



COMMENTARY

“The Voice of Manitoba Farmers”

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APF2 & You: Speak Up Now!

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Be honest: What do you really think of CAIS? Are environmental farm plans making positive changes on your farm? How would you rate Canada's trade policy? Do you have any concerns about publicly-funded agriculture research?

The Agriculture Policy Framework was a mixed bag for many farmers. Some programs worked, others failed, and others never seemed to really get off the ground. Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada's web site says that the APF was intended to “help the sector chart a course to continued prosperity and profitability.” In your opinion, did the APF get the job done?

Farmers now have an opportunity to speak their piece about the APF, and the timing is urgent. Government is now beginning to develop APF2 – another five-year set of programs for Canadian agriculture. To do this, they're hosting a series of national public consultations. It's critical that farmers are heard at these sessions, so Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP) is encouraging everyone to attend on one of the following dates: February 12 (Dauphin), February 14 (Winnipeg) or February 16 (Brandon).

AAFC has to hear whether the APF has met your needs, and what you think should be kept, improved, or scrapped. From these consultations, APF2 will be developed and we'll have to live with these programs until 2013.

The next set of agricultural programs need to be right, and that can only be done through the practical input of farmers like you. Plan to attend an APF2 consultation meeting by pre-registering at www.agr.gc.ca/nextgen, and make your voice heard.