The structure of the above council and the group to which it reports is understood poorly by many individuals. Each province within Canada has an Agricultural Services Co-ordinating Committee. The Saskatchewan body (SASCC) was established to provide advice on matters relating to agricultural programs and policy. With representation from provincial, federal governments, the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine, SASCC is able to regularly review the broad aspects of research, education and extension. This body is chaired by the Deputy Minister of Agriculture.

To be effective SASCC relies on the input received from various advisory councils such as the Soils and Agronomy group which is being reported on here today. These advisory bodies of which there are 9 in Saskatchewan each has a mandate to supply direction related to its area of expertise to SASCC. These groups develop statements on specific problems for SASCC by request from farmers or on their own initiative. Many of these councils also devote considerable time to preparing extension publications for distribution to farmers.

The 9 advisory councils plus SASCC provide an excellent opportunity for researchers, government staff, industry and farmers to discuss challenges and problems facing agriculture as a whole as well as in their specific area of expertise.

Ideas or shared concerns can be discussed with other councils and brought to the attention of SASCC at its annual fall meeting. Issues of national concern are forwarded by SASCC to the Canadian Agricultural Services Co-ordinating Committee.

The Saskatchewan Advisory Council on Soils and Agronomy (SACSA) as a group has 56 members. Four functional sub-committees exist within its structure consisting of the following:

a. Weeds Committee - Chairman: Mr. Larry Gramiak
b. Tillage Committee - Chairman: Mr. Ben Dyck
c. Soil Fertility Committee - Chairman: Mr. Harry Ukrainetz
d. Special Soils Problems Committee - Chairman: Mr. Glen Shaw

In an attempt to develop a better understanding of this system the advisory councils in conjunction with SASCC are preparing a brief information bulletin. This should be available in 1988.
1. **Education and Extension Activities:**

1.1 **Publications:**

**WEED COMMITTEE:** The Weed Committee has finished revising its major bulletin "Chemical Weed Control in Cereals, Oilseed, Pulse and Forage Crops". It was released in December 1987. This is significantly earlier than in past years and should be a benefit for extension use. In addition this committee is preparing a new fact sheet relating to Canada Thistle control. Efforts are also concentrating on preparing a fact sheet on "Herbicide Usage in Reduced Tillage Cropping Systems". This release will be coordinated by the weeds committee with input from University and Agriculture Canada Research Staff.

**SOIL FERTILITY AND FERTILIZER USE COMMITTEE:** is involved in either updating or releasing the following bulletins:

- Spring Applications of Anhydrous Ammonia
- Soil pH Map
- Fact Sheet on Soil pH
- 1987 Soil Fall Moisture Map

Efforts are being directed towards formalizing an inventory of all soil fertility research being conducted in Saskatchewan. The overall objective would be to determine areas of research which are deficient and prioritize this required research to funding agencies.

This committee also recognizes the need for a release on the effect of nitrogen related to fertilizer banding close to the seed. This will be considered in 1988. Difficulties have been encountered in preparing a fact sheet on "Fertilizing Forage Crops" due to the insufficient data base available to draw on. It was originally thought this could be released in 1987.

**TILLAGE COMMITTEE:** This sub-committee is preparing a fact sheet on "Pulse Crops in Rotation" Input for this bulletin is coming from Agriculture Canada Research Stations and the University of Saskatchewan. This group is also working towards organizing a workshop on "Deep Ripping of Soils". It is anticipated this will be held in conjunction with the 1989 Soils and Crops Workshop.

**SPECIAL SOILS PROBLEM COMMITTEE:** In conjunction with the tillage group a fact sheet relating to the effect of excessively deep tillage on productive soils will be developed. It is anticipated that a manual on soil salinity will be complete and ready for distribution in 1988. This book has been developed to include all recent research findings on the topic.
2.1 Research and Development

a) Control recommendations related to Downy Brome in fall seeded crops.

BACKGROUND: Crop diversification is an objective for agriculture in Saskatchewan. In southwest Saskatchewan there is an increasing acreage of fall rye and winter wheat grown as alternate crops. The grassy weed Downy Brome is an increasing problem and threatens the production of these alternate crops.

RESOLUTION: That government, university and industry be made aware of the seriousness of this problem and be encouraged or directed to work towards developing effective control practices for this weed.

2.2 Non Research and Development

a) Control of foreign weed problems entering Canada at border crossing with U.S.A.

BACKGROUND: Currently custom harvesting units enter Canada from the U.S.A. without inspection or cleaning. New weeds are entering Canada by this method. These newly introduced species are increasing input costs to Canadian farmers in addition to placing constraints on the production of certain crops.

RESOLUTION: That all harvesting units entering Canada be inspected and cleaned to prevent the incidence and spread of noxious weeds.

Concluding Remarks:

I have enjoyed my past 2 1/2 years as chairperson of the Saskatchewan advisory council on soils and agronomy and look forward to continuing my input at the sub-committee level. Mr. Roy Button, with Saskatchewan Agriculture, will assume responsibilities as the new chairperson of SACSA. Like myself I'm sure Roy will encourage your input to council's activities.