



MEDIA RELEASE

“THE VOICE OF MANITOBA FARMERS”

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Farmers' Expenses Soar into Spring *KAP's Fuel & Fertilizer Survey Results Show Another Increase*

Winnipeg – The ever-rising price of fuel is clearly illustrated in the results of KAP's recent survey of its members on crop input prices. All categories of fertilizer and fuel showed significant jumps in price as compared to a survey conducted in February of this year.

Since February, fertilizer prices have gone up an average of 11.06%, while the costs of purple gasoline and diesel have gone up 13.4% and 6.2% respectively. At KAP's annual meeting in January, delegates passed a resolution asking that the Competition Bureau investigate the price of fertilizer and KAP has conducted two surveys in order to illustrate the increased cost of doing business. A huge concern for Manitoba producers is the significantly cheaper anhydrous prices in North Dakota in comparison to that of Manitoba.

“Our survey shows that the basic costs of farming continue to rise at a rate that makes it increasingly difficult for farmers to be able to afford growing food,” says KAP President David Rolfe. “Our costs have grown at a much faster rate than any potential return from the marketplace, continuing the financial squeeze for the province's farm families.”

All of these rising costs are having a significant effect on Manitoba's farmers, who must also juggle the unpredictable prices of an international marketplace, the risks of poor weather, and the increasing expenses of transporting goods to and from their farms.

"The survey numbers paint a scary picture of increasing costs at the farm gate," says Rolfe. "We do hope that, by publishing the results of our province-wide survey, KAP can help producers to regain some leverage in the marketplace and get a better price on their inputs."

The 2007 survey results (both February and April) are available from the KAP office.

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