

The **KAP Alert**

Bringing you the Voice of Manitoba Farmers

May 23, 2008

Truth in Food Labeling a Positive Step

Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP) commends the [federal government for moving forward](#) with truthful, meaningful definitions on where Canadians' food comes from. Once this new labeling system goes through a consultation process and is implemented, it would mean that all major ingredients, processing, and labour used to make a food product would need to be Canadian in order to be a *Product of Canada*.

"Canadians trust in the quality and safety of the foods from our country, and Manitoba's farmers continue to back up their promise of good food," says KAP President Ian Wishart. "We want someone in the grocery store to be able to know whether their food purchases are supporting Canadian farmers, and the economic engine that grows from our agriculture industry."

KAP believes that is important for food origin labels to be clear and consistent, and will be participating in the government's consultation on its labeling initiative to bring the perspective of Manitoba's farm families forward. KAP has asked for a transparent labeling process for Canadian products, to help consumers identify local products, as opposed to those that are coming onto our shelves from other countries and this is a positive step in that direction.

Manitoba's farmers continue to be frustrated by current system, which allows for foreign products to be sold to consumers under a Canadian label. KAP will be encouraging producers and other stakeholders to participate in the government's consultation.

CFA Concerns on WTO Doha Text

Leading up to this Monday's meeting of WTO agricultural trade negotiators, Canadian farm leaders are voicing their views on the latest modalities text released by Crawford Falconer, Chair of WTO agriculture negotiations. While the new text demonstrates valuable progress for Canadian exporters and improvements for the domestic industry, the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) raises serious concerns that provisions in the new text will be detrimental to Canada's supply-managed sectors.

"Trade talks are advancing well for our export sectors, but unfortunately there are still major disparities when it comes to sensitive products," said Bob Friesen, CFA President. "The CFA commends the Canadian government's active involvement during this period of uncertainty and intense negotiation, but we urge our trade negotiators to continue working with Mr. Falconer and other countries' representatives to address the current gaps in the text related to our supply managed industries."

As for details of the text, the CFA is encouraged to see significant reductions in domestic support and the complete elimination of export subsidies; however, areas of market access continue to be clouded by uncertainty.

... Go to www.cfa-fca.ca to read the entire news release.

Demand a Grain Transportation Costing Review!

The [CFA](#), [KAP](#), [Wild Rose Agricultural Producers](#), the [Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan](#), the [Canadian Wheat Board](#), and others want the federal government to put farmers first when it comes to railway transportation for grain. Farmers keep paying more while service gets worse. The rail revenue cap on grain

freight is the only remaining discipline, but it's based on outdated railway cost numbers that haven't been reviewed since 1992 - when there were 1,000 more Prairie elevators for the railways to service.

That's why we need an immediate costing review to ensure our rates are based on current numbers. It's a reasonable request. The stakes are high and we can't afford to wait. [To send this message to Ottawa, participate in CFA's e-postcard campaign today.](#)

Activity Report

Wednesday, May 21: KAP's management team met with the PC Caucus and representatives from the Canadian Fertilizer Institute.

Friday, May 23: President Ian Wishart participated in a conference call to discuss the need for an *AgriFlex* program.

KAP Klassic Golf Tourney

Don't forget to sign up for the 7th Annual KAP Klassic Golf Tournament, which is taking place on Friday, June 27 in Portage la Prairie. The registration deadline is **Tuesday, June 10**. Click for [full details & registration info](#) (PDF, 87 kb) The registration deadline is **Tuesday, June 10**.

US Farm Bill Update

Did you know... US President George Bush symbolically vetoed the '08 Farm Bill on Wednesday? The Bill, which will provide \$290 billion of agricultural supports over five years, will still be enacted because it was approved by more than a two-thirds majority of their Senate & House of Representatives. For more info, visit the [USDA web site](#).

Compost Site Operators Course

A three-day workshop focused on on-farm composting is taking place in Brandon, from June 18 - 20. It includes practical demonstrations, hands-on exercises, and in-depth information.

Space is limited, so registrations must be in by June 6. Farmers receive a special registration rate of \$60, which includes lunches, coffee, and take-home resource materials.

To register, contact [Christine](#) at Resource Conservation Manitoba toll-free at 1-866-394-8880, ext. 2.

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