

# Saskatchewan AGROLOGIST



FEBRUARY 2012

## Executive Director's Report

**Al Scholz, PAg, CAC, CMC**  
SIA Executive Director

### ***"CIBUS AD OMNES" – Food for All***

I started as the new executive director of SIA on January 2nd and the past month has gone by quickly. It's been a steep learning curve but made easier with Les McLean staying on part-time as the SIA Registrar and Sheri Willick's support as office administrator and organizational anchor.

It's great to be working closely with fellow Agrologists who, in my opinion, are the salt of the earth. There is a solid Provincial Council of professionals who provide the core leadership for the Institute. SIA has recently completed a five-year strategic plan, which provides a blueprint for me to follow as we increase the awareness of Agrology among the public and enhance the "PAg" brand as a designation of excellence.

This issue will feature two new columnists; one is Alanna Koch, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Agriculture and Mary Buhr, Dean, College of Agriculture and Bioresources. These will be regular columns providing Agrologists with

insights into policies, programs and leading science that are driving our industry forward. Welcome Alanna and Mary.

January 2012 was the official launch of Agrology Canada, a national organization that will coordinate common issues and interests among the provincial institutes of Agrology across Canada. I have visited the Manitoba Institute of Agrologists in January and February took me to the Alberta Institute and the Nova Scotia Institute of Agrologists.

I am in the process of visiting all the SIA branches, meeting the executive committee's and planning to attend the branch annual meetings – and hopefully some of the PD sessions. Council has budgeted for additional support for branch PD events aimed at providing logistical support in the planning and implementation of key conferences and seminars across the province.

Plan to attend the 67th SIA



annual general meeting and conference hosted by the Yorkton branch from March 28th – 30th. Aside from great networking opportunities, there will be excellent professional development seminars that focus on "Innovation and Agriculture".

SIA has approximately 1,300 members, and I'm looking forward to meeting all of you over the next year. And, please don't hesitate to call me if you have ideas or suggestions for the Institute. All the best for the winter meeting season – and good marketing!

# President's Message

**Craig Smith, PAg**  
SIA President



In recent months I have been contacted by numerous Agrologists & Technologists who have raised concerns with SIA Council regarding dealing with member concerns. The concerns have arisen, in part, by the circulation of correspondence with Council and to other members of the SIA. There appears to be some confusion and misunderstanding on the part of members regarding the nature and validity of those concerns so I felt that it is important to provide a background. My goal is that in this will allay any concerns that the membership may have in relation to the various issues.

In summary the concerns and issues that are the subject of those emails, letters and calls are:

- Process used when bylaws were passed at the AGM in April 2007
- Content of the bylaws
- Role of SIA council
- Membership of some of the standing committees

As some of the concerns relate to the disciplinary process, it is beneficial to set out the role of Council generally, and Council's primary responsibilities to govern, manage and regulate the affairs and business of the Institute. In normal circumstances it is not Council's obligation to engage in extensive conversation with individual members of the Institute. The Institute employs an Executive Director and other staff to deal with day-do-day operational issues.

Council itself does not have a direct role in the discipline process, other than Council may refer a complaint to the Professional Conduct Committee. Also, Council appoints the members of the Professional Conduct Committee and the Discipline Committee. Apart from fulfilling those functions, Council

does not involve itself in the discipline process.

The Professional Conduct Committee investigates complaints of professional misconduct or incompetence and prepares a Report to the Discipline Committee. In its Report, the Professional Conduct Committee is to make a recommendation whether the Discipline Committee hear and determine the formal complaint or that no further action be taken with respect to the matter under investigation. If the recommendation is to hear the complaint, the hearing is conducted by the Discipline Committee, who makes the determination of whether the member is guilty of professional misconduct or incompetence and, if so, what is the appropriate penalty.

Other than the chair of the Professional Conduct Committee, SIA council remains arms length from both the Conduct and Discipline committees. A Bylaw requirement is the chair of the Professional Conduct Committee must be on Council. As part of the due diligence in dealing with the concern raised to council, legal advice was sought and it was determined that there was no basis of concern as to the membership criteria of the committees.

An issue has also been raised about a number of concerns with Council with respect to the regulatory and administrative bylaws that were introduced and passed at the 2011 AGM. The process for amending Bylaws is set out in sections 15 to 17 of *The Agrologists Act, 1994*. Council was careful to ensure that the statutory requirements for the amendment of the Bylaws were fully complied with. The proper notice of the proposed amendments was given to the membership and it was the membership that approved the Bylaw amendments at the 66th AGM in April

2011.

Under *The Agrologists Act, 1994*, amendments to the regulatory bylaws must be approved by the Minister of Agriculture. The Minister of Agriculture had some concerns regarding the amendments to the regulatory bylaws and did not provide the approval under the Act. As a result, the amendments passed to the regulatory bylaws at the AGM will not come into force.

Council is working to ensure that any concerns of the Minister with respect to the amendments are properly addressed before putting forward any further amendments to the membership.

At no time has the Minister taken the position that the process followed by Council was in violation of the Act or that the amendments were somehow illegal.

Council & I have received numerous emails and letters with respect to both the process and the content of the bylaw amendments. Council has responded in a respectful manner, either directly or through legal counsel.

In closing I stress my goal is to inform members, who have expressed a concern about what has been happening and if there is any validity to the concerns. I encourage open dialogue, constructive criticism and have written this letter in that spirit.

# Mary M. Buhr, Dean

## College of Agriculture and Bioresources

### University of Saskatchewan



## Why get a PAg?

In a world where food security is becoming a buzz word, where food safety is a constant concern, where the link of food to health is widely known, where environmental protection is media king and most Canadians have some grasp of the meaning of 'sustainability', why shouldn't agriculture be a profession? Surely the people who manage our environment, grow our food, and process it into food, nutraceuticals, pharmaceuticals, fibre, fuel and plastics ought to be members of a regulated profession in whom the public can trust. Surely the public should demand that these people who are stewards of our precious bioresources are trained and held to high standards by a professional regulatory body, much as we all rely on engineers, medical doctors and lawyers to be trained and held to high standards set by their professional regulatory bodies and recognized in legislation.

"Well of course Agrologists should be recognized professionals," you say. "That's why we have the PAg, and although the public may not realize it, we PAg's do exactly that."

But—forgive my bluntness—those of you reading this are in such a small minority our opinion just doesn't register.

"Well of course Agrologists should be recognized professionals," you say. "We've been trying to get that recognition for years!"

So this is not news to you. We are well aware that the public not only doesn't know about PAg's, but even finds the concept laughable "Farmers? Professionals? Are you kidding?" And despite our understanding that agriculture ought to be a profession,

recognized for farmers and many other agrolgical activities, we see less and less impetus to make it widely accepted as a profession, even inside our world of committed agriculturalists. Despite the sincere best efforts and enormous number of hours and work from the few individuals who have tried to carry this forward over the years, their overwhelming attitude is that professionalising agriculture is not a major concern.

Do you want proof? In spring of 2011, 77.4% of nearly 350 employed people who had graduated from the college over the last 6 years said accreditation as a professional Agrologist (PAg) is not a requirement of their employment. Of those graduating in 2011 who had secured jobs, 67.5% said accreditation was not required to hold the job they had lined up. Less than half (42.3%) of over 50 employers considered a PAg designation to be somewhat or very important for their employees, and a full 32.7% said it was not at all important.

So should we let the issue die? At an Ottawa conference in October 2011 looking at the future of animal agriculture in a world preparing to have to feed 9 billion people, one speaker who has conducted widespread surveys of the North American public presented a compelling argument that 'Agriculture' has lost the trust of the people. Individual farmers may be trusted, but 'farming' and the broader agricultural profession are viewed with skepticism and distrust.

This public suspicion arises from many different sources, but I can't help thinking that if we were widely recognized as professionals like doctors or lawyers or accountants, agriculture would be more respectable and trustworthy in the public's eyes. Gaining recognition as a profession and gaining

widespread public trust is a long, slow, arduous process, and even we working agriculturalists cannot agree about the necessity, the value, if the value is worth the years of effort, what the standards should be, how standards would be enforced, to whom they would apply, how to get broad national agreement and consistency, and so on. We who work in agriculture think that we are best placed to decide if, when and how agrolgy should take the steps to become a recognized profession. Regardless of what we think, I can't help wondering if, as food and environment become scarce and increasingly valuable, our politicians might not decide that controls are necessary and impose legislation, possibly without adequate input from us.

Whether or not agriculture should be formally professionalized does warrant a thorough debate among all those engaged in the broad world of agriculture, to reach a clear decision. But until there is a groundswell of sufficient numbers of sufficiently motivated people to make the debate happen, I fear the PAg designation will continue its slow slide into irrelevancy.

# Alanna Koch

## Deputy Minister of Agriculture

### Wheat and New Horizons for Saskatchewan Agriculture

The Saskatchewan Institute of Agrologists plays an important role in our shared growth and the success of the agriculture sector in the province. The SIA and the Ministry of Agriculture have a long history of close co-operation and collaboration and I am pleased to accept your invitation to make regular contributions to this newsletter.

As research and crop sciences advance, agrologists need the latest information and practices that help them support informed and educated decision-making at the ground level.

We are all aware of the growing global population and the strain this will place on the planet's resources and farmland. Indeed, with the United Nations estimating population levels will reach nine billion by 2050, we need to take decisive steps today to address looming problems. Fortunately, agriculture has the ability to be a solution provider to a global challenge.

Wheat has the potential to meet a significant part of the escalating demand of food, feed and fuel and as such will be a critical part of the solution.

However, the industry faces several hurdles. Over the last 20 years, wheat production in Saskatchewan has declined by roughly 57 per cent as a result of challenges such as:

- Increased profitability of competing crops like pulses and canola that have seen substantial agronomic improvements in recent years through research;
- Shifting dietary trends (i.e. a low-carb/high protein diet that has led to a decline in bread and pasta consumption); and
- Periods of depressed prices for bread

wheat in Canada as a result of subsidies for wheat production and export enhancement in the European Union and the United States.

Wheat continues to be an important crop in Saskatchewan in terms of both total production and its role in a successful rotation. There were 10.8 million tonnes of wheat (all classes) produced in 2011 in this province, accounting for 44 per cent of all crop production.

Saskatchewan is a world leader in agriculture and the time is right to innovate in the wheat industry. We understand that wheat is striving to find a new balance in the face of emerging crop alternatives for farmers and a changing global marketplace, but Saskatchewan is up for the challenge.

We have an opportunity to build on the current successes of our industry in order to meet the demands of a growing world population. Wheat has the potential to see major returns from investment in research areas such as genetic improvement—returns that have already been achieved nationally with canola, and globally with corn and soybeans.

The Ministry is committed to investing in research, commercialization and marketing in all aspects of agricultural biotechnology — as long as those tools have the potential to move agriculture forward in the province. We believe that a balanced approach is necessary when considering any technology: we want our breeders to have access to the most effective tools; we want our farmers to have access to high-yielding, quality varieties and agronomic systems; and, we want our end-users to be confident in the superiority of the products we supply. This is how we maintain our reputation for integrity.

The Ministry of Agriculture's mandate outlines the importance of innovation. We have developed a Crops Strategy with a focus on fostering a vibrant and prosperous crop sector that contributes to and benefits from the global demand of a growing world population. The Crops Strategy is built on three pillars: Innovation and Science; Leadership and Investment;



and Building on Strengths – moving crops to the next level.

Further, the Crops Strategy will build on our agricultural successes, position the province on the cutting edge of agriculture technology, and increase our influence in determining research direction as well as policy and programming at a national level, leading to increased investment attraction.

One example of that influence was the Wheat Summit in Saskatoon on Feb. 1-2, led by Saskatchewan Agriculture. The Summit was consistent with the provincial Crops Strategy and positioned Saskatchewan as a leader in wheat genetic improvement. This Summit also encouraged future investment to ensure our province's wheat growers will remain competitive.

To show our support for agricultural research and innovation, Premier Wall announced \$10 million in new funding for wheat-related research over the next five years. This funding will go towards research projects that improve wheat yield, quality, and tolerance to disease and extreme weather conditions, and projects that accelerate development of wheat varieties that will one day help feed millions of people across the world.

I want to end by thanking the SIA. Through the SIA's leadership, knowledge and skills, the public can rest assured that the producers of Saskatchewan practice safe and sustainable agriculture. I look forward to our continued work with groups such as the SIA, as we build a successful, innovative, collaborative and sustainable industry.

# Saskatchewan Agriculture Hall of Fame (SAHF)

By: Rick Holm, PAg

As of November 1, 2011, I am your representative on the SAHF Board of Directors and am pleased to provide this brief report. The purpose of the SAHF is to "formally and publicly recognize people who, in the course of their residence in Saskatchewan, made significant and outstanding contributions to the welfare and improvement of Saskatchewan agriculture, and to a better way of life for the farm family". The SAHF is located in the Western Development Museum in Saskatoon and I encourage you to take some time to visit it when you're in the neighbourhood. It's an excellent opportunity to learn about the individuals who have made major contributions to our industry and to learn something of the history of agriculture in Saskatchewan in the process.

New members of the Hall of Fame are chosen from among nominees received by the SAHF Board of Directors and are inducted each year during the long week-end in August. Members of the SIA are in an excellent position to initiate the nomination process as they are scattered throughout the province and have extensive knowledge of individuals who have made significant contributions to the industry and to their farming communities. There are, no doubt, many PAgS who are worthy of nomination but I would encourage you to consider nominating anyone involved in agriculture that you consider worthy. While it is nicest to honour individuals that are still living, there are instances where individuals have been inducted posthumously.

Nominations can be made by an individual or by an organization. Nominators and/or sponsoring organizations are required to cover the \$1,200 induction cost if the nomination is successful. Typically this cost is shared by 2 – 4 sponsoring organizations. A list of all inductees into the SAHF can be found at [www.sahf.ca](http://www.sahf.ca). If any SIA member(s), SIA Council and or any of the Branches are interested in submitting a nomination or suggesting a possible nominee, I'd be happy to work with them to navigate the nomination process. Completed nominations must reach the SAHF by 01 September of each year. Nominations not immediately successful are held for re-consideration for the next 3 years.

If you would like to initiate a nomination or would like to obtain further information on the nomination process, you can contact me at (306) 934-2642 or at [rick.holm@sasktel.net](mailto:rick.holm@sasktel.net). I look forward to hearing from you.



Innovation and  
Agriculture

**2012 SIA Conference and  
67th Annual Meeting  
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The Saskatchewan Institute of Agrologists is an organization of university trained professionals that protects the public by ensuring its members are qualified and competent to provide knowledge and advice on agriculture and related areas.

## Professional Development Options



As the global agricultural landscape continues to change, it has become more of a challenge to stay in tune with new technologies and practices. That is why the Farm Leadership Council (FLC) and the Saskatchewan Institute of Agrologists (SIA) are discussing professional development opportunities for agrologists.

Created in 2005, the FLC is a producer led organization that has developed a reputation of being an impartial, independent, third-party service provider delivering high-quality education and professional development programs to producers across the Prairies.

FLC uses technology to deliver educational/information sessions which provides unique opportunities to engage global industry experts and producers from the comfort of their home using the internet. Sessions are conducted by webinar and are archived on the FLC website. Subscribers have access to the archived content and presentations and the opportunity to participate in online producer forums and other events.

The Council's educational sessions focus on several areas of interest: Commodity Markets, Human Resources, Financial Management, Equipment, Crop Production, Succession Planning, Livestock – Beef, Livestock - Pork, and Technology, and more are being developed as needed.

The service is subscription based and is an EASY and CONVENIENT

way for producers, and others, to participate in meaningful dialogue with well-respected and industry leading speakers and network with leading producers from the comfort of their home office.

Because professional Agrologists require 150 hours of professional development every three years, the SIA is reviewing alternative options and opportunities for agrologists to fulfill professional development requirements including online webinars. This issue features the Farm Leadership Council's enhanced webinars for 2012. The next newsletter will review other online opportunities.

A few examples of the programming being offered in February and March:

DATE	TIME	SUBJECT	SPEAKER
February 6	1:30 p.m.	Procedures for Determining Combine Loss	Les Hill, PAMI
February 7	1:30 p.m.	Soil Salinity: Causes; Changes over time; Management	Les Henry, Professor-emeritus, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, SK
February 13	10:00 a.m.	Financial management – Future	David Kohl, Virginia Tech
February 14	1:30 p.m.	Succession Planning – Taxation	Merle Good, Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development
February 15	1:30 p.m.	Soil Health	Dr. Jill Clapperton, Rhizosphere Ecology Research Group, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Lethbridge Research Centre
February 16	1:30 p.m.	Family Farm Business Continuance and Succession Planning: A New Zealand Perspective	Mandi McLeod, Silvanus Consulting Ltd., Morrinsville, New Zealand
February 23	1:30 p.m.	Succession Planning	Mike Salisbury, Lookout Ridge Consulting, American Falls, Idaho
February 24	10:30 a.m.	Grain Expose	Mark Hemmes, Quorum Corporation, Edmonton, AB
February 27	10:30 a.m.	Succession Planning	Michelle Painchaud, Painchaud Performance Group, Winnipeg
February 27	1:30 p.m.	Succession Planning	Leona Darjis, Nuffield Scholar & Jacqueline Gerrard, Backswath Management
February 28	1:30 p.m.	Communication and Succession Planning	Elaine Froese, Family Farm Coach and Succession Planning, Boissevain, MB
February 29	1:30 p.m.	Stripe rust, the new threat to Canadian wheat production in western Canada	Denis Gaudet, Research Scientist, AAFC, Lethbridge, AB
March 5	1:30 p.m.	Pork Feed Efficiency	Prairie Swine Centre
March 6	1:30 p.m.	Pests and Crop Protection	Warren Libby, Savvy Farmer, Guelph Ontario
March 7	1:30 p.m.	Human Resources - Retention	Michelle Painchaud, Painchaud Performance Group, Winnipeg

The Council also offers Managing Risk Workshops with Paul Cassidy, an online Biodiesel workshop and Leaders in Growth in conjunction with the Pacific Institute.

So anyone can join. The subscription cost of \$375 annually for the

educational streams is minimal when compared with the cost of attending major agricultural conferences and programs.

Just sign up at [www.ourflc.com](http://www.ourflc.com). Click on become a member or if you are a member of a producer

association, talk to your association about becoming a partner and join in the learning opportunities. No longer will you need to take valuable time away from your farms or families to gain professional development opportunities.

# Good Land Stewardship: A Professional Development Opportunity

By **Nadia Mori, PAg**

The prairie landscape would not be quite the same without those characteristic tracts of pasture and grassland stretching across the horizon. Although, over 75% of the prairies in Canada have been cultivated, tame and native pastures keep playing an important role in Saskatchewan's economy. Everybody from the livestock producer, over the hay exporter to the hobby naturalist, has their own set of good reasons why sustainable use and management of rangeland ecosystems are important. If you are in any form involved with range or pasture management, the local chapter of the Society for Range Management may have something to offer to you.

The Society for Range Management (SRM) is the professional society dedicated to supporting individuals who work with rangelands and have a commitment to their sustainable use. The SRM's mission is to promote professional development

and continuing education of members and the public and the stewardship of rangeland resources. Membership in the SRM is open to anyone engaged in or interested in any aspect of the study, management, or use of rangelands. The bulk of membership comes from the United States but there is a substantial representation from Canada.

Saskatchewan is part of the Prairie Parkland Chapter within the SRM and has been operational since the mid 1980's. So what can the chapter do for you?

If you are a student at the University of Saskatchewan, you may have noticed the Alicia Hargrave Scholarship which is available to a young student who has demonstrated an interest in range management and expressed financial need. Also if you are a student at the University of Saskatchewan, you may have heard of the range team, which is a group of enthusiastic students preparing to take the Undergraduate Range Management Exam at the SRM's annual meeting.

In February 2012, a group of 13 students will travel to Spokane, WA and receive financial support through the local chapter. The Prairie Parkland Chapter also arranges an annual summer field tour during Saskatchewan's Native Prairie Appreciation week which is held during the third week in June.



Last but not least, the local chapter offers a gateway to a network of professionals with similar interest to yours.

If the local SRM Chapter peaks your interest or if you are looking for professional development opportunities on your agrologist journey, please contact Nadia Mori, PAg, Prairie Parkland Chapter executive member at 306-946-3219 or [nadia.mori@gov.sk.ca](mailto:nadia.mori@gov.sk.ca).

## Professional Development Opportunities

**As agrologists require 150 hours of professional development every 3 years consider options highlighted throughout this issue:**

- **Farm Leadership Council ([www.ourflc.com](http://www.ourflc.com))**
- **Society for Range Management (306-946-3219)**

# SIA Membership Growth and Development: I. Past, Present and Future

**Shankar Das, PhD, MBA, PAg,**  
President-Elect, SIA

## Introduction:

The members of the Saskatchewan Institute of Agrologists (SIA) represent the lifeblood of this great organization. The members provide unwavering, consistent and quality professional services to their clients of the agriculture and agri-food sector. At the same time, the members constantly improve their professional skills through professional development trainings, etc, in order to offer quality services to their clients.

Thus, SIA has been playing two principal roles: first, SIA makes sure that the members are professionally competent by promoting, educating, facilitating and enforcing the acts and bylaws that are consistent with the mission, goals and objectives of the institute; second, protecting the public.

The institute started its historic journey in 1946 with a total of 186 members<sup>ref.1</sup>. In 2011, the membership has increased to more than 1300 (Figure 1 and Table 1). This article aims at describing the historic trend of the membership growth, the current state and the future directions.

## Membership Categories:

Historically, SIA has six categories of members (Table 1). Among those categories, the PAg's are those who have a 4-year university degree in agriculture and related areas and have gone through the articling process as AAg's who are finally inducted by the institute as a PAg. Similarly, AT's, who have a diploma in agriculture and have passed the

articling stage as an AAT, receive their AT certificates. Articling stage for both categories involves a number of requirements to pass before being inducted as a full member. Retired members are those who do not work anymore but remain as a member of the institute. Life members are those who are 70 years or older and maintain their membership as long as they live.

## Membership Growth for last 66 years (1946 – 2011):

As shown in Figure 1, total membership grew in two phases: the first growth phase spans between 1946 and 1990 during which a gradual increase in the membership occurred<sup>ref.2</sup>. Please note that the data and the growth pattern for the period between 1947 and 1969 (blue dashed lines) are not available to be included in the graph.

The second growth phase begins after 2004 when the membership grew at a faster rate (Fig 1) and is mainly contributed by the first 4 categories (Table 1) and Dual Membership (data not shown). However, it is too early to foresee the growth characteristic/pattern of the second phase with certainty as it represents the data for last 10 years only. Whether it is a short-lived bubble or a great beginning of a large growth for next several decades remains to be seen. Nonetheless, the initial growth pattern of the second growth phase is encouraging and

different than that of the first phase.

## Membership Growth For Last 10 Years (2002 – 2011):

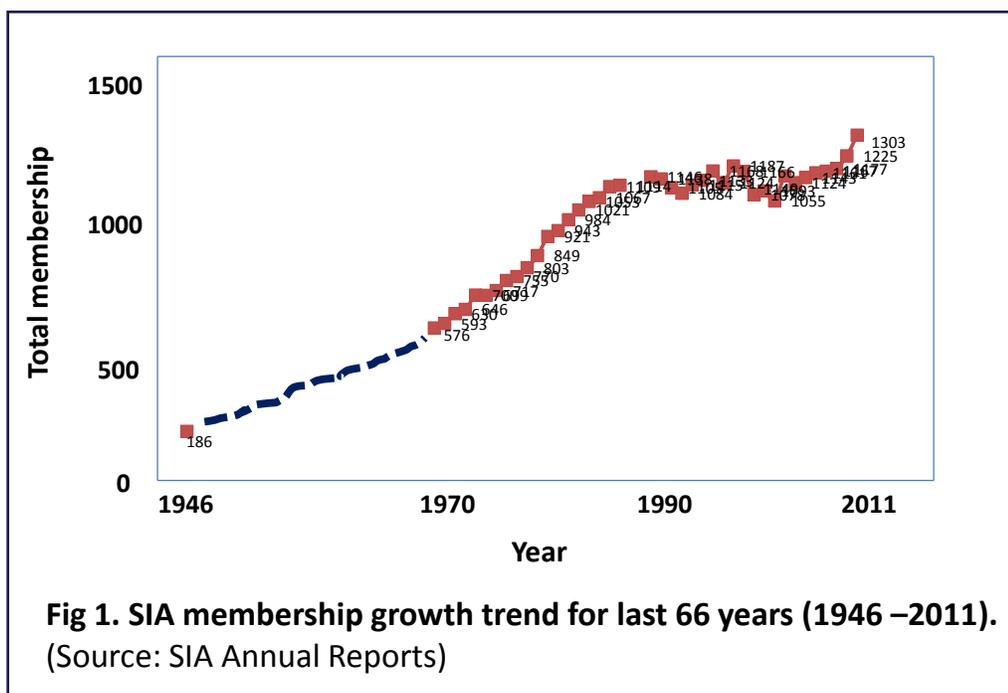
Table 1 shows the membership growth under different categories for last 10 years (2002-2011). During this period, the total membership grew steadily and is largely (88-91%) contributed by two categories: PAg and the AAg (Table 1). Table 1 also shows that the growth of total revenue generated from the 'membership' is parallel to the growth of the total membership indicating the collection of the membership fee is consistent over time.

Although the number of AT/AAT duo is very small compared to PAg/AAg duo each year, the total members under these two categories (AT/AAT) have increased significantly in the recent past. The increase in AAT from a nil in 2003 to 29 in 2011 is clearly noticeable where AAT in 2011 got almost doubled from 2010 (Table 1).

It is of particular interest that the size of life-time members has declined from 68 in 2001 to 40 in 2011 (Table 1). There may be several reasons for this decline. One reason is the death of the big influx of graduates of 1949/50 – after the Second World War (Les Henry - personal communication).

## Future Directions:

Although, the membership growth is encouraging, as observed during the second phase, the recent membership survey (2010) conducted



**Fig 1. SIA membership growth trend for last 66 years (1946 –2011).**  
(Source: SIA Annual Reports)

by Inshtrix Research Inc. indicated that 30.6% of respondents plan to retire within the next ten years<sup>ref.3</sup>. Of those, 31.8% plan on retiring within the next 3 years. This represents a loss of nearly 40 members per year and 120 members in next three years. In financial terms, this loss translates into a \$12,500.00 loss in revenue in year one (2011) and \$36,000 in year 3 (2013).

Therefore, the SIA Strategic Plan (2011-2016)<sup>ref.4</sup> states that the institute needs to grow its membership by 5% per year over the next five years to compensate the possible loss in membership and proposes the following strategic directions to achieve this goal:

- Encourage all individuals who are not registered but are practicing agrology to become registered members of SIA.
- Promoting membership to members of other provincial institutes as Dual Members.
- Actively solicit and encourage student memberships from relevant educational institutes.
- Continue meeting with the professional biologists who would like to become members of SIA under an arrangement similar to that exists between the engineers and geoscientists.
- Actively solicit Agricultural Technologist memberships. The recent council meeting has discussed the needs and the

pathways to achieve this goal.

#### Conclusion:

The SIA and its members have been playing a great role for last 66 years. As a privileged member of the organization, the author hopes the members will continue providing such services with excellence and great pride for years to come.

#### Acknowledgements:

The author expresses his sincere gratitude to Les McLean, Sheri Willick and Al Scholz of the SIA office and to SIA Council President Craig Smith and to two other senior members, Les Henry and Rick Holm, for their invaluable suggestions, comments and advice.

#### References:

1. Charter members, 1946. About Us. SIA Website. <http://www.sia.sk.ca/about-sia/charter-members-/past-executives>
2. SIA Annual Reports and other meeting minutes: 1972-2011.
3. Membership Survey. February, 2010. Inshtrix Research Inc. SIA Website (Member Login)
4. Strategic Plan 2011-2016. SIA Website (Member Login).

# Coming Events...

**SIA Professionalism & Ethics Seminar - watch for details on the SIA website in regard to our new online version!**

**Northeast Branch PD Event - March 7, 2012**

**Swift Current Branch AGM - March 8, 2012**

**Saskatoon Branch Luncheon - March 14, 2012**

**Regina Branch AGM - March 14, 2012**

**Northwest Branch AGM - March 15, 2012**

**Saskatoon Branch AGM - March 26, 2012**

**SIA AGM - March 28, 29, 30, 2012**

*Check our website for other branch AGMs*

**Table 1. SIA Total membership under different categories and membership revenue for last 10 years (2002 – 2011).** (Source: SIA Annual Reports)

CATEGORY	YEAR									
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
<b>TOTAL</b>	1093	1055	1149	1124	1143	1161	1167	1177	1225	1303
<b>PAg</b>	869	851	926	894	900	927	915	946	942	965
<b>AAg</b>	108	85	94	105	132	126	144	129	170	178
<b>AT</b>	30	29	32	28	22	24	20	19	19	22
<b>AAT</b>	?	?	7	8	4	11	12	10	16	29
<b>Retired</b>	18	23	25	20	18	15	19	21	28	27
<b>Life Members</b>	68	67	65	69	62	58	57	52	50	40
<b>(PAg + AAg) % of Total</b>	89	89	89	89	90	91	91	91	91	88
<b>Membership Revenue (\$)</b>	248,660	243,294	242,110	290,605	297,639	307,455	325,250	314,552	345,314	346,658

## MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS

<b>Saskatoon Branch</b>	<b>470</b>
<b>Regina Branch</b>	<b>374</b>
<b>NorthEast Branch</b>	<b>113</b>
<b>NorthWest Branch</b>	<b>89</b>
<b>SouthWest Branch</b>	<b>104</b>
<b>Yorkton Branch</b>	<b>82</b>
<b>At Large Members</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>Student Members</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>TOTAL MEMBERSHIP</b>	<b>1321</b>

# Ag Bio Challenge

**By: Lauryn Sederberg**  
**Academic VP**  
**Agriculture Students Association**

Every year the agriculture students association has a competition called the Ag Bio Challenge. Teams consist of four students in the same major of study, and must represent at least three different years. Three teams participated this year, two teams from Ag business and one team from environmental science.

The teams were given the following topic:

What is the single most important action the agricultural/bio resource sector needs to take if we are to achieve food security for the 9.5 billion inhabitants of the world in 2050?

Once the topic was received, teams had twenty four hours to complete a 10 to 15 minute presentation. Presentations occurred on Feb 6th in front of four judges representing the agriculture industry (a member from SIA, a member from Agri-Trend, member of Pioneer, and a member from Crop Production Services).

Winners were announced the same night of the event. First place went to Lexie Cook, Jessica Kruda, Stacey Shewchuk, and Marc-Andre Fortin, who stated that the level of production was adequate but proper allocation of resources must be taken. Possible solutions that were talked about were education, technology, infrastructure and credit to countries. Second place went to Janelle Healey, Cole Leask, Kalen Kehrig, and Laura Soucy. The event has been a tradition in the Ag College for years and was designed to enhance the student experience and academic talents. Special thanks to the SIA for sponsoring this event!



First Place



Second Place

# Status Updates

## **RESIGNED - PAg**

Barry Boreen  
Vicki East  
Warren Eilers  
Greg Haase  
Darrell Haight  
Allan Last  
Doug Leask  
Gerald McNichol  
Dorothy Murrell  
Arthur Westlund  
Christy Winquist  
Scott Wright

## **RESIGNED - RT**

Jerry Knipfel  
Michael McAvoy  
Brett Meinert  
Lyle Minogue  
Larry Murray  
Gordon Paul

## **RESIGNED - AAT**

Bradley Wilderman

## **RESIGNED - AAg**

Jesse Bergen

## **REMOVAL FROM REGISTER**

Leslie Arsenault  
Lisa Bains  
Gerald Berscheid  
Jack Comeau  
Kiran Doranalli  
Brenan Glassford  
A. Lee Harris  
Eric Holt  
Ravindra Reddy  
Jammuladinne  
Kyle Jordet  
Gourango Kar  
Suren Kulshreshtha  
Lester Lafond  
John McKinnon  
James McPeak  
Trevor Plews  
Angela Spence  
Taylor Wallace  
Roger Wood  
Michael Yeager

## **NEW AAg**

Michael Bender  
Bili Biliget  
Sarwan Boparai  
Michelle Chabot  
Heather Deobald  
Kashif Ejaz  
Chelsea Erickson  
Steven Fedorchuk  
Michelle Hutchison  
Saleem Iqbal  
Steven Leibel

Brody Loverin  
Heather Krahn  
Randy Kutcher  
Katie MacMillan  
Erin McLeod  
Giff Marufu  
Tara Sample  
Nadine Sather  
Coy Schellenberg  
Amrinder Sedha  
Alyssia Sirski  
Ashton Trawin  
Ryan Treble  
Michael Wagner

## **LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Ashfaq Aamer  
Jim Armstrong  
Eric Asare  
Dena Burnett  
Lyll Campbell  
Christiane Catellier  
Grant Chapman  
Lonnie Chupa  
David Feindel  
Mindy Fladeland  
Nick Flaman  
Amber Gader  
Patrick Gerwing  
James Graham  
Aaron Haacke  
Garry Herman  
Terry Hogg  
Ashley Kattler  
Megan Kroes  
Ashley Lundgren  
Ross MacDonald  
Jeff McSymtz  
Candace Mitschke  
Tanya Olson  
Gloria Parisien  
Rozz Pilsner  
Jeremy Pittman  
Colleen Redlick  
Kimberly Schmitke  
Sunil Sood  
Jolene Strain  
Abdoul Teuw  
Kim Thompson  
Brian Toole  
Ryan Woloshyn

## **NEW AAT**

Drape Chafe  
Blaine Cowan  
Kaeley Kindrachuk  
David McAulay  
Wade McLeod  
Alexandra Pissens  
Eric Schick

## **FROM AAG TO PAg**

Owen Black  
Brandon Edgar  
Daniel Fletcher  
Timothy Gardner  
Trevor Glas  
Sean Harder  
Tara Hillis  
Scott Iffe  
Sharon Klinger  
Christopher Mansiere  
Marc Mansiere  
Dennis Muc  
Ashton Redden  
Mark Redden  
Sherisse Reimer  
Katrina Roberts  
Brian Shaw  
Geoff Wilson  
Tyler Wilson

## **REINSTATEMENT AAg**

Ryan Goodwin

Jason Saufert

Melissa Silvernagle

## **REINSTATEMENT PAg**

Nicole Buitenhuis

Blair McCann

Jessica Podhodeski

Christine Saufert

Karen Smith

## **TRANSFER IN PAg**

Wilson Gutierrez-Justiniano

Ian McNeil

Andrew Pantel

## **TRANSFER IN AAg**

Ashley Hiduk

Mahesh Sivakumar

## **TRANSFER IN AAT**

Kirk Vanbeselaere

## **TRANSFER OUT**

Courtney Allen

Kelsie Dale

Paul Enns

Shambhu Katel

Brent Lyons

Ryan Nielson

Kelli Reich

## **DUAL MEMBERSHIPS, PAg**

Sheldon Exner - AIA

## **NEW STUDENT MEMBERS**

Rachel Claassen

Delanie Dick

Bryce Ehman

Kurtis Gaudet

Kyle Gregoire

Daniel Olynyk

Stacey Shewchuk

## What Does A Registrar Do?

Les McLean, PAg

All self regulated professions have a Registrar who is mandated specific legal responsibilities under each profession's legislation which, in our case, is The Saskatchewan Agrologists Act, 1994.

One of my responsibilities as Registrar is to annually file a "registry" or list of members licensed to practice agrology in Saskatchewan. This registry must be filed with the Ministry of Justice by February 1 of each calendar year. Once filed with Justice this list remains unchanged for the balance of that year.

How does this registry affect members?

It is the responsibility of members to pay their registration fees by December 31 of each year. If the fees are not paid by the end of December we send a gentle email reminder in early January and then, if required, a second invoice with a \$100.00 late fee added to the initial fees.

If the fees are still not paid, the registry, which must be filed by February 1st, is filed without that individuals name on the registry. If your name is not on the registry you are not registered to practice agrology in Saskatchewan. This has a number of implications to the members with one being your liability insurance.

## **SASKATCHEWAN AGROLOGIST**

is a publication of:

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### **SIA 2011 - 2012 COUNCIL:**

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Tara Kennedy, PAg, Past-President, 953.0078

Shankar Das, PAg, President-Elect, 374.6938

Murray Purcell, PAg, Public Representative, 241.7342

Berny Wiens, RT, Producer Representative, 377.4224

Michael Zenter, AT, Agriculture Technologist Representative, 287.4008

Dave Cubbon, PAg, Northwest Branch Councillor, 236.2476

Wade Annand, PAg, Northeast Branch Councillor, 276.6654

Sandra Shiels, PAg, Regina Branch Councillor, 584.9500

Jeremy German, PAg, Saskatoon Branch Councillor, 463.4622

Tyler Friesen, PAg, Southwest Branch Councillor, 774.4466

VACANT, Yorkton Branch Councillor

Alanna Koch, Ministry of Agriculture

Mary Buhr, Dean, College of Agriculture and Bioresources

Al Scholz, PAg, CAC, CMC, Executive Director, 242.2606

### **SIA 2011 - 2012 REPRESENTATIVES**

Sandy Lauder, PAg, U of R Senate Representative, 789.6997

Patricia Flaten, PAg, U of S Senate Representative

Dave Cubbon, PAg, CCA Representative

Rick Holm, PAg, Agriculture Hall of Fame

Richard Marleau, PAg, Agriculture in the Classroom, 373.0596

### **SIA 2011 - 2012 BRANCH PRESIDENTS**

Northeast, Chad Bohachewski, PAg, 862.4992

Northwest, Angela Booy, PAg, 342.4522

Regina, Blair McClinton, PAg, 949.5689

Saskatoon, Chelsea Bulani, PAg, 933.9940

Southwest, Lyle Thomson, PAg, 648.8040

Yorkton, Mark Carlson, AAg, 547.5418

### **ADVERTISING INFORMATION**

To advertise in the SASKATCHEWAN AGROLOGIST, please contact the SIA office.

### **SUBMISSION DEADLINES:**

February Issue - January 2

May Issue - April 1

August Issue - July 1

November Issue - October 1

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