



AGRICULTURE COUNCIL
OF SASKATCHEWAN INC.

NEWS RELEASE

ACS commits over \$4.8 million to Saskatchewan's agriculture sector

Saskatoon (June 19, 2009) – The Agriculture Council of Saskatchewan Inc. (ACS) capped off another successful year today at the 2009 Annual General Meeting (AGM) by announcing that \$4,814,075 was committed to 87 projects through the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada funded Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food Saskatchewan (ACAAFS) program in the 2008/2009 fiscal year.

ACS members elected one new director to the Board of Directors, while another position was acclaimed. The 2009/2010 Board will include Jason Dean, representing the Saskatchewan Cattle Feeders Association, who returns by acclamation to the ACS Board after first being elected to the Board in October of 2006. He will be joined by Kirk Flaman of the Saskatchewan Seed Potato Growers Association, who will sit on the Board in the Youth Director position.

The directors join Chair Murray Purcell, who represents the Saskatchewan Pulse Growers, Vice-Chair Valerie Pearson, who represents the Saskatchewan 4-H Council, Secretary/Treasurer Darrell Schneider of the Saskatchewan Food Processors Association, Neil Ketilson of Sask Pork, Bob Morgan of POS Pilot Plant Corporation, and Allen Kuhlmann of the Saskatchewan Flax Development Commission. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada is represented on the ACS Board by Dean Vey, while the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture is represented by Dr. Abdul Jalil.

“I would like to congratulate the Board of Directors, advisory group members, government representatives and staff of ACS on a tremendous year,” said Purcell. “The demand for ACAAFS funding and programs such as the Food Professionals Management Program, the Agriculture Mentorship Initiative, the Saskatchewan Agri-Food Value Chains Initiative and the Student Assisted Business and Marketing Plan Program continues to grow. We look forward to continuing these programs and working on new programs with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and other partners that will serve the growing needs of Saskatchewan's agriculture and agri-food sector.”

ACS said goodbye to Keith LePoudre of the First Nations Agricultural Council of Saskatchewan who was elected to the ACS Board of Directors at the 2008 Annual General Meeting. In addition to his work on the Board, Keith was a long-time member of the ACAAFS Advisory Group. “Keith was a valuable member of our team and we're sad to see him go,” said Purcell. “We thank him for his contributions and service over the years and wish him well for the future.”

To March 31, 2009, ACS has committed nearly \$15.3 million to 273 projects through the ACAAFS program.

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