



NEWS RELEASE

“The Voice of Manitoba Farmers”

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For immediate release

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KAP Applauds Assistance for Manitoba Producers

Winnipeg – Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP) would like to thank the federal government for taking leadership on one of KAP’s ongoing lobby efforts—assistance for producers affected by excess moisture in the summer of 2008. In particular, KAP has called for the expansion of the one-year tax deferral on livestock to include excess moisture situations.

The announcement released today by Minister of Agriculture Gerry Ritz recognizes the need for flood situations to be acknowledged under the tax deferral, which previously only allowed producers affected by drought a one-year deferral on income on the sale of breeding livestock.

“We’re very pleased to have obtained this outcome for KAP’s cattle producer members who were hit hard by the flooding in the Interlake and other areas of the province,” said Ian Wishart, KAP President. “Back in September we put the idea to change the deferral on the table, and we lobbied the federal and provincial governments for months. It’s encouraging to see this result.”

KAP applauds the federal and provincial governments for the announcements regarding feed assistance and forage restoration. KAP believes there is a need to include damage to annual crop fields as well as forage, and will continue to work on this issue.

KAP passed three resolutions on assistance for producers affected by excess moisture conditions at its annual meeting in January. All three resolutions went on to pass at the national level at the Canadian Federation of Agriculture annual meeting in February.

“There is more to be done to recognize the plight of Manitoba producers who are facing challenges due to the flooding last year, and KAP will continue to work hard on this issue.”

KAP also applauds the federal government for designating areas in the southwest corner of Manitoba as drought areas in order for producers to be eligible for the tax deferral.

For information on KAP’s lobby efforts, please see the attached backgrounder.

For more information, please contact:

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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.



Backgrounder

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KAP's lobby efforts produced a successful outcome for producers affected by excess moisture in 2008 with the federal government's announcement on new assistance and changes to the tax deferral on the sale of breeding livestock.

Examples of KAP's lobbying efforts leading to today's announcement include:

September 5, 2008 – KAP sent correspondence to the Hon. Gerry Ritz, Minister of Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada urging him to show leadership on assisting producers in flood affected areas of Manitoba, and to pursue immediate efforts despite the federal election call.

September 15, 2008 – KAP met with the Hon. Rosann Wowchuk, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives and discussed assistance for producers in flooded regions of the province, including extending the tax deferral program to excess moisture situations.

September 16, 2008 – In a news release KAP called on the federal government to step up on flooding and extend the tax deferral program.

September 18, 2008 – KAP released its federal election policy priorities in the document *Election Issues*. The document included a call to extend the tax deferral program to include excess moisture situations.

October 31, 2008 – KAP sent a letter to the Hon. Jim Flaherty, Minister of Finance requesting that the ministry expand the tax deferral for producers in flooded areas.

November 2008 – KAP discussed the issue of compensation and the tax deferral at its 12 District Annual Meetings across the province.

November 12, 2008 – At the meeting of District 10 KAP members, President Ian Wishart reiterated the need for compensation and the tax deferral expansion to the audience of flood-affected producers as well as Tom Nevakshonoff, MLA Interlake and James Bezan, MP for Selkirk-Interlake.

December 8, 2008 – KAP met with the Minister of Finance, the Hon. Greg Selinger to discuss pre-budget issues including the tax deferral.

December 8, 2008 – In a follow-up to the September 15, 2008 meeting with the Hon. Rosann Wowchuk, KAP was notified a joint letter from the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Finance, the Hon. Greg Selinger, had been sent to the federal government regarding the tax deferral.

December 15, 2008 – KAP met with James Bezan, MP for Selkirk-Interlake and discussed the need for flood compensation and changes to the tax deferral program.

December 15, 2008 – A KAP news release urged the federal finance minister to expand the tax deferral program in order for producers to have the exemption for the 2009 taxation year.

December 18, 2008 – KAP met with Merv Tweed, MP for Brandon-Souris and discussed the need for compensation and changes to the tax deferral program.

January 12, 2009 – KAP met with Candice Hooppner, MP for Portage-Lisgar and discussed the need for compensation and changes to the tax deferral program.

January 28 - 30, 2009 – KAP discussed compensation and the tax deferral at its annual meeting and passed three resolutions related to assistance for flood-affected producers.

February 24 - 26, 2009 – KAP discussed compensation and the tax deferral at the Canadian Federation of Agriculture annual meeting and three resolutions related to assistance for flood-affected producers were passed.

February 26, 2009 – KAP President Ian Wishart expressed the importance of the Interlake situation to Federal Agriculture Minister the Hon. Gerry Ritz at the Canadian Federation of Agriculture annual meeting.

February 28, 2009 – KAP sent a letter to the Hon. Jim Flaherty, Minister of Finance requesting that the ministry expand the tax deferral for producers in flooded areas.

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