

## **BACKGROUND**

### **Farm Business Development Initiative (FBDI)**

- The FBDI helps farmers to develop business plans and enhance business skills in nine business practice areas: business strategy, marketing, production economics, human resources, finance, environment, succession planning, business structure and risk management.
- Funding for producers under the age of 40 is increasing from 75% to 90% of eligible costs and the funding limit is increasing from \$4,000 to \$10,000.
- Producers over the age of 40 are eligible to receive funding of up to 75% to a maximum of \$4,000.
- Producers can contact their local Ministry of Agriculture Regional Office or call the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377 for more information.

### **Ministry of Agriculture Youth Advisory Committee**

- The Youth Advisory Committee was formed in 2009, to develop recommendations to attract and retain youth in agriculture.
- The Committee is made up of seven farmers and ranchers between the ages of 18 and 35 from across Saskatchewan.
- The Committee's report contains 12 recommendations. The report is available at [www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca](http://www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca).
- The Minister has extended the Committee's mandate for a period of up to five years.

### **Saskatchewan Young Ag Entrepreneurs (SYA)**

- The SYA consists of young ag-entrepreneurs involved in primary production, agri-business, value added processing, and students between the ages of 18 and 40.
- SYA's mandate is to provide networking and training opportunities for young ag-entrepreneurs from Saskatchewan, both on a provincial and national level.

## **Ministry of Agriculture Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) Recommendations**

### ***Awareness and Promotion***

- The Ministry of Agriculture include modern images of agriculture and producers in its informational and marketing materials.

### ***Information and Training***

- The Ministry of Agriculture review its website and make changes to improve online service, provide comprehensive industry information and inform youth about agricultural information.
- The Ministry of Agriculture work with an industry partner, such as Saskatchewan Young Ag-Entrepreneurs (SYA), to develop, host and maintain a website that assembles existing and new information relevant to young and beginning farmers on one easy-to-locate site.
- The Ministry of Agriculture support the development of a program for beginning farmers as part of Growing Forward.

### ***Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC)***

- On new contracts, customers have the option of choosing a five-year (building up to ten years) accelerated data collection method for calculating individual yields, with the individual yield being calculated using the simple averaging method in years one to five and using the exponential smoothing method in years six to 10; and that SCIC look into the feasibility of offering this option to lapsed contract-holders.
- A representative of the YAC work with SCIC and participate on the committee tasked with updating the Transfer of Earned Credit and Succession Policy to ensure that the aforementioned policy reflects the variety of transfer situations by expanding the criteria for eligibility and the means to proving that criteria.

### ***Saskatchewan Young Ag-Entrepreneurs (SYA)***

- The Ministry of Agriculture support the development of the SYA by providing financial support for projects and partnering on initiatives.

### ***Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC)***

- The Ministry of Agriculture recognize AITC as a necessary entity for enabling the delivery of agriculture programs to youth and demonstrate this support by increasing the long-term funding to AITC.
- The Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Environment agree to collaborate on incorporating agriculture content in the provincial school curriculum and ensure the provision of balanced, objective information in resources.
- The Ministry of Agriculture encourage the Ministry of Education to build upon its success of cooperating with AITC to include an AITC endorsed resource on the curriculum resource list, and continue to communicate and cooperate with AITC in delivering Saskatchewan-related agriculture content to students.
- The Ministry of Agriculture encourage the College of Education at the University of Saskatchewan and the Faculty of Education at the University of Regina to offer agriculture learning opportunities to education students. This could be done by allowing a representative of AITC to present and distribute resources to university students that will enable them to increase their agriculture knowledge base and thereby result in an increase in agriculture content taught to their future students.

### ***Ministry of Agriculture Regional Offices***

- The Regional Offices aim to be the primary spot for Saskatchewan producers to obtain industry information and advice, and that the Regional Services Branch implement the committee's suggestions outlined in the 2010 YAC report.