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SSCA Prepares for the Future

Recently, the Saskatchewan Soil Conservation Association (SSCA) announced that it has issued lay off notices to its field staff effective September 30, 2006. While the loss of these agrologists will hurt the SSCA, the Association will continue to promote good stewardship of the province's farm land.

Edgar Hammermeister, President of the SSCA, affirmed that SSCA is still in business. "SSCA is a farmer-run organization and we are committed to serving the interests of the farmers", he said. He also indicated that SSCA's Board of Directors will continue to lead the way in seeing that farmers receive the best deal from trading of environmental goods and services such as soil carbon.

Blair McClinton, SSCA's Executive Manager agreed that the SSCA will continue to operate. "While the loss of the field staff means working with greatly reduced resources, we will once again offer our two most popular technology transfer events". McClinton indicated that the Crop Advisors' Workshop will be held in Regina November 30 and December 1 and the Annual Conference will be held in Saskatoon February 14 & 15, 2007.

Hammermeister encourages farmers to renew their membership in the SSCA. "This is a critical time for the Association and for farmers alike", he said. "By renewing his/her membership, a farmer lends support to the SSCA and in turn, the SSCA increases its power in advocating for farmers' interests".

Hammermeister further indicated that the Association will continue to pursue program funding opportunities. In the meantime, he is confident that the Board of Directors, composed of a very competent group of individuals, will work hard to ensure the interests of the province's farmers are given due consideration. "The SSCA may be down but we're not out, things have just become more challenging".

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