



The KAP Alert

March 13, 2009

Protect Your Assets *Canadian Agricultural Safety Week*

In our day to day operations we put a lot of consideration into how to protect our assets like machinery, livestock, and buildings. Heading into spring, it's time to take a close look at what we're doing to protect the most valuable assets on the farm—the people working there.

During Canadian Agricultural Safety Week which runs March 11 to 17, we're encouraged to focus on protecting ourselves and our workers through the use of Personal Protective Equipment. When is the last time you checked out the latest in hearing protection or disposable respirators at your favourite industrial supply store? Remember that when you're making plans for the coming season, you need to plan to have the right safety equipment to match any hazards you may face at



Notice: General Council will be held Thursday, April 9 at Canad Inns Portage la Prairie.

Activities

Monday, March 9:
Executive members met at the KAP office.

Tuesday, March 10:
President Ian Wishart attended the Manitoba Turkey Producers annual meeting.

Wednesday, March 11:
President Ian Wishart and Policy Analyst James Battershill attended the Manitoba Egg Producers annual meeting.

Thursday, March 12:
GM Yvonne Rideout and Policy Analyst James Battershill met with the Canadian Fertilizer Institute at the KAP office. Executive Members Doug Chorney and Communications Officer

work. And you also need to know how to use that equipment properly.

The Canadian Agricultural Safety Association can help you get on track with its new crop of guides with tips on safety equipment—like the right way to fit a set of earmuffs or what to look for when buying a mask or filter. You can download posters for the office or shop with diagrams and instructions at www.casa-acsa.ca. There are also links to help you choose, purchase and fit your protective gear.

Protect yourself and your employees and remember that PPE only works if you use it.

Manitoba Producers Appreciate Flood Funding

Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP) would like to thank the provincial government for joining the federal government in announcing compensation for livestock producers affected by excess moisture in 2008.

The announcement on the Manitoba Forage Restoration Program and the Manitoba Livestock Feed Assistance Program demonstrates the province's commitment to helping producers restore their operations and get back to business after severe flooding last year. KAP commends the province for developing the two new programs with the federal government.

"These initiatives will help ease the financial burden on producers who are facing challenges related to re-establishing forage crops and pasture as well as covering the

Kristen Lucyshyn attended the Canadian Association of Farm Advisors luncheon--Doug Chorney was the guest speaker.

Friday, March 13:

President Ian Wishart was the guest on the 880 CKLQ Morning Show with Bill Turner. Communications Officer Kristen Lucyshyn attended an Ag in the City meeting.

Other Events

March 14: Manitoba Organic Alliance inaugural meeting - "The Future of Organic Food," Headingley Community Centre, Headingley, MB. Contact Jackie at 239-3362

March 16: Free Corn Silage Seminar, Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre. Sponsored by Pioneer Hi-Bred, MAFRI, and the Interlake Holstein Dairy Club. Call 886-2696.

March 19: Manitoba Rural Adaptation Council AGM - "Agriculture as a solution provider," Victoria Inn, Brandon, MB. [Website](#)

March 21: Woodlot Association of Manitoba AGM, 1270 Sturgeon Road, Winnipeg, MB. Call Allan at 467-8648 or email ajwebb@mts.net

March 30 - April 4: Royal Manitoba Winter Fair, Keystone Centre, Brandon, MB. [Website](#)

costs of feed for breeding stock," said Ian Wishart, KAP President. "This assistance is welcome news for many producers across the Interlake and in other parts of the province."

The Manitoba Forage Restoration Program allows producers with land affected by flooding in 2008 to apply for up to \$40 per acre to re-establish forage crops, forage seed fields and pasture. Under the Manitoba Livestock Feed Assistance Program, cattle producers can receive funds to help cover the cost of feed for breeding stock with payments of \$70 per head. Payments for other types of breeding stock are also available under the program.

KAP recognizes the need for additional compensation for producers who experienced damage to annual crop fields, and will continue to work on this issue.

For information on the new programs, visit the [MAFRI site](#) and watch for updates.

Agriculture in the City

March 20 - 22, 2009

**Agriculture is all
around you.**

Every day you eat,
wear, drive, or touch a
piece of agriculture.
Where is agriculture in
your life?



April 4: Rare Breeds Canada AGM, Canad Inn, Brandon, MB. [Website](#)

April 11 - 12: Keystone Alpaca Classic, Keystone Centre, Brandon, MB. [Website](#)

Manitoba Forage and Grassland Strategic Workshop and Manitoba Forage Council Annual Meeting



Wednesday April 8: 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the William Glesby Centre, 11-2nd Street N.E., Portage la Prairie.

Would you like to learn more about the issues and opportunities facing the Manitoba forage and grassland sector and provide your input on its future direction?

The Manitoba Forage Council is hoping to gain input from participants representing a broad cross section of the forage and grassland industry.

Ian Wishart, forage producer and KAP President will speak on the "The Future Role of Forage and Grassland

Discover Agriculture in the City!

Three days of live presentations and interactive displays.

Learn. Explore. Discover!

- New food products
- The secret life of bees
- Live renewable energy demonstrations
- Crops that can improve your health

Come to the Forks Market

March 20 - 22, 2009

Friday: 9:30am – 9:00pm

Saturday and Sunday: 9:30am – 6:30pm

Visit the KAP Booth and enter to win Ag in the City prizes including a large model CASE tractor and The Forks gift baskets!

The Great Manitoba Food Fight! - Forks Edition

Watch new Manitoba food products face off for glory on Friday from

1 p.m – 3 p.m.

Live cooking demonstrations

(Saturday and Sunday from 12 noon to 4 p.m.)



in Sustainable Agriculture.”

Registration is FREE. The deadline is March 31, 2009. Lunch will be provided.

Email: mfc@mbforagecouncil.mb.ca

Phone: (204) 726-9393

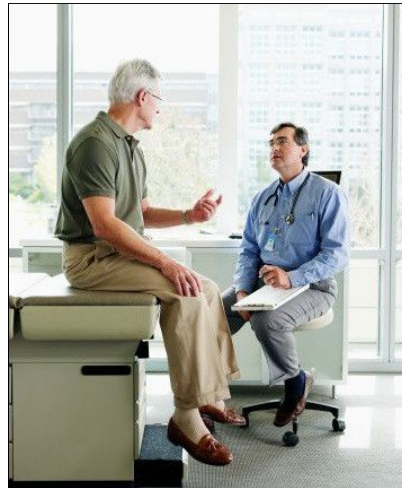
Fax (204) 726-9703

Discover Agriculture in the City is a **free**, three-day event that features interactive displays and live presentations from key organizations in the agriculture industry. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and partner organizations have developed this event for urban Canadians to explore and discover the important role agriculture plays in their lives.

[CLICK HERE](#) to go to the official website.

Member Benefits Corner

If you are new to the PHSP program and want to know how to claim your health and dental expenses through this Health Services Plan, this info is for you. If you are enrolled in the KAP-PHSP program through [Olympia Trust](#) and you are not



incorporated, the health and dental expenses that you and your eligible family members paid for in the 2008 tax year must be processed through the Health Services Plan prior to preparing your income tax. This will allow for these expenses to be eligible as a business deduction. It is suggested that these expenses be sent in by April 7, 2009.

Claims Process:

You will need to complete the claim form in your package and send it to Olympia Trust. Make sure to include all official receipts together with a cheque in the amount of the claim (plus Olympia Trust's 10% administration fee).

Olympia Trust will process your claim and send back a cheque in the amount of your claim. A "Reports on Trust Funds" (i.e. statement of claim) can be used for business purposes. This statement is a 100% business expense for the 2008 tax year.

Reminder about Official Receipts:

1. Official receipts are required for medical expenses to be eligible for business deduction purposes through the account.

2. If you are claiming mileage for medical purposes, the one-way distance from your residence to the Health Practitioner must be over 40km and the same level of health service can not be available to you locally. If you meet this criteria, then 100% of the round trip mileage can be claimed at the posted CRA rates (Manitoba for 2008 – 50.5¢/km).

Note: You require an official receipt to verify that an appointment occurred. For travel to a dentist, chiropractor, or another licensed health professional, the official receipt from that practitioner will suffice to claim mileage for these purposes. However, if the visit was to a Medical Doctor or specialist, you will need an appointment verification note from their office to verify that you were there for an appointment.

Also, there are two ways that you can claim expenses for meals: You can either collect receipts for these expenses (within reason), OR claim a flat \$17.00/meal for up to 3 meals per day. You may also claim for one attendant as well.

If you have any questions, please call the Olympia Trust Claim centre at 1-800-727-4493.

If you have not yet enrolled in the program and wish to, please call the KAP Benefits line 1-866-527- 0123, ext 1.

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