



NEWS RELEASE

“The Voice of Manitoba Farmers”

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KAP President Receives Recognition for his Contributions to Agriculture

Winnipeg – Keystone Agricultural Producers would like to congratulate its President, Ian Wishart, for receiving another honour that recognizes his dedication to agriculture and the environment. Today, the University of Manitoba announced that he had received a Certificate of Merit from the Manitoba Ag Grads Association and the University of Manitoba for his outstanding commitment to Manitoba’s agricultural community. The citation was presented in March as part of the university’s graduation celebration.

The citation recognizes that, “In Manitoba, the names ALUS and Ian Wishart are almost synonymous,” and focuses on his continuing passion for putting farmers in the driver’s seat of environmental protection and enhancement. Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) is an innovative environmental program that pays farmers for creating environmental benefits. Due in a large part to Wishart’s dedication, a three-year pilot project was launched in Manitoba in 2005. Other ALUS initiatives continue to grow across the country, including the recent announcement of a province-wide program in Prince Edward Island.

KAP is not the only organization in Manitoba that has benefited from Wishart’s leadership and expertise. The citation references a wide range of community and provincial boards and associations that he has been involved with, both past and present.

A photo (courtesy of the U of M) of Ian receiving this citation is available from the KAP office or the U of M. The complete text of the citation follows.

- 30 -

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Citation for Ian Wishart

Ian Wishart is recognized as an agricultural leader in Manitoba and across Canada through his involvement with agricultural organizations and as the driving force behind an initiative that emphasizes the important contribution farmers make to the environment. Ian is the current President of Keystone Agricultural Producers, Manitoba's largest general farm organization which represents and promotes the interests of farm families.

Ian received his BSc Agriculture degree from The University of Manitoba in 1976. After working as an agricultural representative with the provincial government in Morden for three years, he returned to the family dairy and grain farm at Portage la Prairie. Ian currently owns Agasea Farms at Portage with his wife Leslie where they produce forages, special crops, and potatoes and also have a 200 head cow/calf operation.

In Manitoba, the names ALUS and Ian Wishart, are almost synonymous. ALUS or Alternative Land Use Services is an environmental land stewardship program that was launched in 2005 largely due to Ian's determined efforts over many years. ALUS is an innovative project that provides incentives for farmers to maintain wetlands, prevent soil erosion, protect waterways and perform other environmentally beneficial land practices. This farmer-led, farm-focused initiative involves partnerships between farmers, conservation groups, and governments. In 2006, a \$1.9 million three-year pilot project, now called ALUS: An Ecological Goods and Services Research Project, was launched with project sites across Canada and includes a site in the RM of Blanshard in western Manitoba.

In 2006, Ian was awarded the Canadian Agri-Food Award of Excellence for Environmental Stewardship for his work on ALUS.

Agricultural organizations in Manitoba have been well served by Ian's energy and progressive thinking. After four years as vice president of KAP, Ian was elected president in January of this year. He currently serves as the chair of the environment, and the taxation and assessment committees of KAP. In addition to recently being appointed to the board of the Manitoba Water Council, he has served on numerous other boards including: Manitoba Crop Insurance (now MASC), Manitoba Rural Adaptation Council, Farm Stewardship Association of Manitoba, Delta Agricultural Conservation Co-op, and the Canadian Morgan Horse Association. He is a frequent speaker at meetings and conferences on the topics of environment, nutrient management, and carbon credits.

When he is not away from home attending meetings in support of agricultural producers, Ian and his wife Leslie enjoy spending time with their two daughters Carolyne and Rhiannan.

The Manitoba Ag Grads Association and the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences at the University of Manitoba, in recognition of leadership with agricultural organizations and outstanding service to the community at large, present this Certificate of Merit to Ian Wishart.