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The KAP Alert

April 9, 2010

Prairie Farm Leaders Meet in Winnipeg

The presidents of the three major farm groups across the Prairies emerged from a forum today with a renewed focus on the issues facing Prairie agriculture.

Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP)
President Ian Wishart,
Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS)
President Greg Marshall,
and Wild Rose Agricultural Producers (WRAP) President



Humphrey Banack identified major priorities and developed an action plan to move these issues forward in the coming months. Their discussions were framed around producer payment security mechanism options, technical trade barriers, rail transportation and young and beginning farmers. The group also discussed the challenges facing the livestock

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If you are a producer who has misplaced your Environmental Farm Plan Statement of Completion and you need another copy, please contact Christine at KAP at 697-1140 or kap@kap.mb.ca.

Activities

industry and the future for producers and processors.

Producer Payment Security Mechanism

The Prairie Farm Leaders stress that farmers must have an adequate and financially viable option to cover their risks related to grain delivery. The leaders reviewed the Producer Payment Security Mechanism report and discussed the insurance and fund based approaches. KAP, APAS, and WRAP are calling on the federal government again to delay any decisions on bonding until farm organizations have had time to examine the implications of the insurance and fund based approaches.

Increasing Use of Technical Trade Barriers

Farmers are facing price uncertainty and substantial losses due to international market access issues with commodities such as flax and canola. KAP, APAS and WRAP ask for federal trade negotiators to include a process to resolve these increasingly frequent non-tariff barriers as part of any new trade agreement.

Addressing Rail Transportation Issues

All three leaders are pleased to see that the Federal Rail Freight Service Review submission deadline has been established. They hope the development and implementation of recommendations from the service review panel will be completed in the near future. The leaders discussed the importance of having the federal government introduce a costing review mechanism into the revenue cap program. Western Canadian grain farmers have not benefitted from rail operation consolidation and efficiency gains made over the past decade due to the lack of competition in the rail freight industry. KAP, APAS and WRAP continue to be concerned over the lack of government action regarding the 53 rail siding sites that CN Rail delisted in 2009. These sites must be protected to support the growing use of producer cars on the Prairies and to allow for rural development opportunities in the future.

Young and Beginning Farmers

Monday, April 5: The Management Team met at the KAP office.

Tuesday, April 6: President Ian Wishart, VP Doug Chorney, and GM Yvonne Rideout met with Debora Durnin-Richards, Director, MAFRI Policy and Knowledge Management, Boards Commissions & Legislation, to discuss the 2010 budget and checkoff issues.

Wednesday, April 7: President Ian Wishart attended the Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation Training Conference in Brandon. GM Yvonne Rideout met with Dennis Petaski, Director of Member Benefits and Services, STRATA Benefits Consulting Inc., to discuss member benefits. GM Yvonne Rideout and Communications Officer Kristen Lucyshyn met with Gerry McFaddin,

The farm leaders discussed challenges faced by young and beginning farmers and the need for engagement in farm organizations. A key factor in preparing farmers to take over their family operations is ensuring that adequate succession planning is in place, and this is one area in which governments can show leadership. The leaders reviewed and provided recommendations on "Strategies and Recommendations for New Entrant and Intergenerational Transfer Program Needs," a study by Al Sholz of A.N Sholz and Associates commissioned by APAS. KAP, APAS and WRAP emphasized the need for programming to encourage new entrants into the agriculture sector and the groups will continue to lobby all levels of government on this issue.

The Prairie organizations are members of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture and use the Prairie Farm Leaders Meetings as a forum to deal with regional issues. The next meeting of the leaders will take place in October in Regina.

KAP Sets Policy at General Council

Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP) delegates from across the province met in Portage la Prairie on April 8 to learn more about emerging issues in agriculture, and to set direction for the organization. The following resolutions were passed, and are now KAP policy:

TRANSPORTATION

Provincial Road Maintenance

THAT KAP lobby the provincial government to increase maintenance of gravel Provincial Roads for improved safety.

Canadian Wheat Board, to discuss WeatherFarm. President Ian Wishart attended the Manitoba Chicken Producers' Annual Directors Dinner.

Thursday, April 8:

KAP held its General Council at Canad Inns, Portage la Prairie.

Friday, April 9:

President Ian Wishart and GM Yvonne Rideout hosted the Prairie Farm Leaders Meeting with guests Greg Marshall, Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS) President, and Humphrey Banack, Wild Rose Agricultural Producers (WRAP) President.

Events

April 16-18: Equine Educational Weekend Horse3 (Head*Heart*Hooves), Keystone Centre,

RTAC Routes

THAT KAP lobby the Minister of Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation to upgrade existing highways to RTAC specifications for RMs without a RTAC route.

Producer Car Loading Sites

THAT KAP lobby Transport Canada, the Federal Minister of Transport, Infrastructure, and Communities, and the Minister of State (Transport) to change Section 151.1(1) of the Canadian Transportation Act to expand the requirements for salvaging a rural rail siding used for producer car loading to include;

- A minimum of three years formal notice to be provided to The Canadian Transportation Agency, both Federal and Provincial Ministers of Agriculture and Transportation, the Canadian Wheat Board, the Canadian Grain Commission, provincial and national grain, oilseed and pulse commodity groups and general farm organizations, relevant municipal councils and mayors and any known producer car loading groups in the region
- An offer to sell the site for no more than salvage value to any of the above listed groups
- Compensation to affected municipalities if a site is salvaged
- A minimum service obligation to non-railway owned sites with penalties for non-compliance; further,

THAT KAP lobby Transport Canada, the Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities and the Minister of State (Transport) to place a moratorium on the salvaging of the 53 producer car loading sites delisted by Canadian National Railway in 2009.

CTA Productivity and Cost Study

THAT KAP lobby the federal Minister of Transportation and Transport Canada to instruct the Canadian Transportation Agency (the Agency) to assess and report on estimated changes in railways' costs for the

Brandon. [Website](#)

June 16 - 18:
Western Canada
Farm Progress Show,
Evraz Place, Regina,
SK. [Website](#)

movement of western grain by rail since 1992; and an assessment of the railways' estimates on how they have shared with shippers recent productivity gains in the movement of western grain by rail, as was done in the 1999 Agency publication A Report on the Movement of Western Grain.

GRAINS, OILSEEDS AND PULSES

Seed Technology Agreements

THAT KAP remind members to take care in reading any contracts they are required to sign when purchasing seeds and farm chemicals; further,

THAT KAP lobby the federal government and appropriate national agriculture industry groups, including the Canadian Canola Growers Association, to investigate the anticompetitive nature of seed use contracts; further,

THAT KAP lobby the federal government and appropriate national agriculture industry groups, including the Canadian Canola Growers Association, to investigate the onerous financial implications to farmers of seed use contracts.

Flax and European Imports

THAT KAP initiate an examination of a potential consumer boycott of European products in response to unfairly restrictive protocols on Canadian flax exports.

Roundup Ready™ Alfalfa

THAT KAP support the Manitoba Forage Seed Association Inc. in holding the Government of Canada directly responsible for any economic loss experienced as a result of trade injury incurred due to loss of export markets for alfalfa seed and other legume & grass seed crops related to the introduction of Roundup™ Ready alfalfa into Canada.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Bipole III Route

THAT KAP lobby the Manitoba Government to abandon plans to develop the west side BiPole III route and return to the shorter east side route.

BUSINESS RISK MANAGEMENT**AgriRecovery**

THAT KAP lobby both the federal and provincial governments to undergo a consultation process with farm groups in an effort to better define the AgriRecovery Program under Growing Forward; further,

THAT KAP lobby both the federal and provincial governments to ensure that the AgriRecovery Program is adequately funded to meet the needs of the primary agricultural industry.

ENVIRONMENT**BMP Policy Paper**

THAT KAP adopt the 2010 KAP BMP Policy Paper.

Crop Residue Management Policy Paper

THAT KAP adopt the 2010 KAP Residue Management Policy Paper.

OTHER**Supply Management Quota Transfer Levy**

THAT KAP lobby the provincial government to drop the 2% levy on supply managed quota exchanges.

Manitoba Farm and Rural Stress Line
1-866-367-3276 www.ruralstress.ca



MASC Lending Programs Made More Attractive to Young Farmers

Submitted by MASC

The Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation (MASC) has served the financial needs of Manitoba producers for over 50 years, and has strived to keep pace with agriculture's changing methods, demographics, and economic realities. Each year, MASC reviews its programming to ensure it remains relevant and effective, and the 2010 review brings several adjustments sure to make MASC lending programs more attractive to Manitoba's young farmers.



Many of this year's revisions reflect the changing Canadian economy. With increased Manitoba farm land values in 2009 (source: Farm Credit Canada Farmland Values Report, Fall 2009), MASC approved a corresponding 9.9% increase for net worth limits and loan limits on most Direct Loans. The net worth limit for lending programs is now set at \$1.35-million (up from \$1.225-million), while the new lending limits for Direct Loans, Comprehensive Refinancing and Alternate Energy Loans are now set at \$825,000 for individuals (up from \$750,000) and \$1.65-million for corporations, partnerships and cooperatives (up from \$1.5-million).

Likewise, the limits on off-farm income and loan limits for on-farm housing have also increased to reflect real-world statistics. Off-farm income limits

have risen 6% to \$125,000 (up from \$120,000), echoing the findings of the Statistics Canada Average Weekly Earnings Report (November 2009). Limits on loans used for on-farm housing have increased to \$230,000 (up from \$225,000), reflecting a 2.7% increase in last year's Statistics Canada New Housing Price Index.

Perhaps the best news for young farmers in this year's review is an expanded availability of MASC's Management Training Credit (MTC). As part of the Bridging Generations Initiative, the MTC encourages young farmers to hone their management skills, and in return gives young farmers a one percent credit on the principal of their MASC loan (up to a lifetime maximum of \$12,500) for the first five years of the loan.

Established in 2002, the MTC was originally limited to intergenerational farm transfers. In 2007, MASC expanded the MTC to include all young farmers (aged 18 – 39) and loans made for the purchase of land, breeding livestock and permanent improvements. As of April 1, 2010, the MTC also applies to a broader range of MASC Direct Loans, including those made for debt consolidation, refinancing, farm housing, and equity share financing.

The MTC program has grown steadily since its inception, and this expansion to include more Direct Loans means more young farmers can gain valuable farm management skills and take advantage of its financial benefit.

For more information about the MTC and other recent changes to MASC lending programs, please contact your local MASC lending representative or visit www.masc.mb.ca.

MRAC Gap Analysis and Needs Assessment Survey

**This survey is intended for Farm Business
Advisors/Consultants.**

Some of the main drivers that are responsible for the changes in agriculture today are: policy, changing consumer demand, industry rationalization, and globalization. In the agricultural sector, successful farmers are also successful business managers, recognizing that they cannot be all things at all times, and thus rely on Farm Business Advisors/Consultants to provide a wide range of advisory services. Presently, there is no single program available that provides Farm Business Advisors/Consultants with the full scope of theoretical and practical knowledge and resources required to continuously fulfill their roles within their occupation.

The purpose of this survey is to:

Part A) Validate the initial findings from a preliminary survey regarding the gaps in education and training available to both individuals interested in becoming farm business advisors, as well as to those currently practicing as farm business advisors / consultants.

Part B) Identify the program offerings and formats that would address the gaps in education and training.

Part C) To gather your valuable thoughts and opinions.

If you would like to answer the survey, please click on [this link](#).

Interesting Read on ALUS

**The Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario Commentary
April 1, 2010**

Add Your Name to the List of Those Supporting ALUS

By John Clement

CFA Photo Contest and Awards

Join the [Canadian Federation of Agriculture](#) in celebrating its 75th anniversary by taking part in the [CFA's Photo Contest: The face of farming](#) OR by submitting an entry for the [CFA Agricultural Awards](#).



CFA Photo Contest

Deadline: September 10, 2010

Criteria: Photos which depict farming or portraits of farmers are welcome. This may include landscape photos, portraits of children, and much more. As long as the photo shows technical excellence, originality, and artistic creativity, while reflecting the theme, it may be selected as a winner in the contest. The contest is open to Canadian residents, age 15 or older as of the day of submission. [MORE DETAILS](#)



CFA Agricultural Awards

Deadline: September 10, 2010

Agricultural Awareness and Education

To be presented to one of the CFA's 22 member organizations or member of a member organization which features a particularly outstanding campaign or other educational vehicle aimed at increasing the public's agricultural awareness and education.



Environmental Stewardship

This award will be given to the member organization or individual member of a member organization that has demonstrated a variety of environmentally conscious business practices or policies.



Youth Leadership

This is to be presented to an individual farmer (a member of a member organization), 25 years of age or younger who has contributed to the agriculture industry.




[MORE DETAILS HERE](#)

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KAP Minute

The KAP Minute is news for and about farmers from
Keystone Agricultural Producers.

Tune in to the KAP Minute every Thursday on 3 stations in
Manitoba!

CFAM
Radio 950

CFAM Radio 950 Community Service
Radio in Altona
[Listen](#) at 12:56 p.m.

CFRY
920 AM 93.1 FM

CFRY 920AM and 93.1FM Real Country
Radio in Portage La Prairie
[Listen](#) at 12:48 p.m.



880 CKLQ Today's Best Country in
Brandon
Listen at 12:28 p.m.

Member Benefits Corner

Protecting Seniors on the Farm

With spring now here, farm safety is a concern. At this busy time, we may overlook how our parents and grandparents are doing and what their risks are such as how mobile they are, what would happen if they fell, and how soon would someone find them. These are all very crucial questions that everyone would like to have a greater peace of mind about.



Whether they are still living on the farm or in town, the safety of senior family members is of utmost concern. Now a new KAP Member Benefits program is available that can provide peace of mind for both seniors and their children.

A new medic alert system called **SafeHome**, offered through **ProTELEC Alarms** is available to KAP Members and their family.

The **SafeHome** program comes complete with a base unit that acts as a speaker phone and it can be easily activated. Two units are available for users



including a waterproof pendent or a waterproof unit similar to a wrist watch. Each design includes a button to activate an emergency response, which is monitored 24/7 in Winnipeg.

You can personalize the emergency response to what makes the most practical sense for your specific situation. As an example, you can be contacted first to determine the problem and the needed course of action, or an ambulance can be dispatched immediately and loved ones can be notified. The system also includes a medicine reminder and an activity timer.



For more information, [\[click here\]](#), email kapbenefits@stratabenefits.ca or call Annie Gladu at 1-877-387-4730.

Estate Planning

If you still have not ordered your complimentary DVD copy of Farm Estate Planning Seminar, please email kapbenefits@stratabenefits.ca or call 1-866-787-2826.

Acklands-Grainger Spring Promotions

For savings on your Welding Supplies, see the new Acklands Grainger **welding**



line-up! And for their new Spring 2010 Specials [click here](#). Remember to use your KAP discount code - 253321

Benefits Reminder

Discount at Mark's Work Wearhouse

Mark's Work Wearhouse discount cards are being mailed out with the regular KAP mailings to members. Members can also cut out the coupon [click here](#) and print!. (Note: one coupon must be printed for each sales transaction)



Private Health Services Plan

Before the busy spring season starts, make sure your health coverage is in order. By using the KAP Private Health Services Plan (PHSP), you can reduce your health, dental, prescription drug and dental expenses. As an example, for a self-employed farmer or director of a farm corporation who is in a 35% personal tax bracket, the PHSP program can provide net savings of \$400 on \$1,000 of medical expenses. Call Karley at 1-866- 996-7477 to find out how a PHSP can help you and/or to receive an information package.

For information on any of our benefits programs, call our Member Benefits line at 1-866-527-0123, go to our website, or email us.

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