



The KAP Alert

March 19, 2010

Canadian Farmers Lose on Inputs

Commentary by Ian Wishart, KAP President

As farmers, the cost of inputs affects our bottom lines. Competition in the supply of these inputs is essential to keep supplies adequate and prices realistic, and to keep Canadian farmers competitive in world markets.

Last summer the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food began an examination of competition in agricultural inputs, with particular focus on the fertilizer industry. This needs to continue and reach some hard-edged recommendations.

Farmers are particularly incensed to hear that Canadian fertilizer products such as potash are delivered to countries like India and China for substantially lower prices than we are offered here. We are told these are important markets and big customers. The only answer is that we are insignificant customers.



 [Follow us on Twitter](#)

KAP Membership

Membership renewals for 2010 have been sent out and we encourage members to pay. You may now pay using a credit card on the KAP website using [**PayPal**](#).

Looking for your EFP

Certificate?

If you are a producer who has misplaced your Environmental Farm Plan Statement of Completion and you need another copy, please contact Christine at KAP at 697-1140 or kap@kap.mb.ca.

Our regulatory network in Canada also makes sure that we are slow to get access to new pesticide products. And we're the last to get access to much cheaper generics when the patents come off.

If farmers are to remain competitive in international markets we need better access to products far sooner and at more competitive pricing than we have been getting. This all needs to happen in a timely manner. Government can help make that happen. Health and safety concerns regarding these pesticides are nothing but smoke and mirrors as consumer products made with these cheaper inputs flow daily into Canada as imports, and sit beside Canadian products on the store shelves.



KAP will be at Agriculture in the City
at The Forks Market, March 19-21, 2010
See you there!

CLICK
for event info!



BUY IT TODAY!
UNITY IN AGRICULTURE
Twenty-five Years as the Voice of
Manitoba Farmers

*Own a piece of Manitoba's
agricultural history! KAP's
book provides a great way to
commemorate a milestone in the
history of the policy organization
built by and for Manitoba farmers.*

Call 697-1140 Only **\$25**

The advertisement features a blue background with a white border. It shows a book cover titled "UNITY IN AGRICULTURE" with a collage of agricultural images including a cow, a sunflower, and a field. The text is arranged in a clear, hierarchical layout.

Canadian Agricultural Safety Week
March 14 - 20, 2010

**CLICK
FOR
INFO**

Activities

Monday, March 15:

The Inputs Committee met via conference call. The Environment Committee met at the KAP office. VP Rob Brunel participated in a Canadian Grain Commission conference call. GM Yvonne Rideout met with the Manitoba Food Processors Association to discuss value chains.

Tuesday, March 16:

President Ian Wishart attended an Expert Ag Committee meeting. Commodity Group members met at the KAP office. President Ian Wishart and Communications Officer Kristen Lucyshyn attended the Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives Annual Agriculture Awareness Day event at the Canadian International Grains Institute (CIGI).

This Week's KAP Minute

The KAP Minute is news for and about farmers from
Keystone Agricultural Producers.

 [LISTEN HERE!](#)

Tune in to the KAP Minute every Thursday on 3 stations in
Manitoba!

CFAM
Radio 950

CFAM Radio 950 Community Service
Radio in Altona
[Listen](#) at 12:56 p.m.

CFRY
920 AM 93.1 FM

CFRY 920AM and 93.1FM Real Country
Radio in Portage La Prairie
[Listen](#) at 12:48 p.m.

CKLQ
880

880 CKLQ Today's Best Country in
Brandon
[Listen](#) at 12:28 p.m.

Manitoba Farm and Rural Stress Line
1-866-367-3276 www.ruralstress.ca



Financial Coordinator

Wednesday, March

17: Executive Member Weldon Newton attended a Manitoba Soil Fertility Advisory meeting. The Business Risk Management Committee met at the KAP office.

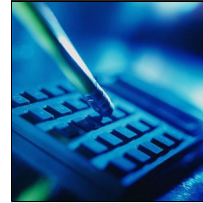
Thursday, March 18:

President Ian Wishart and VP Doug Chorney attended the Manitoba Rural Adaptation Council's Annual General Meeting. Policy Analyst James Battershill participated in a conference call on US food safety legislation.

Friday, March 19:

President Ian Wishart and GM Yvonne Rideout met with MAFRI staff to discuss carbon trading. The Policy Synopsis Committee met at the KAP office. VP Doug Chorney attended a Manitoba Employers' Council meeting. VP Doug Chorney, Executive

KAP is pleased to welcome back Kathy Ulasz as Financial Coordinator. Kathy is here to assist you with membership or expense related questions. You can contact her at finance@kap.mb.ca.



2010 Spring Road Restrictions

Please be advised that the 2010 Spring Road Restrictions will be implemented in:

**Zone 1 effective 6:00 a.m. Thursday, March 18, 2010; and
Zone 2 effective 6:00 a.m. Thursday, March 25, 2010.**

Spring road restrictions in both zones will be concluded May 31, 2010.

For information regarding Spring Road Restrictions go to www.gov.mb.ca/mit/srr or call the Road Information Line at (204)945-3704 or 1-877-627-6237. Please check regularly for updates. To speak to a Permit Agent, please call Permit Services at (204)945-3961 or toll free at 1-877-812-0009.

Member Benefits Corner

Curry Industries at Ag Days Inventors Showcase Two Years in a Row

At this year's Inventors Showcase at Manitoba Ag Days, **Curry Industries** demonstrated a new sealing machine for use with their "Poly-fastener" that

Member Curtis McRae, Executive Member Will Peters, District 4 Chair Les Felsch and Communications Officer Kristen Lucyshyn hosted the KAP booth at Agriculture in the City at The Forks Market.

Events

March 24: The Manitoba Conservation Districts Association hosts "The goods on ecological goods and services," The Glesby Centre, 11 2nd Street N.E., Portage la Prairie, MB. Take in this one day session about ecological goods and services, learn about what they are, where they're at and what they mean to rural Manitoba and Manitoba society at large. **CLICK FOR AGENDA.** The cost is \$20, including coffee and lunch. The session will be of

will revolutionize the grain and silage bag industry. The new **“Zipper”** is an all aluminum construction, semi-automated sealing machine for the **“Poly-fastener”** sealing strip.

The machine was developed to provide speed and ease of application for sealing grain/silage bags directly in field applications. The **“Zipper”** will seal two layers of 12 mil. plastic in a twenty-foot-long piece of **“Poly-fastener”** in less than one minute. See for yourself online at www.youtube.com/user/CurryIndustries.

But the applications don't end there. **“Poly-fastener”** has always been the best



method of joining together sheets of flexible fabric, but closing the two-piece plastic extrusion by hand used to be a little time consuming. With the **“Zipper,”** anyone can now join together multiple sheets of plastic or other flexible materials, measuring hundreds of feet in length, with ease. The air and water tight seal that poly-fastener users have come to appreciate is now more attainable than ever in applications for covers, liners, tunnels, large flexible plastic tubes, ground sheets--and of course shelters.

Using the **“Zipper”** together with the **“Poly-fastener”** is also ideal for the recovery/reuse of large sheets of flexible material such as a second use for grain/silage bags which would otherwise be disposed of. Not only is **“Poly-fastener”** made from recycled material, but together with the new **“Zipper”** it is the product of choice for the recycling of plastic or other flexible material that would otherwise end up burned, buried, or in a landfill. Curry Industries has a large and varied list of environmental solutions for the agricultural industry.

Mike Curry invites you to see for yourself at
www.curryindustries.com.

particular interest to rural municipal councils, conservation district and sub-district boards, farmers and anyone with an interest in conservation. To reserve a spot, please [email](#) or go to the MCDA [website](#).

March 29 - April 3:

Royal Manitoba Winter Fair, Keystone Centre, Brandon, MB. [Website](#)

April 16-18: Equine Educational Weekend Horse3 (Head*Heart*Hooves), Keystone Centre, Brandon. [Website](#)

June 16 - 18:

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

Benefits Reminder

Discount at Mark's Work Wearhouse

Mark's Work Wearhouse discount cards are available. KAP members will receive the discount card that will be included in the regular monthly mailings. Members can also cut out the coupon [click here](#) and print!. *(Note: one coupon must be printed for each sales transaction)*



PHSP Program

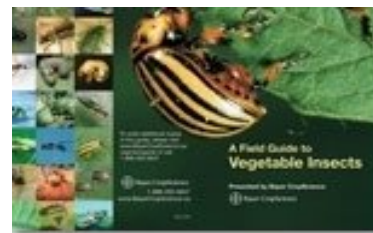
The new PHSP program through [Serre Financial](#) is an excellent way to reduce your health, dental, prescription drugs and dental expenses. With a farmer who is personally in the 35% tax bracket, the program can provide net savings of \$400 on \$1,000 of medical expenses.

For more information, please call Karley Middleton at 1-866-527-0123 or email kapbenefits@stratabenefits.ca.

For information on any of our benefits programs, call our Member Benefits line at 1-866-527-0123, or go to our website, or email us.

Free Insect Guide for Vegetable Producers

Bayer CropScience is offering vegetable growers across Canada a tool to help correctly identify 39 of the most common insects affecting the productivity of



vegetable field crops.

A Field Guide to Vegetable Insects includes full-colour photos of 39 insect pests, and keys for identification, crops affected and management notes.

The guide can be ordered at no charge at:

www.BayerCropScience.ca/VegInsectGuide or by calling 1-888-283-6847.

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