



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 www.kap.mb.ca

For immediate release

July 8, 2010

KAP Welcomes Crop Protection and Restoration Funding

Winnipeg – Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP) welcomes the news from the Governments of Canada, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta regarding up to \$450 million in land protection and restoration funding for Prairie producers.

The Governments announced that \$30 per acre in assistance will be available to help eligible farmers protect, rehabilitate and manage flooded cropland.

"We thank Federal Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz and the Prairie Agriculture Ministers for acknowledging the need to assist farmers in protecting and restoring land for future production," said Ian Wishart, KAP President. "We've been lobbying for this type of programming since the spring because it's something we strongly support."

KAP expressed its concerns regarding the dire situation caused by heavy rains and flooding in Manitoba to Minister Ritz and Minister of Manitoba Agriculture, Food, and Rural Initiatives Stan Struthers and called for an environmental program similar to the former Cover Crop Protection Program to be delivered under AgriRecovery. KAP is pleased the Governments have addressed producers' concerns about improving and protecting flood-damaged soil through this latest funding initiative.

"The amount of funding relief is in line with what we were lobbying for, assuming that Crop Insurance and AgriStability work the way they were designed to work," said Wishart.

KAP stresses the Governments must ensure this AgriRecovery relief package not only covers unseeded acres but also crops that were planted and destroyed without any production. It is critical that all cropland be maintained throughout the season in order for producers to prepare for the next crop year.

There is a further need for special programming in Manitoba to assist the Interlake and eastern regions where 2010 represents the third year in a row for crop loss. It will also be important for governments to monitor the livestock feed situation as the season develops.

- 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.