



# NEWS RELEASE

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## “The Voice of Manitoba Farmers”

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### **For immediate release**

March 26, 2009

## KAP on the Provincial Budget

**Winnipeg** – The provincial budget leaves farmers with a sense of déjà vu after no commitments were announced on the financial crisis facing hog and cattle producers, and few details were provided on incentives regarding environmental issues such as nutrient management. KAP is eager to learn more about government funding to help farmers reach compliance on nutrient management regulations, given that Bill 17 (The Environmental Amendment Act) has already had a devastating impact on hog producers and the future of that sector.

“As we outlined in our pre-budget document, we’d like to see the province address the critical economic downturn livestock producers are facing,” said Rob Brunel, KAP Vice President. “On the nutrient management announcement, we look forward to working with the government to ensure any funding created through this budget will meet the needs of producers.”

KAP had hoped to see a budget announcement on a land restoration program to assist all producers with land affected by excess moisture conditions in the summer of 2008. KAP will continue to work on this issue for producers in the Interlake and other parts of the province who are experiencing hardship heading into the next crop year.

The Farmland School Tax Rebate increase to 75 per cent was expected for 2009, but it is a positive step for producers. KAP would like to see the province remove the education tax from all property, including farmland and production buildings. KAP recognizes the potential benefit of doubling the Riparian Tax Credit, though there are questions on the criteria for accessing the program. KAP will wait to learn more about this initiative and others that have been launched.

“Basically this was a typical Manitoba budget with its steady course and no dramatic shifts, said Brunel. “Most of it was not a big surprise.”

KAP is interested in further budget details on resources for Manitobans who will be affected by severe flooding this spring.

KAP released its budget checklist during the province’s pre-budget consultations. It includes recommendations focused on issues such as farm income, education financing, Growing Forward, environment, taxation, and transportation. Farm Viability—Moving Forward is available under New at KAP at [www.kap.mb.ca](http://www.kap.mb.ca).

- 30 -

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