



The KAP Alert

August 21, 2009

Support for Hog Producers Welcomed

News Release August 17, 2009

Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP) would like to thank Federal Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz for putting together a series of programs to help the hog industry transition towards the future. KAP is eager to receive detailed information on the programs which were announced by the government on August 15.

"The sooner the money is in farmers' hands, the better," said Ian Wishart, KAP President. "Hog producers are in a desperate situation."

KAP thanks the federal government for consulting with the Canadian Pork Council and the Canadian Federation of Agriculture on support for hog producers.

KAP believes the short-term loans mentioned in the announcement will be appreciated by producers as there is a pressing need for funds to cover feed costs and other essentials. The focus on marketing is also an important step forward. Though the details are yet to be announced, the retirement section of the federal support is expected to be helpful for a number of hog producers who have determined that they might want to exit

Activities

Monday, August 17: President Ian Wishart attended the MASC Forage Program Review in Portage.

Tuesday, August 18: President Ian Wishart met with Tom Nevakshonoff, MLA for Interlake. President Wishart met with James Bezan, MP for Selkirk-Interlake.

Wednesday, August 19: GM Yvonne Rideout participated in a conference call regarding the Producer Payment Security Mechanism project.

Thursday, August

the industry.

The federal initiatives include (click for [AAFC Release](#)):

- A \$17 million International Pork Marketing Fund that will focus on seeking new markets for Canadian pork through research and promotion.
- Long-term loans to help producers with viable hog operations to restructure their businesses, and short-term loans to help cover operating costs.
- Up to \$75 million in funding through a Hog Farm Transition Program which will assist producers who decide to transition out of the hog industry.

KAP welcomes the new initiatives to support hog producers, and hopes the restructuring plan will work for the Manitoba situation.

“Hog producers are in a dire situation and a lot of people have used up all of their equity, so they're borrowing money to feed their livestock and not covering their feed costs, “ said Wishart. “They can't stop what they're doing because they've got to keep the cash flow coming—even though it's not enough to cover expenses. It's a bad situation all around.”

Details on the federal support are expected to be announced in the coming weeks. Producers are encouraged to contact the KAP office at 697-1140 if they require more information or other assistance.

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



Recent Letter to the Editor

Sent to the Winnipeg Free Press

20: GM Yvonne Rideout met with Richard McConnell of DYMAC Risk Management Solutions Ltd., consultant for the Individualized Area Based Insurance project.

Other Events

August 24: Potato agronomy meeting, Winkler CMCDC site, 10:00 a.m. For more information contact Curtis Cavers at 857-4441 or Tom Gonsalves at 745-5671.

August 27: Potato agronomy meeting, Portage CMCDC site, 10:00 a.m. For more information contact Curtis Cavers at 857-4441 or Tom Gonsalves at 745-5671.

September 5:
Dauphin
Agricultural
Heritage Club
Threshing Day.

Re: How clean are your carrots?

For background information, see this story: [Migrant farmers drop union certification](#)

Dear Editor:

In response to the commentary "How clean are your carrots?" by Jennifer deGroot which appeared in the August 14, 2009 edition of the *Winnipeg Free Press*, I would like to note that deGroot leaves many questions unanswered about the Seasonal Workers Agricultural Program. Workers that choose to come to Canada under the program do so voluntarily and many come back year after year to the same farms in Manitoba and in other provinces and become valued long-term employees on those farms.

Let's remember that the right to unionize is one recognized here in Manitoba and in other provinces, but these employees also have the right to choose not to belong to a union.

Workers do pay Employment Insurance and taxes and reap no benefit in most cases, but employers are legally required to deduct these costs. Farm employers follow the Manitoba Employment Standards code for these and other workers. For seasonal workers, the federally mandated agreement between Canada and Mexico sets the standard higher anyway.

The first paragraph of the commentary paints a false picture of the farms where workers are employed. The reality is workers can come and go, and spend their downtime in Portage or elsewhere freely. Workers can be seen around the city on bicycles and in vehicles doing the things they need and want to do, such as shopping. A number of farms provide these modes of transportation specifically for these workers. As for entering or exiting farms and getting permission, it's a reality that farms require people to sign in and sign out to maintain biosecurity. Farms are where employers and employees live, but they are also a business and there has to be some

Features binding, stooking, threshing demonstrations, equipment displays, horse competitions, old time music, and food. Phone 638-7632.

September 11 - 13: Beausejour Fair & Rodeo.

October 3: Roland Pumpkin Fair.
[Website](#)

October 15: KAP General Council, Canad Inn Portage la Prairie.

October 23 - 25: Wheat City Stampede, Keystone Centre, Brandon.

November 5 - 8: Manitoba Livestock Expo, Keystone Centre, Brandon.
[Website](#)

January 19 - 21, 2010: Manitoba Ag Days, Keystone Centre, Brandon.
[Website](#)

order regarding who is coming onto the property.

Concerning working hours, agriculture is seasonal work often controlled by the weather. Long hours are part of the occupation both for the farm family and for their employees. It has never been and never will be a 9 to 5 occupation.



So, the next time you open your fridge to pull out carrots, do remember that they come from a farm with the highest labour standards, the best food safety standards, and the best environmental record of any place you could choose—that is as long as they come from Canada.

Sincerely,
Ian Wishart
KAP President

Member Benefits Corner

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 or check out the website [here](#).

Attention Farmers

The KAP Grains, Oilseeds, and Pulses Committee recently discussed important issues related to licensed facilities and deregistered varieties. The committee decided to provide links to information on both of these for your use.

When delivering your product, do due diligence by checking to ensure that the facility you're delivering to is licensed by the Canadian Grain Commission as required under the Canada Grain Act. Upon licensing, the elevator or grain dealer must provide security to the CGC which is in turn used to compensate producers in the event that they are

not paid when they deliver to a licensed company. To view an updated list of licensed facilities, please visit the CGC [website](#).

Please check the CFIA [website](#) if you are unsure if a certain variety is registered in Canada. There is also a link to see what varieties may be on the list for deregistration.

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