



# 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**  
February 1, 2010

## **KAP Delegates Set Direction for 2010**

**Winnipeg** – Keystone Agricultural Producers' farmer delegates from across the province gathered last week to discuss relevant and timely agricultural issues, and to set the direction for the organization for the year ahead. The following resolutions were debated at the annual meeting and have become KAP policy:

### **ENVIRONMENT**

#### Beneficial Management Practices Cost Share Limits

- **THAT** KAP lobby the provincial government to change the Manitoba Sustainable Agricultural Practices Program and Environmental Farm Action Program to reduce the cost share limit to levels similar to the Canada-Manitoba Farm Stewardship Program; further,  
  
**THAT** KAP lobby the provincial government to be open and transparent with its intentions to target specific Beneficial Management Practices and regions of the province.

#### Beneficial Management Practices Funding Applications

- **THAT** KAP lobby MAFRI to provide all Manitoba Sustainable Agricultural Practices Program and Environmental Farm Action Program applicants with a confidential, written explanation of why their application was rejected or accepted.

#### Beneficial Management Practices Funding

- **THAT** KAP lobby the provincial and federal governments to increase funding for the Manitoba Sustainable Agricultural Practices Program and the Environmental Farm Action Program so that more farmers may implement Beneficial Management Practices on their farms.

#### Beneficial Management Practices Funding Program Development

- **THAT** KAP lobby the provincial government to invite Keystone Agricultural Producers to have a more complete and involved role in the future development of Beneficial Management Practices funding programs.

#### Beneficial Management Practices Application Assistance

- **THAT** KAP lobby MAFRI to instruct its GO office staff to assist applicants to the Manitoba Sustainable Agricultural Practices Program and the Environmental Farm

Action Program in properly filling out applications so that projects can be chosen based on environmental benefit rather than procedural details.

#### Crop Residue Burning Permitting

- **THAT** KAP lobby the provincial government to revise the crop residue burning permitting process to be based on seasonal conditions rather than calendar dates.

#### Onsite Wastewater Management Systems and Property Value Assessments

- **THAT** KAP encourage all rural Manitobans with sewage ejectors as their onsite wastewater management systems to appeal their property tax assessment to reflect the devaluation associated with the forced replacement of these systems at the time of property transfer.

#### Onsite Wastewater Management Systems Regulations

- **THAT** KAP work with the Association of Manitoba Municipalities to develop a site specific approach to deal with onsite wastewater disposal that allows for continued use of ejectors in suitable locations.

#### Sewage Infrastructure and Regional Expansion

- **THAT** KAP lobby the Government of Manitoba to encourage the City of Winnipeg to suspend all urban expansion until the planned expansion of the city's wastewater treatment infrastructure is complete; further,

**THAT** KAP lobby the Government of Manitoba to encourage the City of Winnipeg to place a levy on property transfers within the city limits to pay for the expansion of the sewage treatment systems.

#### Drainage Work

- **THAT** KAP work with Manitoba Water Stewardship to clearly define what work is allowed under drainage licenses, with a view of having agriculture's needs as a higher priority.

#### Funding for Regulatory Compliance

- **THAT** KAP lobby the Minister of Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives to introduce programs to provide financial assistance to producers to comply with changes to environmental regulations.

### **RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE**

#### Hunting on Leased Agricultural Crown Lands

- **THAT** KAP work with the MCPA to lobby for changes to the Crown Lands Act that will empower the leasee of agricultural Crown lands with definitive authorization on who will be permitted to enter leased agricultural Crown lands, rather than the province.

#### Liability of Off-Road Vehicles on Agricultural Land

- **THAT** KAP lobby the provincial government to change the Occupiers' Liability Act to protect agricultural landowners from threats of liability created by trespassers on their land.

### Emergency Response Helicopter

- **THAT** KAP lobby the Manitoba government to provide a helicopter for emergency response and public health and safety in Manitoba.

### Biomass Energy Production

- **THAT** KAP lobby the provincial and federal governments to develop policy and programs that will encourage the use of agricultural waste and other appropriate feedstocks for biomass power generation.

### First Responders and Rural Addresses

- **THAT** KAP lobby the provincial government and AMM to develop and harmonize an information system for residents and a training program for first responders to ensure site location and route information is easily accessible.

## **LIVESTOCK AND FOOD SAFETY**

### Value Chains

- **THAT** KAP work with and support the initiatives of the Manitoba Cattle Producers Association and the Canadian Cattlemen's Association to return value chain dollars back to primary producers.

### Predator Control

- **THAT** KAP lobby for improved government policy, focused on preventative measures to avoid animal losses to predators including, but not limited to, municipal bounties on predator animals.

### Removing the Ban on New Hog Operations

- **THAT** KAP lobby the provincial government to amend The Environment Act to remove the current ban on new hog operations, which affects all or parts of 35 municipalities in Manitoba.

## **BUSINESS RISK MANAGEMENT**

### Interest on Outstanding MASC Claims

- **THAT** KAP lobby for changes to Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation's (MASC) policy where in the case of outstanding producer claims, interest equal to that which MASC charges on producer debt is calculated and paid on the outstanding balance as a part of the final producer payment.

### Interlake and AgriRecovery

- **THAT** KAP lobby the federal and provincial governments for an AgriRecovery program to be developed to provide sufficient assistance to suffering north Interlake producers for the 2009 crop year.

## Manitoba Forage Restoration Assistance Program

- **THAT** KAP lobby the provincial government to extend the 2009 Forage Restoration Program to the 2010 crop year.

## **GRAINS, OILSEEDS AND PULSES**

### Flax and Farm Saved Seed

- **THAT** KAP lobby the federal and provincial governments, and the flax industry to preserve the right of farmers to save their seed if it passes necessary purity tests.

## **WORKPLACE AND EMPLOYMENT**

### Drivers License for Temporary Foreign Workers

- **THAT** KAP lobby Manitoba Public Insurance for a review of current policies and consider extending driver's licenses for temporary foreign workers for the duration of their work permit.

## **OTHER**

### The Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) and the World Trade Organization (WTO)

- **THAT** KAP lobby the federal government to have trade negotiators reinstate the square brackets around Article 3.a.iv in Annex K of the December 2008 revision of the WTO draft modality on Agriculture, regarding the use of state trading enterprises; further,  
  
**THAT** KAP lobby the federal government to oppose any change to the Canadian Wheat Board's single desk marketing system until western Canadian farmers are consulted and a majority of western Canadian grain producers agree to a change.

- 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.*