



NEWS RELEASE

“The Voice of Manitoba Farmers”

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KAP Welcomes Federal and Provincial Funding for Manitoba Beef Industry

Winnipeg –KAP congratulates Keystone Processors Ltd. on two government announcements which will provide funding toward upgrading its Winnipeg beef processing plant into a federally-licensed facility.

KAP welcomes the federal announcement regarding a loan of up to \$10 million for the plant under the Slaughter Improvement Program announced this year. KAP is also pleased the province is building on the beef industry in Manitoba through the Manitoba Cattle Enhancement Council's announcement of a new \$7.5 million investment in Keystone Processors Ltd.

"Every cattle producer in the province should be pleased about these announcements," said Ian Wishart, KAP President. "We've needed a plant of this capacity in Manitoba and that was highlighted by the BSE crisis."

The funding will allow Keystone Processors Ltd. to upgrade its plant to meet federal and European Union certification standards which will strengthen market access for cattle producers in Manitoba.

"As a cattle producer I welcome this news," said Wishart. "These developments along with tracking and tracing should give Manitoba producers an opportunity to position beef products in some high value export markets and improve their bottom lines."

Keystone Processors Ltd. is expected to reach into the European Union and produce products such as Kosher and Halal beef, which should provide producers with a wide range of markets to target.

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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.