

The KAP Alert

July 11, 2008

New Ag Funding a Good Start

July 11, 2008 News Release

At the conclusion of the federal-provincial-territorial ministers' meeting in Quebec City this week, Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP) was pleased to learn that an additional \$330 million will be allocated to priorities like the environment, competitiveness and innovation, and food safety over the next five years.

"When good programs and resources are in place and farmers want to be involved, it's important that adequate funds are available," says KAP President Ian Wishart. "A prime example in Manitoba would be environmental farm plans, where we had excellent participation from farmers and spent all the money allocated in the last five years. There is room to grow, and we are optimistic that these additional funds will support farmers' innovation and adaptation."

Canada's agriculture ministers are set to have a busy summer developing federal-provincial agreements on how to allocate money under the *Growing Forward* framework. KAP will continue to work with our provincial government to ensure that the priorities of Manitoba's farmers are addressed.

"One of the goals shared by farmers and the provincial government is to continually improve our environment," says Wishart. "We're optimistic that we can access *Growing Forward* funds to follow through with a province-wide Alternative Land Use Services program, and that's something we'll be raising with our Minister."

While the funding increase is certainly positive, KAP will continue to work through the Canadian Federation of Agriculture to pursue an *AgriFlex* component within *Growing Forward*, which would allocate additional funds to deal with regional or provincial priorities. CFA's proposal calls for \$1 billion per year for five years, and KAP strongly believes that this would allow Manitoba to build new opportunities for farmers and strengthen our commitment to priorities like improved crop insurance, development of live-stock production insurance, and the environment.

Earlier in the week, Wishart was in Quebec City to attend a roundtable discussion with the federal, provincial & territorial ministers that was hosted by the CFA.

KAP Activity Report

Monday, July 7: KAP met with the Canadian Transportation Agency via conference call to discuss when farmers will see lower freight rates due to lower maintenance costs, the current level of service review, and the need for a full rail costing review.

Tuesday, July 8: President Ian Wishart travelled to Quebec City to attend events related to the agriculture ministers' meeting.

Wednesday, July 9: GM Rideout continues to work with partner organizations on Bill C-39. GM Rideout & Communications Officer Kowalchuk met with MAFRI staff to discuss some upcoming farm safety initiatives.

Thursday, July 10: KAP's General Council met in Brandon.

The KAP Alert is published weekly by Keystone Agricultural Producers

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KAP Direction Set at General Council

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KAP delegates from across the province met in Brandon this week 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:

Community Power Development

THAT KAP support the Community Power Association model that has been developed by Elton Energy as a means of returning more of the benefits derived from renewable energy projects back to Manitoba's rural communities.

Location of Bipole III Project

THAT KAP oppose the Provincial Government's plan to locate the Bipole III high voltage DC power line on the west side of Lake Manitoba due to the detrimental impact on agricultural land; and further,

THAT KAP ask the Provincial Government to reconsider the Bipole III Hydro line location to the east side of Lake Winnipeg in an effort to lessen the financial impact on agricultural producers.

Food Security & Safety

THAT KAP begin development of a vision for agriculture that includes food security and food safety.

Food Security & Safety

THAT KAP ask that governments take seriously food security and food safety for their citizens through seriously supporting the primary producers.

Food Security & Safety

THAT KAP ask governments to help create an environment for primary agriculture to ensure financial viability, to give farmers a stable basis for production.

Commodity Markets

THAT KAP ask that governments resist limiting speculators in the commodity markets.

On-Farm Biodiesel

THAT KAP ask the provincial government to encourage on-farm biodiesel through courses and incentives for Manitoba agricultural producers.

Weather Forecasting & Warnings

THAT KAP lobby Environment Canada to rapidly improve their forecasting ability and warning systems.

Member Benefits Corner

Travelling outside of Manitoba this summer? If so, it's important to have proper coverage to protect yourself, and reduce the potential of costly ambulance and hospital service charges.

With KAP's economical Core Plan (insured through The Co-operators), members have access to comprehensive world-wide travel coverage, and also ambulance and semi-private hospital coverage *inside* Manitoba.

The Core Plan also includes access to the Harvard-based Best Doctors program - a trusted source of the latest medical knowledge. This allows patients & their local family doctors / medical specialists to access the latest advances in treatment and an excellent source of a medical second opinion.

For more information about the program and annual rates - which start at \$216 for a couple under 50 - please visit call our toll-free hotline at 1-866-527-0123, ext. 1.

Create a Safe Play Area!

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, call Manitoba Healthy Living at (204) 788-6652.