



## **NEWS RELEASE**

**For immediate release**

November 5, 2010

### **Livestock Producers Require Feed Assistance**

**Winnipeg** – Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP) and the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS) appreciate the announcements regarding 2010 federal tax deferrals on breeding livestock but stress that livestock producers require immediate feed assistance.

“The tax deferral is a good start to help livestock producers who have been affected by excess moisture,” said Rob Brunel, KAP President. “It has been a workable solution in the past. However, it may not work for all situations and we believe there is a need to cover the winter feed shortage issues that producers are facing.”

Many producers are still facing challenges due to excess moisture they’ve experienced for multiple years. With record-setting levels of rain recorded across the Prairies during the past season, the moisture levels for hay and forage crops in Manitoba and Saskatchewan have created a grim feed situation. Wet fields have prevented many livestock producers from baling their crops, making silage and grazing cattle. Those producers who may have experienced normal quantities of hay and forage crops may not have the quality of feed required for their herds.

The one-year deferral on income on the sale of breeding livestock can help with the financial burden on producers but the multiple year excess moisture situation has resulted in some herds being cut down to such low numbers that they may never return back to workable sizes and quality.

When producers have worked for years to build up breeding stock in their herds and are faced with selling off a large number of animals, they lose those years of planning and using certain genetics to build their herds to the highest level of quality.

“You’ve thrown a lot of hard work away in that situation and even if you bought back in, you may not be able to replace the quality of animals that you sold, therefore your productivity and production will decrease,” said Greg Marshal, APAS President.

KAP and APAS add that existing AgriStability programming is not adequate to address income shortfalls for livestock producers who have declining negative margins. Producers are aware that AgriStability will not provide them with relief or hope for the future.

Governments must work together to provide feed assistance solutions for livestock producers in order for the industry to remain on the landscape.

-30-

**For more information, please contact:**

Manitoba: Rob Brunel, KAP President. Cell: (204) 447-7104.

Saskatchewan: Greg Marshall, APAS President. Cell: (306) 570-5959