



The KAP Alert

KAP in Ottawa

Members of the KAP Executive and staff head to Ottawa next week to take the voice of Manitoba farmers to the Canadian Federation of Agriculture's annual meeting from February 24 to 26. The theme is *An Outlook On Agriculture: Profitability in a changing global economy*.

The meeting activities include regular business such as six committee meetings, the CFA National Council meeting, election of a new president and two vice-presidents, as well as presentations over the three days. Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada,

Gerry Ritz (Pictured right), and Leader of the Official Opposition Party, Michael Ignatieff will speak during the meeting and other presenters will discuss topics such as the changing farm economy, connecting rural and urban Canadians, using e-commerce and technology tools, and biorefinery development.

Delegates include: President Ian Wishart, Vice President Robert



Expense Claims Deadline

KAP Annual Meeting delegates have until **Friday, February 27, 2009** to send their expense claims to the KAP office. Please email, fax, or mail your claim asap.

203-1700 Ellice Avenue
Winnipeg MB R3H 0B1
finance@kap.mb.ca
Fax: 697-1109

KAP Activities

Tuesday, Feb. 17 :

Executive Member Alan Ransom attended a CMCDC Environment Committee meeting in Carberry.

Wednesday, Feb. 18 :

Executive Member Doug Chorney attended a Manitoba Employers' Council meeting. President Ian Wishart, VP Rob Brunel, GM Yvonne Rideout, and Policy Analyst James Battershill attended a meeting regarding Growing

McLean, Vice President Rob Brunel, Sean Gryba (District 11), Keith Gardner (District 7), Weldon Newton (District 9), Chuck Fossay (District 6), Theresa Bergsma (Special Crops/Vegetable), Don Dewar (District 11), Dan Penner (Supply Managed), Chris Kletke (District 3), General Manager Yvonne Rideout, and Policy Analyst James Battershill.

Resolutions from KAP's annual meeting which have a national impact will be brought forward and debated at the CFA meeting. The resolutions cover issues such as recognition for farmers for extra efforts in completing on-farm food safety procedures, Country of Origin Labeling (COOL), and flooding in the Interlake. If passed, the resolutions will become CFA policy.

"This is an important opportunity for us to meet with other farmers from across Canada to talk about our shared issues like food safety, business risk management and the state of the livestock industry," said Ian Wishart, KAP President.

With the current global economic situation, Wishart says there is no better time for farmers to look at the big picture and work together to build a stronger future for agriculture.

"From one corner of the country to the other, we all want to improve the agricultural sector and create a better environment for farmers. A united voice through the CFA allows us to work toward that," said Wishart.

For more information about the CFA annual meeting, please go to www.cfa-fca.ca. [Click here](#) for the full agenda.

CFA to Elect New President

Forward.

Thursday, Feb. 19:

President Ian Wishart met with a video crew in Portage la Prairie to shoot footage for Ag in the City.

Friday, Feb. 20:

Members of the management team participated in the Water Stewardship Technical Working Group at the KAP office to review the nutrient management plan template. President Ian Wishart attended a FoodManitoba meeting to discuss the Buy Local campaign.

Other Events

February 24: *Agricultural Commodity and Food Prices: A Wild Ride! What's Next?*

Dr. Alex McCalla, Professor Emeritus, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of California, Davis, will present the Daryl F. Kraft Lecture entitled "Agricultural Commodity and Food Prices: A Wild Ride! What's Next?" in Room 172 Agriculture Building on Tuesday, February 24, 2009. Join us for coffee before the event at 2:30 pm.

The inaugural Daryl F. Kraft lecture is provided with the support of "Grainworld 2009" Conference, the

Farm leaders will converge in Ottawa next week to elect a new president for the Canadian Federation of Agriculture. Delegates at the CFA annual meeting will choose between two candidates to head the organization, which represents over 200,000 Canadian farmers and farm families.

Laurent Pellerin and Ron Bonnett are in the running for the top spot, each bringing leadership experience related to the CFA and provincial farm organizations. Pellerin holds the position of CFA First Vice-President and Bonnett is Second Vice-President. Pellerin and Bonnett jointly took on the duties of leading the CFA in September 2008, when former President Bob Friesen left to run as a Member of Parliament candidate in the federal election.

Laurent Pellerin, a hog producer in the region of Saint Grégoire, Quebec, has served as the CFA First Vice-President since 1996. Prior to that he was General President of the Union of Agricultural Producers of Quebec (UPA) for 14 years. Since 2006, Pellerin has held the position of President of AgriCord, an international alliance of agri-agencies.



Ron Bonnett runs a cow/calf operation in Bruce Mines, Ontario, and is a former dairy farmer. Bonnett served as President of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) for four years, and Vice-President for two years. He sat on the CFA National Council and CFA



Solomon Sinclair Farm Management Institute, and the Dr. Daryl F. Kraft Endowment Fund. Lectures on agricultural policy will be delivered by a prominent Canadian or international agricultural economist who embodies Daryl's approach to education and communication. Parking available in University Parkade, or metered areas.

[Website](#)

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

February 27: Investors Group Financial Services Farm Succession Planning Seminar, Riverbank Discovery Centre, Brandon, MB. Phone Bob or Tim at 1-866 729-2002 or 729-2000.

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 Information Sessions

Information sessions on the new suite of Business Risk Management Programs, including AgriInvest and AgriStability, are being held in Manitoba.

executive prior to becoming CFA Second Vice-President in 2007. Bonnett is the President of Beef Improvement Ontario.

CFA delegates will cast secret ballots for President on Wednesday, February 25 at the annual meeting. Two Vice Presidents will also be elected.

Manitoba Floodway Open House

The Manitoba Floodway Authority (MFA) is inviting the public to attend an open house to view and comment on the draft Opportunities Concept Plan which details proposed landscaping and recreational development along the expanded Red River Floodway.

The open house is your opportunity to review the plan and provide comments before the plan is finalized.

Date: Tuesday, February 24, 2009 from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm, Transcona CanadInns, 826 Regent Avenue West

Landscape architect and planning firm of Hilderman Thomas Frank Cram has developed a draft Opportunities Concept Plan. Some of the main initiatives identified in the draft Opportunities Concept Plan include:

- A multi-use four season greenway trail along the floodway
- A tree planting, re-vegetation and landscaping plan for

Representatives will also be available to meet with producers individually for one-on-one consultations.

Representatives will answer questions from producers about AgriInvest 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

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

Dauphin: March 25, 7:00pm -

the floodway that focuses on sustainability and naturalization

- Staging areas to support recreational activity
- Low level crossings across the floodway channel
- Hay lease opportunities for agricultural producers
- Community gardens at designated locations along the floodway
- Signage and an interpretation program for the floodway

For more information, please visit www.floodwayauthority.mb.ca.

Benefits Corner

This year with the warmer weather, it was a busy three days at KAP booth at Ag Days. Members who stopped by asked for information on a variety of benefit programs, including the low cost long distance program, the National Leasing program, the PAT Inc. GPS rebates, AgExpert discounts, and the new farm property insurance program, details of the insurance programs for health and dental, travel, life insurance and critical illness insurance.

The program that had the highest degree of interest was the [Health Services Account program](#).

The reason for this is that everyone has medical expenses. Farm families with health insurance usually do not have all their needs met through their insurance program, and those without insurance want ways to reduce their overall costs. These added costs usually become a major concern when braces, expensive prescription glasses or laser eye surgery costs occur.

In all cases, as long as the farm is in a taxable position, the

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.

Private Health Services Plan (administered by Olympia Trust), will allow the medical expenses (up to certain limits) to be written off as a fully deductible business expenses the same as writing off fertilizer, chemical and fuel. At a 35% tax bracket, that provides net savings of approximately \$400 on \$1,000 of medical expenses.

In the case of an incorporated company, not only can the corporation write off the medical expenses, the largest benefit is that the corporation can use the Health Account to reimburse company directors and T-4 employees (including spouse and dependent children) on a tax-free basis for these. For more information on this or any other Member Benefits Program e-mail kapbenefits@stratabenefits.ca, call 1-866-527-0123 or go to www.kap.mb.ca/member_benefits.html

**KAP WISHES
VP ROBERT MCLEAN
A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**



Above: Birthday boy in Hawaii

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