

The **KAP Alert**

Bringing you the Voice of Manitoba Farmers

June 20, 2008

Farm Leaders Announce AgriFlex Proposal

CFA News Release

Canadian farm leaders announced today a proposal for AgriFlex, a farmer-developed initiative that would address the gaps in federal and provincial government plans under [Growing Forward](#), Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's new policy framework.

"Farmers are eager to work collaboratively with federal and provincial governments on building long-term partnerships that will strengthen our agriculture industry—a sector that represents 8 per cent of Canada's GDP," said Bob Friesen, President of the [Canadian Federation of Agriculture](#). "AgriFlex builds on the current proposed suite of Business Risk Management (BRM) programs by addressing unique regional needs or commodity-specific challenges."

Friesen launched the CFA's AgriFlex proposal at the Western Canadian Farm Progress show in Regina, where he was joined by the leaders from two western general farm organizations: [Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan](#) (APAS) and [Keystone Agricultural Producers](#) (KAP) of Manitoba.

AgriFlex is essentially a cost-shared funding envelope that complements existing BRM and non-BRM programming by allowing governments and farmers to more effectively target specific funds to areas where gaps have been identified.

"The best time to develop these types of proactive solutions is during a time of relative stability," said Ian Wishart, KAP President. "We are fortunate that some commodity prices are good right now, especially in the grains and oilseeds sector, but it's imperative to recognize that the market has also become extremely volatile, and prices could decline in the coming months and years. AgriFlex could be used in Manitoba for enhanced crop insurance programs and full coverage for waterfowl and wildlife damage. We also need to create some new opportunities, and AgriFlex would help to launch a province-wide Alternative Land Use Services program."

For the complete news release & more information about AgriFlex, visit the CFA web site at www.cfa-fca.ca.

KAP to Hire a Policy Analyst

Keystone Agricultural Producers is currently accepting resumes for a Policy Analyst. This person would be responsible for monitoring, researching, and analyzing current and proposed agricultural policy (including business risk management, transportation, environment, and other areas) to help the organization develop and advocate its position to governments and other stakeholders.

The closing date for applications is Thursday, July 24 at 4:00 pm. Resumes, along with references and salary expectations, can be sent to KAP by email (yrideout@kap.mb.ca) as a Word file or PDF or to our office address. A complete job description is posted online at www.kap.mb.ca

KAP President at the Farm Progress Show

APAS News Release

The [Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan](#) (APAS) welcomed the president of Manitoba's farm policy organization during their pancake breakfast at the Western Canadian Farm Progress Show on Thursday.

KAP President Ian Wishart is well-known in the agricultural and conservation communities for his important work in the development of the [Alternative Land Use Services](#) (ALUS) concept, which is a new direction for conservation initiatives on farm land. He will be speaking briefly about building opportunities for farmers to lead on environmental issues, the ongoing concern across the Prairies about rising input costs, and the importance of farm organizations working together.

Wishart also recently returned from an [International Federation of Agricultural Producers](#) (IFAP) meeting near Warsaw, Poland, where he was invited to speak about the impact of high grain prices in Canada. He also took the opportunity to speak about environmental programs like ALUS in this forum, and will be sharing some of the new perspectives he gained that resulted from this experience.

KAP Activities

Monday, June 16: KAP's executive met in Winnipeg. President Ian Wishart attended the special awards ceremony held at the Red River Exhibition.

Tuesday, June 17: KAP participated in a conference call on Bill C-39 with [Pulse Canada](#) and the [Manitoba Pulse Growers Association](#).

Wednesday, June 18: President Wishart & VP Robert McLean met with [Manitoba Conservation](#) to discuss the training procedures for newly-hired Environment Officers, focusing on the need for their awareness of biosecurity issues. GM Yvonne Rideout participated in a conference call for the general managers of [Canadian Federation of Agriculture](#) member organizations.

Thursday, June 19: President Wishart traveled to Regina to speak at the [Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan](#) pancake breakfast, and to attend the CFA's launch of the AgriFlex program proposal. Executive member Doug Chorney represented KAP at a meeting of the Manitoba Employers Council. KAP's Grains, Oilseeds & Pulses Committee met by conference call.

Federal Court Ruling on CWB

Today, the Federal Court ruled that the government can not place a 'gag order' on the Canadian Wheat Board for two reasons. The first is that it contravenes the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and secondly because it is considered an 'improper purpose.' The Court's interpretation of the CWB Act found no provision for the government to make decisions surrounding spending farmers' money in the CWB, and determined that these decisions should be made solely by the board of directors. To read the ruling & a summary of the decision, go to the Federal Court's web site at www.fct-cf.gc.ca.

Senate Ag Committee Reports on Input Prices

This week, the Senate Committee on Agriculture & Forestry released its report on input prices, which follows a series of hearings they held with farm organizations, agri-businesses, and other stakeholders. The report highlights the relatively recent and significant spikes in inputs costs, including fertilizer, diesel fuel, wages,

and seed. They also make a series of recommendations to government to address the issue, including whether the level of concentration in the fertilizer industry is having a negative impact on costs, improving the process to regulate and approve new input products, and evaluating whether current public research funding is sufficient as it relates to more efficient input use on farms. The complete report is listed on the [Senate Committee's web page](#).

Spaces Still Available for Young Farmers

KAP's Young Farmers Committee still has spaces available for young farmers who wish to attend the Crop Diagnostic School or Provincial Grazing Tour in July. Please contact Lenore at (204) 697-1140 to register.