



Growing Safe, Successful
Farms in Manitoba

NEWS RELEASE

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Partners Promote Manitoba's Safe Farms Check Program

Winnipeg – Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP) in conjunction with Manitoba Labour and Manitoba Agriculture, Food & Rural Initiatives will be rolling out a farm safety program called Manitoba's Safe Farms Check Program to help make Manitoba farms safer workplaces—potentially resulting in lower workers' compensation premiums.

The program will be made available to all Manitoba farms starting December 2010. Farmers will be able to attend regional farm safety meetings at no cost. The meetings will provide an overview of a practical safety manual on how to make the farm safer for the farm family, farm employees, farm service personnel and other visitors. This hands-on manual was tested by over 30 Manitoba farms with modifications and changes based on feedback received.

Following the regional safety meetings in December and January, KAP and Acklands-Grainger will invite farmers to attend regional farm safety expos. The expos will be held in February and will feature short safety seminars and a farm safety trade show provided by safety suppliers. Preferred pricing for many safety products will be made available to farmers. This will allow them to purchase safety products for their farms at discount prices. The goal is to help promote safer farms before the start of the 2011 seeding season.

"All other sectors have safety programs in place, and as farmers we must also ensure our sector provides a safe working environment," said Rob Brunel, KAP President. "Unfortunately, farm incidents do occur and it's important that we all take responsibility to improve safety so that our farm workplace and homes are safer for our family and employees."

"It is estimated that in the next three to five years there will be a substantial increase in farm employees and it will be important to provide a safe workplace for these new employees," said Doug Chorney, KAP Vice President and Executive Board Member on the Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council. "This program will help attract potential employees to consider farm-based employment, it will help increase retention of existing employees and it will also result in less operating costs due to lower workplace claims and the resulting WCB premiums."

To start off the program, Manitoba Labour and Immigration has scheduled the regional safety meetings on Manitoba's Safe Farms Check Program. The meetings have been scheduled for December 14 in Winkler, December 15 in Steinbach, January 11 in Brandon, and January 14 in Teulon.

Farmers can register for the regional safety meetings or the Safe Farms Check Program by calling 1-866-888-8186, ext 2315. More information is also available at www.safemanitoba.com.

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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.