



MEDIA RELEASE

“THE VOICE OF MANITOBA FARMERS”

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Investments Build a Stronger Base for Agriculture

Winnipeg – Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP) commends the federal government for making two important investments into agriculture that will help to move away from the flawed Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization (CAIS) program. KAP believes the focus of these new dollars will help to rebuild some level of predictability and stability in an industry that has dealt with ongoing financial stress for several years.

Today, the federal government announced a \$400 million immediate investment into agriculture, to help with the cost of production. Another \$100 million per year has been committed for future years within the same type of program framework.

“This is an encouraging announcement for farm families,” says KAP President David Rolfe. “KAP continues to push for investments into agriculture to help farmers move forward and renew our sector, so today’s commitment is very positive.”

Prime Minister Stephen Harper and AAFC Minister Chuck Strahl also announced an investment of \$600 million into a NISA-style program, though this will require agreement from provincial governments to move forward.

“A NISA-style program will aid in putting predictability and bankability back into safety net programs, and will also offer farmers an opportunity to re-invest in their own operations while managing risk,” says Rolfe. “CAIS is not predictable or bankable, so KAP and other farm groups have been asking for a shift to a NISA-style program that will work better for farmers. We’re pleased the federal government has listened and hope that the provincial governments will put their support behind it.”

KAP looks forward to ongoing discussions with governments as these programs go through final development stages, to help ensure that they meet the needs of producers. As the voice of Manitoba farmers, KAP is committed to continuing its work with the governments to ensure a vibrant and sustainable farm economy.

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