

**Saskatchewan Alfalfa Seed Producers
Development Commission
(SASPDC)**

History of the SASPDC

The process leading to the establishment of the Saskatchewan Alfalfa Seed Producers Development Commission was initiated by the Saskatchewan Alfalfa Seed Producers Association (SASPA). The intent of the alfalfa seed producers was to establish a commission whereby producer funding could be utilized in areas of research and development of importance to alfalfa seed producers in order to benefit the alfalfa seed industry in Saskatchewan.

Following a period of consultation with alfalfa seed producers in the province, a producer vote was undertaken on January 8th, 1996 at a general meeting of alfalfa seed producers in Saskatoon. At the meeting, the implementation of an alfalfa seed levy was strongly supported by alfalfa seed producers in attendance. The Commission was established on July 24th, 1997 and collection of the alfalfa seed levy (payable on all alfalfa seed produced in Saskatchewan) commenced on August 1st, 1997. The levy is currently set at \$0.0125 (1 and 1/4 cents) per pound of alfalfa seed. The collection of the alfalfa seed levy is mandatory and the levy is refundable to producers upon submission of a written request and proof of levy payment.

Purpose of the SASPDC

The general purpose of the Commission is to provide for the effective development of the alfalfa seed industry in Saskatchewan. Specific purposes of the Commission are the following ...

- to promote and develop the alfalfa seed industry and alfalfa leafcutting bee industry in Saskatchewan.
- to develop procedures which will maximize returns to alfalfa seed producers.
- to encourage the production of a uniform high-quality product.
- to gather, compile, and distribute to registered producers information related to the production of alfalfa seed and the management of alfalfa leafcutting bees.
- to conduct and encourage research on alfalfa seed production and alfalfa leafcutting bee management.
- to promote understanding among individuals and organizations within the alfalfa seed industry and the alfalfa leafcutting bee industry.
- to establish a system of levies on alfalfa seed crops in order to carry out the purposes of the Commission.
- to represent and lobby on behalf of registered producers in matters relating to the development of the alfalfa seed industry and the alfalfa leafcutting bee industry.

Research Priorities of the SASPDC

Research priorities of the Saskatchewan Alfalfa Seed Producers Development Commission are established through a process of consultation and research prioritization by Saskatchewan alfalfa seed producers. Priority research requirements identified in the area of alfalfa seed production have included weed control research, disease control research, and insect control research. Research priorities identified in the area of alfalfa leafcutting bee management have included alfalfa leafcutting bee parasite and disease control research, along with alternative crop pollination research. Ongoing consultation with Saskatchewan alfalfa seed producers to determine research priorities is undertaken annually at the SASPDC annual meeting.

Levy Collection Process of the SASPDC

The SASPDC levy collection year runs from August 1st - July 31st. This levy collection year is divided into two levy collection periods ...

- 1) August 1st - January 31st
- 2) February 1st - July 31st

The alfalfa seed levy is collected by the processor, buyer, or assembler at first point of processing. The processor provides the producer with a receipt and remits the collected levy funds to the SASPDC levy collection office (ACS Levy Central - Saskatoon).

The SASPDC levy collection office, upon receipt of the levy funds, records the amount of levy paid by the alfalfa seed producer and confirms to the processor that the levy funds have been received. SASPDC legislation stipulates that the processor collecting the levy must remit levy funds to the SASPDC levy collection office within 55 days from the end of the month within which the levy was collected.

Refund of levy collected from individual producers will be made by the SASPDC upon receipt at the office of the SASPDC administrator in Middle Lake of a written request from the producer requesting the levy refund, along with a copy of the documentation from the original transaction (noting the amount of alfalfa seed levy deducted and the date of the transaction).

Producers may request a levy refund at two times during the year ...

- 1) For levy collected during the period August 1st - January 31st, refund requests must be received by the SASPDC administrator by February 28th; refunds for this period will be issued by April 30th.
- 2) For levy collected during the period February 1st - July 31st, refund requests must be received by the SASPDC administrator by August 31st; refunds for this period will be issued by October 31st.

**For additional information on the Saskatchewan
Alfalfa Seed Producers Development Commission,
please contact the office of the SASPDC administrator ...**

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