



MEDIA RELEASE

“THE VOICE OF MANITOBA FARMERS”

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Auditor General on the Money with CAIS Flaws

Winnipeg – The Auditor General’s recent report on the flaws within the Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization (CAIS) program administration clearly echoes the complaints that farmers have stated time and time again since the program was first introduced. Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP) commends the Auditor General for this timely report, and now looks to the federal government to quickly and clearly identify how they will move forward on the recommendations.

“The level of frustration that farmers have with the CAIS program is extremely high,” says KAP President David Rolfe. “This report validates what farmers have been saying all along, so that’s some small consolation.”

KAP continues to hear concerns from producers that are also referenced in the report. Farmers have been extremely frustrated with the lack of accuracy and transparency within the CAIS administration.

“If you have a tough year on the farm and you’re expecting some level of assistance, imagine waiting months to hear back on your CAIS application,” says Rolfe. “In the meantime, bills are piling up. Even if you eventually get some help, you have no idea how it was calculated or, even worse, whether you should actually use some of that money to pay outstanding bills. The likelihood of an administrative error means you might have to pay some or all of it back.”

KAP fully agrees that the current timelines in the CAIS administration are unacceptable, and that the department should meet publicly-stated targets in the future. Earlier this week, KAP sent a letter to AAFC Minister Chuck Strahl calling for the development of timelines, combined with a set of penalties and interest that would be paid to producers if the stated timelines are not met by the administration.

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