

## Presidents Report March 19-29, 2010

- March 22-24 Attended Agricultural Producers of Saskatchewan annual meeting in Regina.

The gathering started with reception that was co-sponsored by Food Processors and Saskatchewan trade on Monday night.

I sat in on a policy meeting the next morning that covered many of the same concerns that we have with grain transportation. They are in the process of a presentation to the Service Review Panel and agree that we must continue to pursue a full costing review

Panel discussion was held on issues from the livestock industry / no real answers but lots of questions

Ag minister Bob Bjornerud addressed the gathering / it was the day before the budget release and not many promises were forthcoming / a lot of discussion on the coyote control program and gophers

In the morning we had a presentation from Rick McConnell on E-Weatherisk / it is a new concept to their members and there was some positive feedback

Greg Marshall was re-elected as president with Don Connick and Jeff Simpson as vices

There were a number of resolutions discussed a number of issues / one that we will have to watch is a move by Environment Canada to make changes to the Migratory Birds Act / a full listing of the resolutions can be found on their website

- March 26 attended a Grains and oilseeds roundtable hosted by minister Hayden

Market access and research were 2 topics that received a lot of discussion.

I am waiting to see how effective these gatherings are but there is hope that they will continue and be productive

- March 28 received a call from CWB board member Allen Oberg regarding an updated report on railway revenues from grain movement done by John Edsforth. The report noted that the railways received 45% in 2007-08 and 75% in 2008-09 return on operating costs. This is substantially higher than the 20% allowed under the Grains Transportation Act. I will discuss this further when I meet with the western farm leaders in Winnipeg on April 9. We will probably do a press release calling for an immediate costing review

- March 31 I have a conference call to meet with Farmers of North America regarding a study that they are conducting into farmers cost of production.
- I will look for response to this initiative to contact everyone. I know that in the past I have tried to personally talk to people but that has proven unsuccessful. I hope that this will provide some updates as to what issues we are faced with daily
- Happy Easter to all