



## “The Voice of Manitoba Farmers”

1-1313 Border St. ~ Winnipeg MB ~ R3H 0X4

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

[kap@kap.mb.ca](mailto:kap@kap.mb.ca) ~ [www.kap.mb.ca](http://www.kap.mb.ca)

### **For immediate release**

August 30, 2007

## Burning Crop Residue

**Winnipeg** – Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP) is sending a strong reminder to farmers across the province that they must follow the stubble burning restrictions set out by the province, and to burn only when it is allowed. This follows an incident near Elie yesterday, where smoke caused by unauthorized stubble burning is believed to be a contributing factor in a vehicle collision.

As a result of this, the provincial government has put a halt to issuing stubble burning permits. The province will have to work quickly to examine the issue and restore permits as quickly as possible, as it will be a necessary management tool for some farmers this fall.

“The rules on stubble burning are there for a reason, and it’s every farmer’s job to obey them,” says KAP President David Rolfe. “There is still only a small portion of our crops that are burned, and only a handful of farmers who break the rules, but we all need to respect the effect that stubble burning can have on health and safety.”

KAP has committed to work with the provincial government to address the issue. It currently has two representatives on a stubble burning advisory committee, and last year reminded producers to obey the existing regulations.

“KAP absolutely does not condone farmers breaking these regulations,” says Rolfe. “However, stubble burning is a necessary tool for some farmers in the province and we encourage the government to not let the actions of a small minority affect the needs of the agricultural community.”

To ensure compliance with the regulations, KAP believes that more vigorous enforcement is necessary and will discuss this in greater detail with the provincial government.

The province’s crop residue burning program currently allows farmers to burn between August 1 and November 30, but only when the government has issued a permit for that day and in a specific region. The permit is based on a number of criteria, which primarily affect how well smoke will disperse. The current penalty for burning without the permit in place is \$2,107 for a first offense.

- 30 -

### **For more information, please contact:**

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

Lenore Kowalchuk, Communications. Office: (204) 697-1140. Cell: (204) 229-4733.