



“The Voice of Manitoba Farmers”

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For immediate release

December 2, 2008

KAP Celebrates Green Initiatives

Winnipeg – As good stewards of the land, farmers in Manitoba make sound environmental choices in their farming operations everyday. That is the message of Keystone Agricultural Producers’ fifth annual Farmer Appreciation Day, today at Manitoba’s legislative building.

Members of the Legislative Assembly, farmers and agricultural stakeholders will attend the event as well as a number of agricultural organizations and agri-businesses which will highlight the work of Manitoba’s farmers and their environmentally responsible practices. KAP’s focus is on recycling and initiatives related to protecting Manitoba’s soil, water and air.

“It is often lost on the general public how focused on reusing and recycling primary agriculture is—including nutrient recycling and items like tires, batteries, oil and pesticide containers,” said Ian Wishart, president of Keystone Agricultural Producers. “We are very focused on being good stewards of the land because we tend to make generational decisions and look after long term benefits of the land.”

“Farmers are responsible and effective environmental stewards of the lands that they own and manage. And farmers recognize that sustaining the land resource is critical to their livelihood, and the livelihood of future generations,” said Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives Minister Rosann Wowchuk. “Our government is committed to working with farmers in their efforts to improve and safeguard the environment to the benefit of all Manitobans.”

The amount of activity under Environmental Farm Plans in Manitoba shows the willingness of the farm community to take action on environmental issues. In the course of three years there has been a tremendous uptake in the program with farmers completing over 5,600 Environmental Farm Plans and matching government dollars for EFP projects.

To learn more about Farmer Appreciation Day, visit www.kap.mb.ca.

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BACKGROUND

KAP's 5th Annual Farmer Appreciation Day

- Farmer Appreciation Day began in 2004, with an event held at the Manitoba legislative building. The event brings together farmers, MLAs, and other stakeholders to raise awareness about the importance of Manitoba's farmers.
- This year, KAP is joined by the following commodity groups, organizations, and agri-businesses:

Manitoba Egg Producers (MEP) works with producers across Canada to meet the needs of consumers and processors. By matching supply to demand, MEP ensures high quality shell eggs are available at all times of the year on the retail shelf at stable prices. In Manitoba, we produce just over 11% of Canada's egg supply. Website: www.mbegg.mb.ca

Manitoba Pulse Growers Association Inc. is a producer organization funded by sales of pulse crops (beans, lentils, peas, soybeans, chickpeas and fababeans) grown in the province of Manitoba. It works to provide its members with production and marketing support, through focused research, advocacy and linkages with industry partners. Website: www.manitobapulse.ca

Manitoba Turkey Producers (MTP) represents 62 farm families in the province of Manitoba. Turkeys are raised year-round in Manitoba with an average farm producing 7,000 turkeys, three times a year. In total, turkey producers raise approximately 1.4 million turkeys annually. Website: www.turkey.mb.ca

Manitoba Canola Growers Association (MCGA) is a non-profit organization whose mandate is to enhance profitability of Manitoba canola growers through research, marketing, and policy. MCGA is committed to providing health and recipe information on canola oil to health professionals, dietitians, educators, chefs and food service personnel. Website: www.mcgacanola.org

Tire Stewardship Manitoba is a not-for-profit agency created to support tire retailers with a scrap tire management program that was developed with input from industry, environmental groups, municipalities, government and other stakeholders and approved by the Minister of Conservation. Website: www.tirestewardshipmb.ca

Miller Environmental Corporation provides comprehensive and environmentally sound industrial waste management services to a wide range of industries. Its modern, fully licensed facility located 70 km south of Winnipeg Manitoba is the only one of its kind in Central North America. Miller Environmental Corporation has become a leading industrial waste management company. Website: www.millergroup.ca

Rothsay is Canada's leading rendering company and has been operating for more than 50 years, employing nearly 410 people in its rendering facilities across Canada. Rothsay collects edible and inedible food by-products from meat processing plants, grocery stores and restaurants. Everyday, they recycle 6.7 million kilograms of product into animal feed inputs, and chemicals used in soaps, cleaners, and cosmetics. Website: www.rothsay.ca

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