



The KAP Alert

Prairie Farm Leaders Applaud Free Trade Talks

News Release April 21, 2009

Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP), the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS), and Wild Rose Agricultural Producers (WRAP) are encouraged that the federal government has engaged in discussion with the Kingdom of Morocco on opportunities for a free trade agreement.



Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz announced he met with the agriculture and trade leaders from Morocco and the federal government is focused on working on strengthening the trade relationship between the two countries.

During their meeting in Winnipeg on April 17, 2009, the three Prairie farm group leaders emphasized the importance of the development of markets for producers.

"Here in Western Canada we're



Activities

MP Meetings: During the week President Ian Wishart met with several MPs in Ottawa to discuss EG&S, review of the Competition Act and support for the livestock sectors.

- Wayne Easter, Agriculture Critic and MP Malpeque
- Randy Hoback, MP Prince Albert
- Mark Eyking, MP Cape Breton
- Brian Storseth, MP Westlock - St. Paul

Tuesday and Wednesday:

President Ian Wishart attended the Canadian Federation of Agriculture board meetings in Ottawa.

Thursday, April 23: President Ian Wishart attended an Ontario Federation of Agriculture and Union des producteurs agricoles (UPA) meeting in

export reliant, and we want to build on our exports of grain, pulses, and other agricultural products, so this is positive news," said Ian Wishart, KAP President.

The farm leaders agree the move to negotiate with Morocco will help put Canada on the same level as other trade partners such as the U.S. and the European Union.

"Free trade agreements that put us on equal footing with our neighbours will go a long way to benefit producers," said Greg Marshall, APAS President.

"We welcome this news because any development is good for farmers and it takes away the competitive disadvantage in the marketplace," said Humphrey Banack, WRAP President.

WRAP, APAS, and KAP are pleased to see Canada's commitment to trade and look forward to more news on the Morocco negotiations.

Photo (left to right): Ian Wishart, Humphrey Banack, and Greg Marshall.



Ottawa.

Friday, April 24: President Ian Wishart, VP Robert McLean, and GM Yvonne Rideout met with Intergovernmental Affairs and Trade to discuss provincial land use policies. Executive member Doug Chorney and Policy Analyst James Battershill met with MAFRI staff regarding Agri-Energy proposals and funding.

Other Events

June 2-3: Trace R&D 2009, a conference on agriculture and food traceability, Fairmont Hotel, Winnipeg, MB. [Website](#)

June 17-19: Western Canada Farm Progress Show, Evraz Place, Regina, SK. [Website](#)

Provincial Land Use Policies Review

The province is updating its land-use policies and is seeking input from the public. Workshops will be held around the province. Consultation materials including the draft policies are available by clicking [here](#). To provide feedback, email plups@gov.mb.ca.

Consultations will take place

Flood Information From Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives

Excerpt from Flood Media Bulletin #37

Crop Seeding Delayed

Flood conditions may result in delays in seeding crops in flooded areas. The delays may also result in changes to crop choices, with some producers selecting crops that mature faster to



accommodate a shorter growing season. The length of seeding delays will be determined by how much water is on fields, how fast the water drains and soil-drying conditions in the next few weeks. Farmers in Manitoba are well equipped to deal with excess moisture and flooded acres. In 1997, the flood subsided early enough that there was generally no effect on crop yields. The effects of the 1997 flood occurred much later than this 2009 flood.

Fact Sheets

Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives has put together a series of fact sheets dealing with crop production under conditions of excess moisture. Some of the topics include countering the effects of late planting, soil fertility considerations, management of diseases, weeds, and insects under wet conditions, and dealing

until May 7. Land-use policies are expected to be finalized in the fall of 2009.

Schedule

The following is a schedule of public workshops in regions throughout Manitoba:

April 27: 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.,
Norwood Hotel (Promenade
Room A), 112 Marion,
Winnipeg.

April 30: 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.,
Thompson Regional Community
Centre (Mary Fenske
Boardroom) / C.A. Nesbitt
Arena.

May 4: 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.,
Fraserwood Hall (new hall).

May 7: 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.,
Brokenhead River Community
Hall, 320 Veterans Lane,
Beausejour.

To reserve your spot at a public workshop call 945-2150 or [email](#).

Interested parties are also encouraged to share their views and suggestions on the draft of the proposed Provincial Land Use Policies by forwarding written comments to the address, fax or email below by

with farm equipment and pesticide containers that may have been flooded. This information is available at GO offices.

[Fact Sheet Links](#)

[Flooding and well water safety](#)

[After the Flood – Clean-up Checklist](#)

[Managing Stress During a Flood](#)

[Securing Hazardous Materials Containers Before and After Flooding](#)

[Securing Petroleum Storage Tanks Before and After Flooding](#)

[Securing Propane Storage Tanks Before and After Flooding](#)

Requests for assistance with pets, livestock or hobby farm animals can be made to the Animal Care Line, 945-8000, which is maintained by the Office of the Chief Veterinarian.

Additional flood information is available at www.manitoba.ca.

Interested in Biomass?

KAP's Agri-Energy Sub-Committee is looking for a producer presently using coal for heat who may be interested in converting their system to biomass.



May 8, 2009.

Provincial Land Use Policies
Review Community Planning
and Development Division,
Manitoba Intergovernmental
Affairs
604 - 800 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3G 0N4
Fax: (204) 945-5059
E-mail: PLUPS@gov.mb.ca

Manitoba Farm Mentorship Program

The Organic Food Council of Manitoba has just launched the Manitoba Farm Mentorship program (MFM)!

This is an exciting new program designed to connect people, land and local knowledge for a food-secure Manitoba.

There are still spaces available for this year for farmers looking to diversify or transition to an environmentally sustainable form of agriculture. MFM wants to connect you with a mentor to help you along the way. For more information please call 785-8828 or check out the [website](#).

KAP in Net News

As farmers cut back on fertilizer,

Provincial money is available to offset some of the costs associated with conversion and acquiring fuel. Please contact James at policy@kap.mb.ca or 697-1140 for more information.

Assiniboine Community College Showcase 2009

The School of Agriculture and Environment is hosting Showcase 2009 on Wednesday, May 6, 2009. Our biggest lab is the great outdoors! Join us for an evening of fun and learning. We will take you on an interactive tour to highlight the features of our three main programs – Agribusiness, GIS Environmental Technologies and Land and Water Management.



Explore our programs through hands-on activities that include using a GPS, soil texturing, measuring water flow, water testing, and seed identification. A showcase of student work and interaction with instructors will introduce you to our programs and your future career. We will also have events for kids of all ages and a toonie BBQ with proceeds going to local food banks.

WHEN: Wednesday, May 6, 2009
5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

the impact could reverberate far beyond Potash Corp.'s bottom line. Will the recession spark a global food crisis?

[The Globe and Mail](#)

Prairie Farm Groups Call for Help for Red Meat Sector

[Farmscape.com](#)

Formal trade agreement with Morocco sought

[Country-guide.ca](#)

Farm groups emphasize payment security

[Canadiancattlemen.ca](#)

Farm Groups Meet

[PortageOnline.com](#)

Farm groups share concerns

[CJOB 68](#)

Member Benefits Corner

It pays to be a KAP member! We are pleased to offer a comprehensive benefits program to our members in addition to the ongoing policy work that we do on your behalf. For more information, please call our Member Benefits line at 1-866-527-0123 or check out the website [here](#).

WHERE: Assiniboine Community College
1430 Victoria Avenue East
Brandon, MB

Call 725-8712 or [click here](#) for more information.

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