



COMMENTARY

“The Voice of Manitoba Farmers”

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Support Manitoba Pork Producers

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The Manitoba pork industry is in a state of crisis. Several factors have had a negative impact on producers including a higher Canadian dollar, the implementation of U.S. mandatory country of origin labeling (COOL), a continual rise in feed costs, and concerns over H1N1—which are not based on science.

The pork industry contributes significantly to our economy in Manitoba and across the entire country. This is a valuable industry not only from an agriculture production perspective, but from the 70,000 jobs it provides in Canada and associated processing. It is hard to comprehend billions of dollars being put into the manufacturing sector and nothing for agriculture—even forestry is getting help.

The federal and provincial agriculture ministers will meet at their annual conference July 9-10, 2009, and it is critical that they use that opportunity to come up with a plan which will immediately get cash to suffering pork producers.

It's important to support the hard-hit hog sector during this time of crisis, not only as government, but as consumers. We all need to remember that when it comes to the safety of eating pork, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) make it clear that influenza, including H1N1, is not a foodborne disease and that properly cooked pork is safe. So fire up the barbeque, pick pork, and support pork producers.

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.