

The KAP Alert

August 8, 2008

Responsible Crop Residue Burning a Must

August 8, 2008 News Release

Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP) is sending a strong reminder to farmers across the province that they must follow the stubble burning restrictions set out by the province, and to burn only when it is allowed.

"The rules on stubble burning are there for a reason, and it's every farmer's job to follow them," says KAP President Ian Wishart. "There is still only a small portion of our crops that are burned, and only a handful of violations, but we all need to respect the effect that stubble burning can have on health and safety."

KAP continues to work with the provincial government to address this important issue. It currently has two representatives on a stubble burning advisory committee.

"KAP absolutely does not condone farmers breaking these regulations," says Wishart. "However, stubble burning is a necessary tool

for some farmers in the province so we all need to ensure that we act responsibly so that it remains available as an option."

Last fall, illegal burning caused severe visibility problems, a vehicle collision, health concerns, and led to a temporary ban on all burning across the province. Since that time, additional enforcement has been put into place, in combination with an improved awareness-building campaign for producers.

The province's crop residue burning program currently allows farmers to burn between August 1 and November 30, but only when the government has issued a permit for that day and in a specific region. The permit is based on a number of criteria, which primarily affect how well smoke will disperse.

Safety & Health Seminar

KAP knows that farmers put a top priority on the safety of themselves & the people on their farm, which is why we're pleased to co-host a seminar on farm safety & health at the Greenwood Inn in Winnipeg, November 6-7.

This workshop will give farmers a strong understanding of the importance of prevention, how to manage workplace safety & health on a farm effectively, and help to create an action plan for the entire farm. (A complete agenda is available from the KAP office.)

Registration is \$45 for both days, and it includes meals and refreshment breaks. Travel assistance will be provided to producers, based on the distance traveled to the event. A block of hotel rooms has been set up at the [Greenwood Inn & Suites](#) (1715 Wellington Avenue) at a special rate of \$95 if you quote Conference ID #130105.

For more information about this seminar - or to register - please contact the KAP office at (204) 697-1140 or kap@kap.mb.ca. To make a reservation at the hotel, you can call 1-888-233-6730.

Project partners include [Manitoba Agriculture, Food & Rural Initiatives](#) and [Manitoba Farmers With Disabilities](#), with funding provided from the [Canadian Agricultural Safety Association](#).

Did you know that the provincial government offers a \$500 grant to help farm families with young children build a **safe play area**? If you have at least one child on the farm born after January 1, 1996, you are eligible. For more information about the **Safe Play Area Grant**, visit the [Manitoba Healthy Living web site](#) or call (204) 788-6652.

KAP Welcomes Provincial ALUS Commitment

August 8, 2008 KAP News Release

Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP) commends the provincial government for their ongoing support of Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS), following the confirmation of expanded funding for the third year of the ALUS pilot project in the Rural Municipality of Blanshard.

"Manitoba's ALUS project is a milestone in agricultural and conservation programs across Canada, and the provincial government continues to be a leader here at home and across the country," says KAP President Ian Wishart. "We'd like to thank Minister Rosann Wowchuk for her ongoing commitment to ALUS, through financial support as well as lending the time and expertise of her staff."

Since its launch in 2005, ALUS has provided an opportunity for farmers in the RM of Blanshard to evaluate their farms and become actively involved in identifying lands that create environmental benefits. A payment is then provided to farmers who have signed a contract to provide these services to the public.

KAP has been actively promoting ALUS as the farmer's choice for a Canadian conservation

program since 1999, and is extremely pleased with the progress that is being made in Manitoba and across Canada. Another pilot project is taking place in Norfolk County in Ontario, where demonstration farms are highlighting environmental services that could be part of a full ALUS program. The government of Prince Edward Island recently announced a province-wide ALUS program that will help them to reach their environmental goals. Other pilot projects are also under development in Saskatchewan and Alberta, based on unique local partnerships.

Manitoba's ALUS project is run by a management committee that includes representatives from the federal, provincial and municipal governments, KAP, Delta Waterfowl, and the Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation. The Manitoba Rural Adaptation Council serves as an ex-officio member of this group, and additional technical expertise has been provided by the Little Saskatchewan River Conservation District and Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation.

Proposed CWB Regulation

August 6, 2008 CFA News Release

The [Canadian Federation of Agriculture](#) (CFA) is raising real concern over the federal government's proposal to remove third-party spending limits during the [Canadian Wheat Board's](#) director elections.

"This is not a matter of whether you're for or against the CWB, it's a matter of farmer empowerment," said Bob Friesen, CFA President. "It is vital that the Government of Canada respect the democratic election process of CWB directors and prevent the possibility of well-funded outside interests from unfairly influencing the vote."

The proposed regulations, published in the Canada Gazette on Sat. Aug. 2, would open the gates for third-party "intervenors" to direct unlimited amounts of money in support of their preferred candidate or policy position. Currently, there is a cap of \$10,000 on such third-party spending. The government has proposed to keep in place a rule stating that CWB election

candidates themselves cannot spend more than \$15,000.

The CFA has observed that some farm groups opposed to the single-desk selling structure have questioned the government's proposal. Cheryl Jolly-Nagel, President of the Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association is quoted in the Winnipeg Free Press (Aug 2) as being "taken aback by the proposed election spending rule, adding this was not something her organization had sought and that she hoped the fall's election would be based on ideas and not money."

The CFA echoes this sentiment and remains steadfast in its position that farmers and farmers alone should be in control of the future of the Canadian Wheat Board. The proposed regulation is published in [Canada Gazette Vol. 142, No. 31](#).