



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Producers Welcome Federal Initiatives**

**Winnipeg** – Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP) is pleased about recent announcements made by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) to give a boost to the Canadian pork industry, support crop research and marketing through the Canadian International Grains Institute (CIGI) and fund the West Hawk Lake Zoning Initiative.

KAP welcomes the support for the industry and initiatives that will help give Canadian producers an edge in the international marketplace.

"Funding these types of initiatives is essential to help strengthen all sectors of the agricultural industry and the economy," said Ian Wishart, KAP President. "Producers are looking for ways to become more competitive in the marketplace and these projects may help open up new opportunities in the future."

Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz's announcement of over \$11 million for CIGI's development and marketing of field crop products is welcomed as it will help show our customers the superior products we have to offer. In addition, funding for the West Hawk Lake Zoning Initiative will help continue efforts to track the movement of livestock and food products between eastern and western Canada which can help protect the country from trade actions in the event of a disease outbreak. The investment of over \$15 million for projects related to pork research, traceability and marketing will provide long term benefits for the pork industry.

"We're pleased that the government is building towards the future for hog producers, but those producers do need more support in the interim in order to realize benefits from long term initiatives such as those that were announced," said Wishart.

In general, these latest announcements will help Canadian producers and processors move ahead and maintain a powerful position in the marketplace and help open up new markets.

- 30 -

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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.*