



## NEWS RELEASE

"The Voice of Manitoba Farmers"  
203-1700 Ellice Ave. Winnipeg MB. R3H 0B1  
tel: 204.697.1140 fax: 204.697.1109  
[kap@kap.mb.ca](mailto:kap@kap.mb.ca) [www.kap.mb.ca](http://www.kap.mb.ca)

### **For immediate release**

June 17, 2010

## **Flooding Leaves Farmers with Few Options**

**Winnipeg** – Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP) is encouraged that the issue of flooded farmland on the Prairies was recognized at the Western Premiers' Conference in Vancouver this week. KAP thanks the Premiers for acknowledging the challenging situation farmers are facing.

KAP is calling on Manitoba's Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives, Stan Struthers, and Federal Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz to act quickly to offer additional programming beyond existing programs such as AgriStability to assist those hit hard by excess moisture conditions.

"In some cases the impact on farms is extremely devastating," said Ian Wishart, KAP President. "We won't know the full extent of the damage until after the crop insurance deadline."

Due to the recent heavy rainfalls and upcoming crop insurance deadline, many farmers with unseeded acres will not be able to seed this season. Farmers with seeded crops washed out may not be able to reseed. After losing seeded crops to excess moisture, farmers lose a large percentage of their incomes due to the fertilizer and seed they've invested. In addition to these challenges, a flood watch has now been issued by Manitoba Water Stewardship for areas of western Manitoba which have already been affected by flooding. KAP will continue discussions with the federal and provincial governments to ensure the concerns of Manitoba producers are acknowledged.

"We're asking Minister Ritz to give consideration to reinstating the Cover Crop Protection Program (CCPP) or a similar program under Agri-Recovery," said Wishart. "Land restoration is a key factor in helping producers get back into production."

The Cover Crop Protection Program, which has been discontinued, allowed farmers affected by spring flooding a one-time payment to help them improve and protect flood damaged soil by planting a cover crop. KAP believes this type of program must offer a realistic payment which reflects today's costs. KAP will continue to encourage the federal and provincial governments to reinstate this important environmental program.

- 30 -

### **For more information, please contact:**

Ian Wishart, KAP President. Cell: (204) 856-6964.

Kristen Lucyshyn, KAP Communications. Office: (204) 697-1140. Cell: (204) 792-2661.

*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.*