



## 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

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## KAP Applauds the Flood 2011 Building and Recovery Action Plan

**Winnipeg** – Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP) welcomes the news from the Government of Manitoba regarding the *Flood 2011 Building and Recovery Action Plan* and special assistance for farmers.

The province announced support under the *Hoop and Holler Compensation Program* and the *Lake Manitoba Financial Assistance Program*, which will offer assistance to farmers in the controlled release area, the Portage Diversion area and around Lake Manitoba.

“The government is showing us that it is making compensation a priority and we believe these are beneficial initiatives for Manitoba farmers,” said Doug Chorney, KAP President.

KAP is pleased that affected farmers in the controlled release area along the Assiniboine River and the area of the Portage Diversion will receive assistance through the *Hoop and Holler Compensation Program* to help restore homes and property. KAP also appreciates that farmers will be compensated for lost income incurred as a result of protecting and restoring property from flood damage and for employment and business income loss. KAP looks forward to more details on the program and is pleased to see that there are no caps or deductibles.

KAP welcomes the initiatives for farmers in the area around Lake Manitoba under the programs for financial assistance and pasture flooding assistance. KAP is pleased the province has recognized the need to help producers cover the costs of renting alternative pastures or feeding sites and transporting feed and livestock. Producers will also benefit from assistance for livestock damage to pastures and livestock infrastructure, damage and lost yield on tame forage and annual crop land, and for reseeding flood-affected land.

The province also announced support for producers in the Shoal Lakes area who are dealing with high water levels on their land. KAP appreciates the announcement of a new program which will offer assistance to producers to compensate for lost income related to agricultural production that can not be realized due to flooded acres for 2010 and 2011. The support will also cover transportation costs related to moving animals and feed. The voluntary buy-out program which was announced may also be helpful for some producers in the area if they chose that option.

“We thank the Government of Manitoba for the support announced today and we now ask that the focus be broadened to include other parts of the province that are also being hit hard by flooding,” said Chorney. “The fear is always that some farmers will be left out, and we don’t want that to be the case so we are calling for excess moisture insurance to be increased from \$50 per acre to \$70 per acre, and for those farmers who bought coverage up to \$65 to see it increased to \$85 per acre.”

The government’s *Special Livestock Mortality Program* initiative to compensate producers for animal losses during a blizzard at the end of April is positive for those in the livestock sector and it is a signal that Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives is listening and responding to the concerns that KAP has been bringing to the forefront.

KAP applauds additional measures the province has announced regarding flood mitigation and stresses that a province-wide water strategy must be developed to help manage the landscape.

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**For more information, please contact:**

Doug Chorney, KAP President. Cell: (204) 785-3626.

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.*