

The **KAP Alert**

Bringing you the Voice of Manitoba Farmers

Bill 17 Goes to Committee

[Bill 17](#) was called to be heard by the Legislative Committee earlier this week, and an intense round of public consultations is expected. Recent media reports have pegged the number of presenters at over 400... which roughly translates into a minimum of 100 hours of hearings.

Bill 17, if passed, will put a permanent moratorium on building or expanding hog barns across a huge swatch of agro-Manitoba. KAP will be speaking out against this bill, and has encouraged producers to register and have their voices heard as well. It's not too late -- you can still register to present to committee until June 9 at midnight, by calling (204) 945-3636.

Committee hearings will begin on Friday morning, and are currently scheduled to run on Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday.

KAP News & Notices

KAP's Young Farmers Committee wants to learn more about the needs & interests of young farmers from across Manitoba. We'll be using this information to develop better events & opportunities in the future, so your feedback is important. Please follow this link to do a very [brief survey](#). Thanks!

The deadline to register for the **7th Annual KAP Classic Golf Tournament** is approaching quickly. Please fill in your [registration form](#) & send it back to Kathy Ulasz by June 10. The tournament takes place on Friday, June 27 in Portage la Prairie.

Share What You See in Agriculture Contest

Young people & 4-H groups from across the province are invited to participate in KAP's [Share What You See in Agriculture contest](#), which combines interactive & compelling media projects with information & opinions about agriculture.

To enter, pick a medium of your choice and a topic in agriculture. Combine the two in a concept that is informative, persuasive, creative, or entertaining.

The contest deadline is November 7, but summer is a great time to take pictures and think of ideas for an agricultural project. Cash prizes will be awarded in two age categories (9-15 and 16-25) at KAP's annual meeting in January.

For more info, contact [Lenore](#) at the KAP office at (204) 697-1140.

KAP Activities

Monday, June 2: Communications Officer Lenore Kowalchuk attended a meeting between the [Alternative Land Use Services](#) (ALUS) management committee for Manitoba's pilot project and representatives from the recently-announced [ALUS project for the entire province of PEI](#).

Tuesday, June 3: VP Robert McLean & Finance Co-ordinator Kathy Ulasz attended the 1st Annual Manitoba Special Crops Summit in Carman. McLean presented on KAP's structure, funding mechanisms, and the work done on behalf of producers.

Thursday, June 5: Communications Officer Kowalchuk participated in a conference call with [Meyers Norris Penny](#) to discuss ways to partner & deliver information and resources to young farmers.

Friday, June 6: VP McLean & VP Rob Brunel were in Winnipeg to present to Legislative Committee on Bill 17, the proposed ban on hog barns. A copy of this presentation will be posted on KAP's web site by early next week.

Where Do Revenue Cap Dollars Go?

Submitted by the Western Grains Research Foundation

In 2000, the federal government named the [Western Grains Research Foundation](#) as the organization that would receive funds that were deemed to be in excess of the set revenue cap that governs each of the Canadian railways. This means that excess funds plus a penalty of 5% are invested into WGRF's [Endowment Fund](#) that supports research across all crop types for the benefit of western Canadian farmers.

Directing the excess revenue cap funds to the WGRF's Endowment Fund means farmers of Western Canada will be paid out dividends from this investment in the form of research advancements to keep our farmers competitive with the rest of the world.

In today's world of mega-research funds, the Endowment Fund is a relatively small funding source, but its long-term productivity is remarkable - over \$19 million in support to nearly 200 crop research projects since its inception. That has resulted in a large reservoir of crop knowledge, technology and innovation. The Fund fills an important niche, often supporting research that may not otherwise receive adequate funding.

Four projects were approved for funding this year through the Endowment Fund:

- Fingerprinting the DNA of spring and winter wheat to help reduce the requirement for KVD;
- The genetics of early maturity in Canadian spring wheat;
- Designer wheat development for the biofuels industry; and
- Coordinating monitoring, forecasting and early-risk warning systems for insect pests.

The first time that the revenue cap was exceeded was in the 2003-04 crop year by [Canadian Pacific Railway](#) (CP), in excess of \$321,912. In the 2004-05 crop year, [Canadian National Railway](#) (CN) was found to be over the cap by \$118,714.

The most recent ruling made by the [Canadian Transportation Agency](#) was for the 2006-07 crop year, which announced that CP exceeded the revenue cap by \$3,760,353, the largest single penalty since the revenue cap's inception. When this article was written, CP had not yet notified WGRF whether the railway plans to appeal this amount.

Buying & Selling Hay or Straw?

Dry soil conditions and sporadic precipitation has resulted in some areas of the province experiencing lower-than-normal supplies of livestock feed. To assist producers, [Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives](#) (MAFRI) maintains a listing of producers who have hay and straw available for sale.

The MAFRI website provides an easy, accessible link between forage buyers and sellers at www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/production under Gateways. It allows buyers to search for hay under the categories of bale type, hay type and location. Price is also part of the listings. An interactive map helps in locating producers in each area.

Producers with hay and straw for sale can have their name added to the list by contacting their local MAFRI GO Office.