



NEWS RELEASE

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Manitoba Farmers Set Direction for 2011

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:

BUSINESS RISK MANAGEMENT

AgrilInvest Contribution Levels

- **THAT** KAP lobby the Government of Manitoba to maintain their current contribution level for the AgrilInvest program.

AgriStability Program Fairness

- **THAT** KAP request that the Auditor General investigate the AgriStability program to establish why there is inequality in support between agricultural sectors; further,
- **THAT** KAP lobby the Government of Manitoba and the Government of Canada to resolve inequalities in support levels between agricultural sectors in future income stability programming.

MASC Methods Review

- **THAT** KAP request that the Minister of Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives form a committee to review the timing and methodology used for grading harvested samples by Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation for crop insurance calculations.

Excess Moisture Assistance Program – Deductible

- **THAT** KAP lobby the Government of Manitoba to pay the 5% deductible applied to eligible flooded out acres under the Canada-Manitoba Excess Moisture Assistance Program in 2010; further,
- **THAT** KAP lobby the Government of Manitoba to not apply a deductible to any future support programs unrelated to insurance programs.

Excess Moisture Assistance Program – Application Deadlines

- **THAT** KAP lobby the Government of Manitoba to allow for retroactive applications to the Canada-Manitoba Excess Moisture Assistance Program if the 5% deductible is removed.

Predator Compensation

- **THAT** KAP support the Government of Manitoba in its announcement to phase in 100% wildlife damage compensation.

Reference Margin Information

- **THAT** KAP lobby Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada to provide information about area specific farm incomes through commodity specific reference margins, based on production units.

MASC Measurement Tools

- **THAT** KAP lobby Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation to use satellite technology as a fair way to measure crop losses in a disaster situation.

Forage Acre Support Program

- **THAT** KAP lobby the Government of Manitoba and the Government of Canada to provide a \$30 per acre payment for destroyed and unharvestable 2010 forage acres as was done with other annual crops.

Forage Insurance

- **THAT** KAP lobby the Government of Manitoba and MASC to develop a better forage crop insurance program, based on accelerated Individual Producer Index (IPI) measures.

GRAINS, OILSEEDS AND PULSES

Canadian Plant Breeding Research

- **THAT** KAP examine the current system of publically funded plant breeding research and formal plant breeder rights with the intent of ensuring that farmers' interests are protected.

International Plant Breeding Research

- **THAT** KAP, in consultation with other producer groups, examine other national models of public research funding collection and distribution and possible applications for Canada.

Roundup Ready Soybeans

- **THAT** KAP lobby Monsanto to allow Manitoba farmers to continue to grow RR1 Roundup Ready soybeans under a user agreement.

Canadian Grain Commission

- **THAT** KAP study the best delivery method for the services that the Canadian Grain Commission currently provides.

ENVIRONMENT

Gopher Control

- **THAT** KAP lobby the Government of Manitoba to develop and implement a gopher (thirteen lined ground squirrel - *Spermophilus tridecemlineatus*) and Richardson ground squirrel (*Urocyon richardsonii*) eradication program comparable to that of Saskatchewan.

Weather Forecasting and Public Safety

- **THAT** KAP lobby the Government of Manitoba and the Government of Canada to build and coordinate a weather service program that is relevant to agriculture and public safety.

Water Strategy

- **THAT** KAP work with the Government of Manitoba to develop a water strategy to resolve the water problems that impact the province's agricultural producers.

Predator Fencing

- **THAT** KAP lobby the Government of Manitoba to reinstate subsidized bear proof fencing for bee yards under a best management practice incentive program.

Gopher Control

- **THAT** KAP lobby the Government of Manitoba to research effective and environmentally safe poisons for the control of 13 stripe ground squirrels and Richardson ground squirrels.

LIVESTOCK

Impact of Regulations on Small Livestock Operations

- **THAT** KAP lobby the Government of Manitoba to allow livestock operations of less than 300 animal units to winter spread manure; further,
- **THAT** KAP request that the Government of Manitoba do an accurate assessment of the cost of implementing new regulations and ensure that producers have the financial capacity to meet new restrictions when regulations are enforced.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Biodiesel Mandate

- **THAT** KAP support the Canadian Canola Growers Association in its voice to the Government of Canada to maintain and announce its original target date of April 1, 2011 for a 2% renewable biodiesel mandate and call for support for increasing canola biodiesel production capacity for the benefit of Western Canadian farmers.

Biofuels and Buy Local Campaign

- **THAT** KAP lobby the Government of Manitoba to include biofuels in their “buy local” campaign.

Coal Tax Revenue Allocation

- **THAT** KAP lobby the Province of Manitoba to allocate revenue generated from the Coal Tax to renewable energy sector development.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Telecommunications Service Pricing

- **THAT** KAP lobby the major Manitoba telecommunications companies to introduce competitive prices, incentives and quality of telecommunications service to rural areas comparable to urban areas.

TRANSPORTATION

Farmer Owned Short Line Railways

- **THAT** KAP lobby the Government of Manitoba and the Government of Canada to offer logistical support to farmers and rural communities in the process of purchasing rail lines going through the discontinuance process by providing available expertise to help with business planning; further,
- **THAT** KAP lobby the Government of Manitoba and the Government of Canada to offer financial support to farmers and rural communities in the process of purchasing rail lines going through the discontinuance process by:

- Offering grant money to purchaser groups for business plan development and line purchases;
- Matching funding available as non-repayable loans; and
- Offering long term loans at rates comparable to those offered by Farm Credit Canada and/or Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation.

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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.