



NEWS RELEASE

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KAP Applauds Feed and Transportation Assistance for Livestock Producers

Winnipeg – Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP) appreciates the federal and provincial announcement regarding feed and transportation assistance for Manitoba livestock producers.

Over the past season, KAP has called on both levels of government stressing the urgent need for feed support for livestock producers who have experienced challenges due to excess moisture.

"We welcome this announcement and the way the programming will be delivered as it will be based on a producer's need, rather than the region of the province they live in," said Rob Brunel, KAP President. "This should direct the payments to the producers who need them and no one should be left out."

The Canada-Manitoba Feed and Transportation Assistance Program will provide eligible producers who must transport feed to livestock with assistance of up to \$0.22 per tonne per loaded mile. Those who must transport breeding animals to feed at distances greater than normally expected can receive up to \$0.10 per head per loaded mile. Producers who usually grow and use their own forages can access assistance of up to \$30 per ton based on an identified forage shortage.

KAP is pleased that the program will cover a portion of producers' shortfall related to feed production and that the transportation component will help producers access feed from a greater distance.

During today's announcement, Federal Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz noted there would be up to \$18 million available for this programming. Through discussions with Manitoba Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives Stan Struthers, KAP learned this is funding reprofiled from Manitoba's \$60 million portion of the federal-provincial grains and oilseeds excess moisture relief package announced in July.

"Though this is not new funding, we are pleased to see that most of the money that was promised earlier in the year is going to get spent and that these dollars will now go to help livestock producers who are experiencing declining negative margins," said Brunel.

KAP believes the feed and transportation announcement is a positive step and that it can be a fairly effective, trade neutral initiative. It is unfortunate for producers and the province as a whole that the program was not delivered earlier in 2010 as some producers who decided to reduce their herds or exit the industry could have benefited from this programming. Those producers could have used this programming to help them sustain their operations through the winter and further into 2011.

Producers can access more information and application forms at their local Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives office, or online at www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture.

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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.