



NEWS RELEASE

“The Voice of Manitoba Farmers”

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KAP Welcomes Province’s Commitment to ALUS

Winnipeg – Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP) commends the provincial government for their ongoing support of Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS), following the confirmation of expanded funding for the third year of the ALUS pilot project in the Rural Municipality of Blanshard.

“Manitoba’s ALUS project is a milestone in agricultural and conservation programs across Canada, and the provincial government continues to be a leader here at home and across the country,” says KAP President Ian Wishart. “We’d like to thank Minister Rosann Wowchuk for her ongoing commitment to ALUS, through financial support as well as lending the time and expertise of her staff.”

Since its launch in 2005, ALUS has provided an opportunity for farmers in the RM of Blanshard to evaluate their farms and become actively involved in identifying lands that create environmental benefits. A payment is then provided to farmers who have signed a contract to provide these services to the public.

KAP has been actively promoting ALUS as the farmer’s choice for a Canadian conservation program since 1999, and is extremely pleased with the progress that is being made in Manitoba and across Canada. Another pilot project is taking place in Norfolk County in Ontario, where demonstration farms are highlighting environmental services that could be part of a full ALUS program. The government of Prince Edward Island recently announced a province-wide ALUS program that will help them to reach their environmental goals. Other pilot projects are also under development in Saskatchewan and Alberta, based on unique local partnerships.

Manitoba’s ALUS project is run by a management committee that includes representatives from the federal, provincial and municipal governments, KAP, Delta Waterfowl, and the Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation. The Manitoba Rural Adaptation Council serves as an ex-officio member of this group, and additional technical expertise has been provided by the Little Saskatchewan River Conservation District and Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation.

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