



“The Voice of Manitoba Farmers”

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Fertilizer Investigation Needed Now

Winnipeg – Fertilizer prices are on the rise across western Canada again, with supply companies expecting that farmers will pay through the nose to try to capture higher grain prices. Meanwhile, fertilizer prices south of the border remain lower than in Manitoba. Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP) is calling on the provincial and federal governments to launch an investigation on the cause of the constant and currently unexplained price hikes and discrepancy in prices between the Prairies and northern US states.

“When fertilizer prices have gotten out of control, like they have today, government does have a history of launching investigations,” says KAP President David Rolfe. “Manitoba did it in the 1970s, and it’s time that another full and thorough investigation into discriminatory pricing practices be undertaken on behalf of the farmers in Manitoba.”

Despite being told that there is not enough information to launch a Competition Bureau investigation, KAP believes that government has a responsibility to producers and must take action. The need for an immediate investigation is clear, since fertilizer prices continued to increase since the release of KAP’s price study even though manufacturing costs have remained relatively stable.

“Every increase in fertilizer prices is money that is coming out of farmers’ pockets,” says David Rolfe. “If governments want to help farmers capitalize on higher grain prices and reinvest in their operations, they need to stop the predatory actions that happen every time we need to purchase inputs.”

The sale of Canadian-produced fertilizer in the US for significantly lower prices must be investigated by governments.

“A lot of the fertilizer that is being sold in the US is coming from Canadian sources,” says Rolfe. “Governments should be finding out why fertilizer companies can use Canadian natural resources to produce fertilizer and sell it cheaper to American farmers than to farmers in Canada. This is essentially providing a subsidy to American farmers at Canadian farmers’ expense, and governments have full responsibility to investigate and correct this situation on behalf of our producers.”

KAP continues to build awareness of the issue by speaking at events like the Manitoba Agronomy Conference and Ag Days, and will continue to pressure government to ask questions and shine a spotlight on the fertilizer industry.

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Keystone Agricultural Producers is Manitoba's largest general farm policy organization, representing over 7,000 farm families and 20 commodity groups throughout the province.

Our strength is our democratic structure, and our mission is to represent and promote the interests of the province's farm families.