



COMMENTARY

“The Voice of Manitoba Farmers”

203-1700 Ellice Ave. ~ Winnipeg MB ~ R3H 0B1

ph: (204) 697-1140 ~ fax: (204) 697-1109

kap@kap.mb.ca ~ www.kap.mb.ca

What Does Your Grain Ticket Tell You Today?

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By David Rolfe, KAP President. Cell: (204) 483-0502.

The information that is included on a delivery slip is extremely valuable to help farmers keep accurate records.

This is why it's very troubling to hear that some grain elevators in Manitoba are decreasing the amount of information that they're printing on a delivery slip. In the past, they have included gross and net weight, grade, protein level, and moisture content. All of these factors are important. Weight and grade give a base level of "how much" while protein levels determine if premiums will be paid to the farmer. Moisture level will tell whether the farmer will be charged for drying the grain once it's in the elevator system.

Some farmers have contacted Keystone Agricultural Producers to say that they're only getting weights and grades on their grain delivery slips, which is what's required by the Canadian Grain Commission. But it's critical for producers to have all of this other information as well. If we are entitled to quality-based premiums, or if there are reductions in grades being made for quality issues, then it should be clearly indicated.

Finally, yields and grain prices are back at a level that can put some money back into the farm gate. To make sure that we receive all that is owed to us, the information on the grain delivery slip is essential to have in case there is a dispute about the payment you have received from an elevator. What use would it be if it included next-to-no information? With grain values increasing and a multitude of grades and dockages for ergot, fusarium or other problems, it's critical for farmers to also retain their own samples and documentation to take the Canadian Grain Commission in case there is a dispute.

Farmers must have a full accounting of the crop that we deliver. Before leaving the grain elevator after your next delivery, take a closer look at your delivery slip to ensure that all the information you need is included. Protect yourself, and know what payment you are entitled to.

For more information about what has to be on your grain delivery slip, or how to increase your protection level by dealing with licensed & bonded grain elevators, contact the Canadian Grain Commission at 1-800-853-6705 or www.grainscanada.gc.ca.