



# The KAP Alert

February 13, 2009

## Ag Ministers: Give Farm Groups a Call

Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP) is encouraged by a statement from the federal, provincial and territorial Ministers of Agriculture regarding the need to continue to work with the agriculture industry on issues, particularly now as the country weathers the current economic situation.

KAP would like to see adequate consultation between producer groups and the federal and provincial governments on key issues discussed at the Ministers' meeting in Ottawa this week. As food safety and traceability are critical issues for farmers, we would like to see engagement from both levels of government before final policy is developed.

"We want to see something that works for the provincial and federal governments as well as producers," said Ian Wishart, KAP President. "The timeline for the food safety action plan is tight, and the governments must ensure that we have a system that works for the entire country as opposed to a province by province basis."



### KAP Activities

**Monday, Feb. 9:**

The Executive met at the KAP office.

**Tuesday, Feb. 10:**

President Ian Wishart and GM Yvonne Rideout attended a Canadian Dairy Commission course in Winnipeg.

**Wednesday, Feb. 11:**

President Ian Wishart attended the Manitoba Special Crops Symposium at the Convention Centre.

**Thursday, Feb. 12:**

President Ian Wishart and GM Yvonne Rideout met with Robert Sopuck, Delta Waterfowl VP Policy

KAP is encouraged that the Ministers are close to completing the new agriculture policy framework Growing Forward, and to hear they are moving forward to have bilaterals in place by April 1, 2009.

“Farmers want Growing Forward to be put in place, but we want assurance that the programs will be flexible and responsive to our needs as they will have a significant impact on our industry’s future,” said Wishart.

KAP is encouraged that the Ministers recognize the need to continue to work on market access issues, and also applauds the establishment of the Market Access Secretariat. KAP is now looking to the Ministers to focus on developing a strategy for the livestock sector to set a vision and determine a path forward. KAP has a [resolution](#) that directly relates to this issue which will be brought forward at the Canadian Federation of Agriculture’s [annual meeting](#) at the end of February.

## AgrilInvest Must Work For Farmers

Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP) is encouraged by the federal government’s [announcement](#) on contributions under AgrilInvest, a new program under the Growing Forward policy framework.

KAP supports the need for the program and believes the government’s move to waive the deposit requirement for 2007 AgrilInvest will have a positive effect on producers, many of whom face immense challenges heading into the next crop year.

Western Canada to discuss ecological goods and services.

### Friday, Feb. 13:

President Ian Wishart attended a meeting with MASC to discuss hay insurance programming.

## Other Events

**February 17-19:** Manitoba-North Dakota Zero Tillage Farmers Association workshop and trade show, Victoria Inn, Brandon, MB.

[Website](#)

**February 18:** Manitoba Forage Symposium, Southern Manitoba Convention Centre, Morris, MB.

[Website](#)

**February 22 - 24:** GrainWorld, Fairmont, Winnipeg, MB. [Website](#)

**February 27:** Investors Group Financial Services Farm Succession Planning Seminar, Riverbank Discovery Centre, Brandon, MB.

[Invitation \(pdf\)](#)

**February 27 - 28:** Direct Farm Marketing Conference, Royal Oak Inn, Brandon, MB. [Website](#)

**March 10 – 12:** Canola Council of Canada Convention, Sheraton Centre, Toronto, ON. [Website](#)

## Growing Forward

"It is important that this program is set up properly so that it works for farmers and does what it was intended to do," said Ian Wishart, KAP President. "Once the program is up and running it will definitely help producers determine an appropriate level of risk management for their operations."



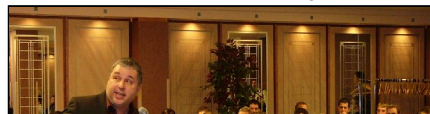
KAP notes that the system must be ready for 2008 and beyond so farmers can move forward to put proper AgrilInvest accounts in place.

"We hope the federal and provincial governments, banks and credit unions can work together to have the system in place for the 2008 contribution year, by July the latest," said Wishart.

Producers can access more information about AgrilInvest through the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada website [www.agr.gc.ca](http://www.agr.gc.ca) or by calling toll free 1-866-367-8506.

## Young Farmers Committee Annual Meeting

An energetic crowd of over 70 young farmers and students gathered at the Delta Winnipeg on Jan. 29, 2009 to participate in KAP's Young Farmers Committee annual meeting.



## Information Sessions

Information sessions on the new suite of Business Risk Management Programs, including AgrilInvest and AgriStability, are being held in Manitoba. Representatives will also be available to meet with producers individually for one-on-one consultations.

Representatives will answer questions from producers about AgrilInvest and AgriStability, and provide tips for completing the 2008 harmonized form.

Locations and dates for Business Risk Management Program Information Sessions and individual appointments are listed below and can also be found by [clicking here](#).

### Information Sessions

**Teulon:** March 16, 7:00pm - 9:00pm  
Rockwood Centennial Centre

**Portage La Prairie:** March 16,  
7:00pm - 9:00pm CanadInn

**Beausejour:** March 18, 7:00pm -  
9:00pm Sun-Gro Centre

**Steinbach:** March 19, 7:00pm -  
9:00pm Steinbach Bible College

**Brandon:** March 19, 7:00pm -  
9:00pm Royal Oak Inn

Students from the University of Manitoba's Agriculture Diploma Program joined young farmers to take in presentations on topics such as marketing trends, succession planning, research and innovation and wealth management. Delegates also participated in KAP's annual meeting sessions to observe resolution debates and to hear from keynote speaker Jack Wilkinson, former President of the International Federation of Agriculture.

Guest speakers included David Drozd (pictured top right), President of Ag-Chieve Corporation, Elaine Froese (pictured right), Speaker, Certified Coach, and Author of *Seeds of Encouragement*, Terry Betker, partner at Meyers Norris Penny LLP and Director of Practice Development in Agriculture, Dr. Michael Trevan, Dean of the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences at the University of Manitoba, and Ian Richardson, Chair of the Canadian Young Farmers' Forum.



### ***Bear Pit Session***

The YFC Bear Pit Session has become a regular event held in conjunction with the annual meeting, and



**Ashern:** March 23, 7:00pm - 9:00pm  
Royal Canadian Legion

**Dauphin:** March 25, 7:00pm -  
9:00pm Dauphin Recreation  
Complex

**Pilot Mound:** March 31, 7:00pm -  
9:00pm Legion Hall

**Carman:** April 1, 7:00pm - 9:00pm  
Community Hall

### **Member Benefits**

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.

the evening was attended by young farmers, government officials, and leaders from organizations who work with those in the agricultural sector.

Topics of discussion included support and encouragement for new and young farmers, financial programs, the



state of the industry, the livestock sector, and trade. The YFC was pleased to be joined by Hon. Rosann Wowchuk (pictured above right), Deputy Premier and Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives and Deputy Minister Barry Todd. Pictured middle right: YFC member Chris Kletke (left) and CYFF Chair Ian Richardson

The committee plans to host other events over the year to engage young farmers.



The YFC invites its members and friends to join the new Facebook group Manitoba Young Farmers - Keystone Agricultural Producers YF Committee. This group was designed to help inform young

farmers about upcoming events and what Keystone Agricultural Producers is doing for the membership. [Facebook link](#) Pictured above: U of M Aggies attend KAP session

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