



POLICY PAPER

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Crop Residue Management

April 2010

The production of grains, oilseeds and pulses yields a significant amount of crop residue that presents both challenges and opportunities for Manitoba farmers. Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP) is committed to working with our members, government and the general public to ensure that crop residue is dealt with in an economically, environmentally, and socially responsible way.

Regulation governing the disposal of crop residue and programs that promote the alternative use of these byproducts should address the following goals. They should promote the health and fertility of soil. They must allow for sustained annual crop production through appropriate field preparation and conditioning. They should protect air quality, public health and safety. They should promote the development of markets for crop residues and associated goods.

Crop residue burning should continue to be available as a legal option for farmers who need to utilize this tool for residue disposal. Environmental conditions will occur that eliminate all other options for residue disposal and field preparation and conditioning. KAP recognizes that there are public concerns and issues with residue burning and commits to working with government and the public to address these concerns. KAP will work with its members to promote safe, legal and responsible burning practices.

KAP believes that any changes to the regulation of crop residue burning should be done in consultation with KAP and other agricultural industry groups. Regulation should continue to make a distinction between fall and spring burning practices and regulation should be based on seasonal conditions rather than calendar dates. Permits for residue burning should not require a fee in order to promote compliance with regulations, and permit regions should have both geographic and political boundaries.

KAP supports government funded Beneficial Management Practices incentive programs that promote alternative methods of crop residue disposal. Programs should be sufficiently funded to be accessible to all producers interested in participating across the province.

KAP supports the development of industry that creates a market for crop residue for bio-material and energy production. Government should develop programs and policies that promote the use of biomaterials for heat generation on an individual building and community scale and encourages investment in bio-materials process industry.

Summary of Recommendations

- Producers should be legally allowed to burn residue in the right conditions.
- Regulation of residue burning should protect soil quality, public health and safety, and be based on environmental and seasonal conditions.
- BMP incentive programs are a positive method of encouraging alternatives residue management techniques to burning.
- KAP commits to working with its members to promote safe, legal and effective residue burning.
- KAP supports the development of industry that utilizes crop residue and creates a market for it.

Keystone Agricultural Producers is Manitoba's largest general farm policy organization, representing over 7,000 farm families and 22 commodity groups throughout the province. Our strength is our democratic structure, and our mission is to represent and promote the interests of the province's farm families.