provide our organization a strong connection to the grass roots.

PCAB Head Office Contact Information

220-333 25th Street East,
Saskatoon, SK S7K 0L4
Phone 306-955-5477 Toll-free 1-866-298-7222
Fax 306-955-5473

Joel Mowchenko—Executive Director
joel@saskpcab.com

Sharon Davies—PCAB Administrator
sharon@saskpcab.com

Jody Oliver—Watershed Awareness Coordinator
jody@saskpcab.com

Debra Amundrud—Pest Control
debra@saskpcab.com

Travis Quirk—Pest Control/Farm Stewardship
travis@saskpcab.com

Jessica Clay—FS/EFP Coordinator
jessica@saskpcab.com

Tammy Ceaser—Program Assistant
tammy@saskpcab.com

Carman Wilcox—FS Project Reviewer
carman@saskpcab.com

Lisa Long—Program Assistant
lisa@saskpcab.com

Heather Dillon—Financial Manager
heather@saskpcab.com

Al Scholz—FS Reviewer
al@saskpcab.com



For more information on PCAB and its programs, call 1-866-298-7222 or visit www.saskpcab.com

PCAB Board Members

Northeast

Al Hooper—Tisdale
Jean Kernalleguen—St. Brieux

Northwest

Alex Mitchell—Marsden
David Ollen—Lloydminster

East Central

Glenn Blakley—Tantallon
Gilles Comeault—Kamsack

West Central

Murray Purcell—Saskatoon
Betty Hamm—Perdue

Southeast

Jim Cairns—Langbank
Barry Harris—North Portal

Southwest

Allan Oliver—Aneroid
Ellis Leaman—Chaplin



Supporting Partners:

Canada



Government of Saskatchewan



Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture