



The KAP Alert

May 8, 2009

Report on Producer Payment Security Mechanisms Released

Steering Committee News Release May 8, 2009

The Steering Committee investigating options for Producer Payment Security Mechanisms released the final report by Scott Wolfe Management today. The objective of the project was to examine payment security options as a result of the proposed changes to the Canada Grain Act affecting the payment security program under the Canadian Grain Commission. Four options, including the current system, were studied by Scott Wolfe Management, the consulting firm hired to conduct the research. The options included the following models: security-based, insurance-based, fund-based, and clearinghouse.

The steering committee includes representatives from general farm organizations, commodity groups and a trade association. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through its Private Sector Risk Management Partnerships Program provided funding for the study. Steering committee members contributed their time and financial resources to the project.

***The KAP Golf Tournament will be held June 19, 2009 at the Carman Golf Course. All are welcome. Registrations available next week. More details to come!**

Activities

Tuesday, May 5:

Communications Officer Kristen Lucyshyn attended a Manitoba Farm Writers and Broadcasters Association workshop.

Wednesday, May 6: President Ian Wishart and GM Yvonne Rideout met with the province to discuss EG&S. VP Robert McLean was in Ottawa to present to the House of Commons sub-committee on food safety. VP McLean met with Candice Hoepfner, Member of Parliament

The organizations involved in the committee will now seek feedback from their membership. This will include what the next steps will be in further developing one or more of the options, including refining the current payment security program.

The study consisted of an analysis on the payment security options, highlighting the relative strengths and weaknesses of each. The English report is available [here](#) along with the [appendices](#). The French versions will be available in the coming weeks.

For more information, please contact:

Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan

Nial Kuyek, 306-789-7774

Alberta Pulse Growers Commission

David Walker, 780-434-7615

Canadian Canola Growers Association

Rick White, 204-789-8810

Canadian Special Crops Association

Carl Potts, 204-925-3786

Keystone Agricultural Producers

Rob Brunel, 204-447-7104

Manitoba Pulse Growers Association

Chris Sumner, 204-745-6488

Saskatchewan Pulse Growers

Garth Patterson, 306-668-6676

for Portage—Lisgar, to discuss ALUS and the railway level of service review.

Friday, May 8: President Ian Wishart attended a Manitoba Water Council meeting.

Other Events

May 22 to June 7: Food Cycle 2009. In partnership with Manitoba Pork council, local bike enthusiast and avid Winnipeg Harvest supporter Ken Livingstone will cycle across Manitoba to raise food and funds for Winnipeg Harvest and rural food banks registered with the Manitoba Association of Food Banks. Livingstone will begin on the western edge of the Manitoba portion of the Trans Canada Trail and follow the trail's route - over 1,286 km - to the Manitoba/Ontario border. To find out which communities Food Cycle will visit on which dates, or how you can volunteer or donate food, contact Susan Riese at Manitoba Pork Council (204) 235-2307 or Dana Todd at Winnipeg Harvest (204) 982-3581.

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

June 17-19: Western Canada

Western Barley Growers Association

Doug McBain, 403-816-0645

Wild Rose Agricultural Producers

Rod Scarlett, 780-416-6530

Project Mgr: Keystone Agricultural Producers

Yvonne Rideout, 204-697-1140

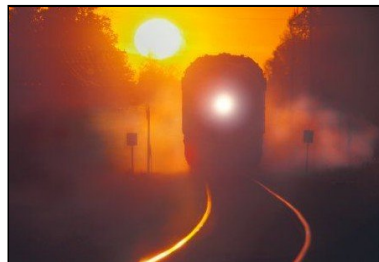
Project Admin: Canadian Federation of Agriculture

Glen Snoek, 613-236-3633

KAP Pleased to See Support for BTRC

News Release May 8, 2009

Keystone Agricultural Producers welcomes the provincial government's announcement on its contribution of a \$615,000 forgivable loan to the Boundary Trails Railway Company (BTRC). The funds will be used to help launch a short line freight railway between Manitou and Morden, offering farmers freight and producer-car services and shipping options to local businesses.



“KAP commends the province for supporting this project which will benefit a large number of producers and businesses in southern Manitoba,” said Robert McLean, KAP Vice President. “This is a great outcome because the province has recognized the value of

Farm Progress Show, Evraz Place, Regina, SK. [Website](#)

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.

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 at (204) 697-1140 for more information.

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.

retaining rail infrastructure in Manitoba.”

KAP has been lobbying for the preservation of rail lines for many years and has been pushing for all levels of government to act on the issue and recognize the effects on rural communities when rail infrastructure is lost.

“We’re pleased to see the province’s action on the BTRC initiative, and we hope the federal government will have a look at similar compensation levels,” said McLean.

The retention of the railway in the region will allow more dollars to stay in local communities as farmers and businesses won’t have to look elsewhere to ship their goods.

KAP commends the producers, community leaders and business leaders who worked hard to make Boundary Trails Railway Company a reality.

BBQ to Show Support for Manitoba Pork Producers

Monday, May 11, 2009

11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Manitoba Legislative Building

The Manitoba Pork Council's Pick Pork Barbecues will serve pork on a bun to MLAs, staff, and the public during the event. Come out and support Manitoba's producers!

Support the Pork Industry—

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

KAP Wants You To Eat Pork
[DiscoverMooseJaw.com](#)

ATV's: A Real Threat
[CJOB 68](#)

Thumbs Up For Loan
Announcement
[Portageonline.com](#)

Greater Access to Credit
[600 Action News](#)

Ottawa will help beginning
farmers
[CJOB 68](#)

Harper announces farm loan act
changes
[Alberta Farmer](#)

Eat Pork Today!

News Release May 6, 2009

Winnipeg – Keystone Agricultural Producers offers its full support to the pork industry during this time of economic crisis. Many factors have led to the current situation facing producers including the ban on the hog industry, the introduction of country-of-origin labeling (COOL) in the U.S., the global economic situation, and most recently misconceptions related to H1N1 influenza A.



“As president of this organization and a fellow farmer, I give my full support to the pork industry and the Manitoba Pork Council,” said Ian Wishart, KAP President. “There is nothing worse than seeing your livelihood slip through your fingers with no options available to you.”



KAP is now urging the public to support pork producers by buying Canadian products and increasing their pork consumption.

“We are calling upon consumers today to put their support behind the pork industry and stand up for our producers by consuming pork products,” said Wishart. “Let’s show the producers of Manitoba and Canada that we care and that we support them.”

Each year \$2 billion is injected into the Manitoba economy through the pork industry. Manitoba’s industry provides 13,000 direct and indirect jobs, and Manitoba is the largest pig-producing and exporting province,

followed by Quebec and Ontario. Pig production is valued at more than \$800 million. (Manitoba Pork Council

www.manitobapork.com)



[CLICK HERE](#) for an excellent selection of recipes from the Manitoba Pork Council's [Pick Pork!](#) site.

Uninvited Guests on Farmland

It's More Than Rude to Intrude

KAP Commentary May 5, 2009

With spring, fields and land in rural areas are a wonderful mix of mud and green, and that can look very inviting to all-terrain vehicle riders and those with 4x4 vehicles.



There are many people who drive responsibly and stay on designated trails and off of private property. And then there are others who choose to trespass. As producers, we'd like those chosen few to know that when they trespass on private property, they may be destroying someone's livelihood.

Tracks from all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and other vehicles can mean big losses for farmers—wiping out crops, destroying livestock, and threatening the food supply. And



when you make tracks on someone's property they become an invitation to others to follow that trail, which creates more cause for concern. Environmental damage and biohazards caused by these vehicles are major threats to farmland, and there are many examples of how a cycle of destruction can begin.

Some of the threats include infestations of weeds or diseases in soil and crops, spreading diseases to livestock, and erosion to farmland. The other risk producers are exposed to when uninvited guests come onto their land is personal liability if there is an accident.

Taking a closer look at some of the hazards created when riding on farmland, when seeds from weeds or diseased plants get lodged in your tires, you become a risk to farmers' fields because those materials can fall off in crops and start infestations. Noxious weeds are a real threat because it's often an endless battle to

eradicate them, and entire crops can become worthless due to their growth. With some weeds, a single seed or plant can cause hundreds of new plants to grow, creating unnecessary environmental damage and economic losses. When it comes to diseased plants coming into contact with crops, they can spread fungus and spores which create a wave of disease over a crop, eventually destroying it. Farmers may have to spend thousands of dollars for chemicals in order to clear their land of damaging seeds or plants.

Animals can be adversely affected by the tracks left by off-road vehicles as well. If your tires are caked with contaminated soil or manure from riding in one area, you can spread diseases to livestock when you move onto the next. Livestock can also be affected if they eat poisonous weeds spread by ATVs. When they are exposed to the excessive noise the machines make, this can also be harmful. Grazing land can also be destroyed by tracks and trails that riders create.

When it comes to erosion of farmland, significant damage can occur when riders create ruts in the soil, as this changes the land, sometimes preventing proper drainage from occurring. Excess water can cause damage to crops and make land unworkable. Soil erosion can also cause dangerous conditions for livestock in pastures and farm equipment can be damaged when it travels over ruts. ATVs also have the potential to spark wildfires. In 2008, a massive fire caused by an ATV claimed more than 3,400 hectares of land in southeastern Manitoba.



Instead of trespassing, ATV riders and others should consider the financial investment and livelihood of farmers and keep off of their private property. Don't take a hayfield or crop for granted, stay on designated trails, stay off of wildlife habitats and erodible land. If you want to ride across an area of land, the first thing you should do is ask the property owner for permission. It's the right thing to do. To those who drive responsibly—we thank you.

Member Benefits Corner

Group RRSP now available to Members – and your Employees

KAP, in conjunction with STRATA Benefits and The Co-operators, is pleased to announce the addition of a Group RRSP for Farm Members. This is a voluntary Group RRSP program that may be set up to accommodate you, your family, or your employees. Contributions



can be made by pre-authorized bank debits or payroll deductions.

Benefits of the Program:

- Low internal fund fees (MER's) vs. retail
- No opening fees, No closing fees, No administration fees, No deferred sales fees
- No declining balance fees

Some of the Features available under this plan include:

- Online Enrolment
- Spousal RRSP
- Low minimum Pre-Authorized Contributions (PAC) of \$50 a month if using PAC arrangement or
- Pre-Authorized Payroll Deductions (PAD) for larger groups
- All amounts are invested immediately and receive the published interest rates
- Accommodates any contribution level up to Canada Revenue Agency legislated maximum
- No charge to transfer external investments into The Co-operators account
- No need to accumulate large amounts to invest in term deposit accounts
- Easy-to-read semi-annual statements detailing activity and investment earnings in your account
- Electronic and phone access to your account 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- Transfer money between investments and change investment direction up to 3 times a year at no charge
- Extensive selection of market-based funds, fixed-rate investments, asset allocation funds, and retirement date

funds to suit everyone's investment strategies

Secure website access:

- View account balances, transaction details, personal rates of return and unit values and interest rates
- Transfer money between investments
- View retirement planning tools and determine your progress towards reaching your retirement goal

For more information on this program, please contact STRATA

Benefits at 1-866-250-9743 or e-mail

KAPretirement@stratabenefits.ca

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