



## NEWS RELEASE

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### “The Voice of Manitoba Farmers”

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#### **For immediate release**

August 8, 2008

## Responsible Crop Residue Burning a Must

**Winnipeg** – Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP) is sending a strong reminder to farmers across the province that they must follow the stubble burning restrictions set out by the province, and to burn only when it is allowed.

“The rules on stubble burning are there for a reason, and it’s every farmer’s job to follow them,” says KAP President Ian Wishart. “There is still only a small portion of our crops that are burned, and only a handful of violations, but we all need to respect the effect that stubble burning can have on health and safety.”

KAP continues to work with the provincial government to address this important issue. It currently has two representatives on a stubble burning advisory committee.

“KAP absolutely does not condone farmers breaking these regulations,” says Wishart. “However, stubble burning is a necessary tool for some farmers in the province so we all need to ensure that we act responsibly so that it remains available as an option.”

Last fall, illegal burning caused severe visibility problems, a vehicle collision, health concerns, and led to a temporary ban on all burning across the province. Since that time, additional enforcement has been put into place, in combination with an improved awareness-building campaign for producers.

The province’s crop residue burning program currently allows farmers to burn between August 1 and November 30, but only when the government has issued a permit for that day and in a specific region. The permit is based on a number of criteria, which primarily affect how well smoke will disperse.

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