



NEWS RELEASE

“The Voice of Manitoba Farmers”

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For immediate release

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General Council Sets Policy to Move Forward

Winnipeg – Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP) delegates from across the province met in Portage la Prairie yesterday to learn more about emerging issues in agriculture, and to set direction for the organization. The following resolutions were passed, and are now KAP policy:

Elimination of KVD

THAT KAP supports communication and awareness activities relating to the elimination of KVD effective August 1, 2008 so that producers are aware of the details.

Support for Hog Industry

THAT KAP supports Manitoba Pork Council and the sustainable development of the hog industry in Manitoba; and further

THAT KAP lobby government for the removal of the moratorium on the hog industry.

Environmental Farm Plans

THAT KAP work with the Manitoba government and the federal government to ensure that environmental farm plans continue to be delivered by an arms length agency to maintain confidentiality and flexibility of the program in *Growing Forward*.

Revenue Cap Penalties

THAT KAP ask the federal government to raise the revenue cap penalties to 25% to increase their effectiveness.

Financial Security Programs

THAT KAP support the study of the pros and cons of alternative options to Canadian Grain Commission bonding to determine suitability and affordability for farmers' financial protection in grain transactions; and further

THAT KAP lobby the federal government to maintain the current bonding system until such time as an affordable and viable option to provide financial security for farmers in grain sales transactions is implemented; and further

THAT KAP request that the federal government financially support such studies for financial security programs for producers for grain transactions.

Riparian Tax Credit

THAT KAP investigate the potential of the riparian tax credit being extended to include buffer strips legislated under the nutrient management regulation.

Retail Sales Tax Exemptions

THAT KAP request that the Manitoba government creates an awareness program to include the exemptions of retail sales tax on leasing of buildings, sheds, etc; and further

THAT KAP request that Manitoba Finance include an article in the next issue of the *Manitoba Farmers' Voice* on exemptions of retail sales tax for the agricultural industry.

Commercialization of RR Alfalfa

THAT KAP make a formal request to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and Monsanto for assurance that they will not commercialize Roundup Ready alfalfa varieties in Canada until full approval of the RR traits has been obtained in important seed export markets, particularly the European Union.

Consumer Awareness

THAT KAP investigate an advertising campaign including billboards and signage on the 14¢ that producers receive for a loaf of bread; and further

THAT KAP call upon its allies across Canada to promote this message.

Delegates also received important updates on current issues from KAP's committees, and learned more about the status of grains research in Western Canada and what's needed in the future, with presentations from the Western Grains Research Foundation and the Canadian Wheat Board.

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For more information, please contact:

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Please note that Ian is in meetings for most of Tuesday. If you can't reach him, please contact:

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