



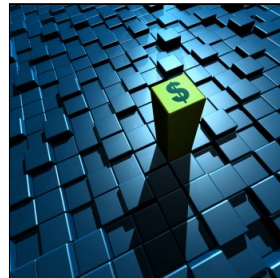
The KAP Alert

December 11, 2009

New Programs, Big Differences

Commentary by Rob Brunel, KAP Vice President

With the delivery of Growing Forward in 2009, producers saw major changes to Environmental Farm Plans (EFP) programming. Some of the changes involved funding, delivery, and technical support.



Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives (MAFRI) has taken on a major role in delivering EFP and beneficial management practices (BMPs), as well as providing technical support. Under Growing Forward's predecessor, the Agricultural Policy Framework (APF), the program was a tripartite agreement between the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration, MAFRI, and the Farm Stewardship Association of Manitoba (FSAM). It was brand

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ATTENTION DISTRICT BOARDS

If you would like your resolutions included in the Annual Meeting delegate packages, please submit them by **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15.**

KAP Membership

Membership renewals for 2010 have been sent out and we encourage members to pre-pay. You may now pay using a credit card on the KAP website using [PayPal](#).

Looking for your EFP Certificate?

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.

new and delivered by a third-party—the now-defunct FSAM. Under Growing Forward, the province negotiated the program with the federal government. The province now has more control over the program funding, and it is prioritizing the BMPs projects.

Under the APF, five years worth of BMPs funding was delivered in just over three years, totaling over \$30 million. The number of eligible producers started at zero, and grew to over 5,600. Taking a look at the new Growing Forward programming, there are changes to BMPs funding with two streams now in place. There are some distinct differences in that these BMPs are more targeted to specific priorities the province has regarding environmental concerns.

Under the Environmental Farm Action Program (EFAP) the federal and provincial governments are delivering close to \$1.8 million per year over four years, and around \$1 million per year for three years under the Manitoba Sustainable Agriculture Practices Program (MSAPP). With this new funding, there are fewer dollars offered than under the APF, and there are over 5,600 producers in line and anticipating project funding. That being said, the levels of funding for producers' projects are now higher than under the old program, so that means the funds approved will go further for individual producers.

Another change to the programming is the inclusion of carbon offsets. What KAP wanted to see were principles for carbon trading that would mean the farmer owns the offsets, and the province gets what they pay for based on the percentage of funding for a set period of time. This is what we think will work for farmers into the future.

Activities

Monday, December 7: President Ian Wishart attended the Manitoba Conservation Districts Association Convention "Our Environment: The Cost of Doing Nothing."

Tuesday, December 8: President Ian Wishart attended the Keystone Vegetable Producers Association annual meeting in Portage la Prairie. Executive Member Doug Chorney attended a Bipole III Open House in Oak Bank. Executive Member Doug Chorney and GM Yvonne Rideout attended the Manitoba Food Processors Association Christmas Reception.

Wednesday, December 9: President Ian Wishart and GM Yvonne Rideout met with Dr. Michael Trevan, Chair of the Agricultural Producers' Organization Certification Agency. President Ian Wishart participated in a CFA Reference Margin Working Group conference call.

Thursday, December 10: Policy Analyst James Battershill attended a Bipole III Open House.

Events

December 15-16: Manitoba Agronomists Conference 2009, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg.
[Website](#)

Under the new programming, the province will be retiring these carbon credits to meet their green commitments. The province has a claim on the carbon credits during a three or four year period based on where the funding came from. The one exception is funding for lagoon covers with the province getting 90 per cent of the credits for a period of ten years. This principle is borrowed from the Alberta model in which private industry paid for 100 per cent of lagoon covers and took all of the carbon credits.

It's interesting to note that the funding under MSAPP is only available to us because of the carbon offsets available. The fact is, farmers wouldn't be getting access to this funding if we weren't able to offer carbon offsets to the province. These offsets will help the province meet its commitment to be "greener" in government practices, while offering producers real value for the carbon offsets we create—the increased percentage of funding for BMPs projects and extra funding under MSAPP.

Another change to EFP programming concerns confidentiality. In the past, EFP workbook related information was held by FSAM. Producers have always kept their own workbooks and will continue to do so, but there is information that needs to be held somewhere, such as contact information, when you completed an EFP workshop, and your Environmental Farm Plan Statement of Completion number. KAP agreed to be the new third-party holder of this information in order to maintain confidentiality. Producers who sign on to EFAP or MSAPP programs should know that approval of a BMPs project is determined by MAFRI based on environmental improvements, and information MAFRI asks for could cause confidentiality concerns. The benefits of possible

January 19 - 21, 2010: Manitoba Ag Days, Keystone Centre, Brandon.

[Website](#)

April 16-18: Equine Educational Weekend Horse3 (Head*Heart*Hooves), Keystone Centre, Brandon. [Website](#)

Attend an Open House for the Bipole III Transmission Project

Manitoba Hydro is presenting the alternative routes for the Bipole III transmission project and KAP encourages producers to attend their regional Open House. Please see the schedule below.

All Open Houses will be held from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

December 15: THOMPSON, St. Joseph's Ukrainian Catholic Church

December 16: GILLAM, Recreation Centre

If you would like more information about Biopole III project go to www.hydro.mb.ca/projects/bipoleIII or email bipole3@hydro.mb.ca.

project funding and confidentiality concerns have to be weighed by the producer.

We do have to realize that with a smaller amount of total program funding, larger funding percentages for projects, an increasing number of producers eligible, and focused priorities, the opportunity for funding has decreased.

With the introduction of Growing Forward, producers were expecting the same EFP programming as in the past—and that's where some of the frustration and disappointment comes in. We are entering into new territory with this program which has more focused priorities. The program is similar to what we've seen before, but targeted in a different manner.

KAP Annual Meeting

Book Your Hotel Room Today!

KAP's Annual Meeting will be held **January 27-29** at the **Delta** Winnipeg.

We ask delegates to book their rooms *immediately* as the rooms in the block won't last long. Call toll free 1-888-890-3222 or register [online](#).



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Member Benefits Corner

Farm Estate Planning DVD available to Members

Did you miss the Farm Estate Planning Webinar on December 7, but you'd like to find out more about these topics below?

- Proper succession planning
- Why ill health SHOULD NOT be the trigger to get your estate in order
- Things to know about a farm auction
- How NOT to transfer the farm
- How renting your land can change things
- The Tax implications of gifting the farm
- How to maximize your Old Age Security
- If Insured Annuities are a good alternative
- The importance of understanding “Fair Market Value” and “Principally Used”

WELL...You can now order a FREE DVD of the Webinar and hear what the experts had to say!

Includes info from:

- **Doug Markewich**, Daystar Financial
- **Stino Scalletta**, Meyers Norris Penny
- **Dave Watson**, Wealth Planning Group

As Dave Watson said during the Webinar: “It may not be what you have, but what your family gets to KEEP that counts.”

To order your free DVD, call 1-866-787-2826, or email kapbenefits@stratabenefits.ca. Or, if you would like to set-up a free complimentary meeting on the Farm Estate Planning process, call our KAP Benefits line 1-866-527-0123, ext. 2.

Should we hold a Private Health Services Plan Webinar?

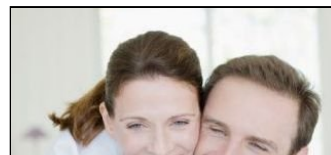
During the Farm Estate Planning Webinar, participants suggested that we hold a



future online seminar (Webinar) on the Private Health Services Plan (PHSP). If you are also interested in an online seminar on the PHSP to find out how it can help reduce your Health and Dental costs, and how all farm business structures (sole proprietorships, partnerships, and corporations) can benefit from this program, please let us know. If there is enough interest we will plan to hold one in the new year.

Simply email kapbenefits@stratabenefits.ca with the text “I would be interested in a PHSP webinar,” or call 1-866-787-2826. If there is enough interest, we will let you know if a Webinar is arranged.

Just a reminder of how easily this online meeting works: You



PHSP is not a substitute for professional advice. Please consult your advisor for more information. © 2014 KAP Benefits. All rights reserved.

will see the presenter's slides on your computer screen (over the internet), hear the presenter's voice over your computer speakers, and you will be able to ask questions in a question box that will appear on your screen. If you are on dial-up, you can use your home phone to hear the presenter's voice and you will be emailed a PDF of the presenter's slides to view as they make their presentation.

For information on other benefit programs, please call our Member Benefits line at 1-866-527-0123, go to our [website](#), or email kapbenefits@stratabenefits.ca.

By participating in these programs, KAP members provide further strength to KAP in improving its benefits program for farmers.

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