



NEWS RELEASE

“The Voice of Manitoba Farmers”

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For immediate release

January 28, 2008

KAP Delegates Set Direction for ‘08

Winnipeg – Keystone Agricultural Producers’ farmer delegates from across the province gathered last week to learn more about important and timely issues, and to set the direction for the organization for the year ahead. The following 26 resolutions were debated at the annual meeting and have become KAP policy.

ASSESSMENT & TAXATION

Education Tax Rebate

THAT KAP lobby the Manitoba government to keep unclaimed rebates for education tax in the agriculture budget and not be returned to general revenue.

BUSINESS RISK MANAGEMENT

Ad-Hoc Payments

THAT KAP lobby the federal government to continue to provide the \$1 billion in addition to the funding under the business risk management pillar of *Growing Forward* (APF2).

CAIS Administration

THAT KAP ask Manitoba Agriculture, Food & Rural Initiatives to ensure that expertise to assist with the completion of AgriStability applications is available at the GO Centres for the benefit of producers.

Compensation for Flooding

THAT KAP lobby the Manitoba government that all property that is negatively affected due to artificial flooding by the “Brunkild Dike” will be compensated at 100%.

ENVIRONMENT

Beneficial Management Practices

THAT KAP lobby the provincial and federal governments to include double disks, heavy harrows, and fine cut straw choppers as eligible equipment as Beneficial Management Practices under the National Farm Stewardship Program.

Environmental Farm Planning

THAT KAP lobby the federal government to have adequate funding in place to continue Environmental Farm Planning programs in the next round of the Agricultural Policy Framework.

Beneficial Management Practices

THAT KAP lobby the Government of Canada to ensure that:

- a) Portable handling systems, portable feeders, and portable scales; and
- b) The construction of dugouts and other water-related beneficial management practices

are eligible for funding under the National Farm Stewardship Program.

FOOD SAFETY & QUALITY

Programs for Manitoba's Bee Industry

THAT KAP lobby the provincial and federal governments to increase surveillance of imported honey and honey products by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

Honey Labelling

THAT KAP, in conjunction with the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, vigorously lobby the federal government to have effective grading and labeling regulations for honey sold in Canada.

GOVERNMENT SERVICES

Crop Recommendations Booklet

THAT KAP request that Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives sponsor additional research for updating soil testing recommendations and its crop recommendations booklet to reflect the new crops, climate and science to nutrient management to make the information relevant.

Provincial Government Services

THAT KAP lobby the provincial government to allow non-partisan services used by farmers such as weather station information and Go Centre Personnel to function during a provincial election.

Farm Inputs Board

THAT KAP lobby the Manitoba government to create a farm inputs board or an agriculture ombudsman to handle farmers' complaints regarding seed, chemicals, fertilizer and other inputs.

GRAINS, OILSEEDS & PULSES

Clubroot in Canola

THAT KAP bring the urgency of the impact of clubroot in canola to the Manitoba government, and request that they establish an action plan to work with other industry groups to manage the risks and consequences of clubroot disease in Manitoba canola crops.

Wheat Midge Resistance

THAT KAP support the development of a long term, awareness and stewardship program for commercial wheat producers on the importance of preserving midge tolerance; and further be it

THAT KAP support the additional research required on midge tolerant wheat varietal blends (such as estimating the rate of shift in tolerant-susceptible ratios and reliable, cost effective blend ratio verification testing).

Canada Grains Act

THAT KAP establish a committee comprised of the appropriate KAP committee members to study the proposed amendments to the Canada Grains Act by the Government of Canada.

INPUTS

Fertilizer Prices

THAT KAP use some of its human and monetary resources in pursuing the reasons for large price discrepancies in fertilizer and fuel, including those manufactured in western Canada; and further be it

THAT KAP seek alliances with other interested organizations.

LIVESTOCK

Mustering Fee for TB Testing

THAT KAP lobby the federal and provincial governments to support livestock producers in the Riding Mountain Eradication Area and Riding Mountain National Park region with compensation in the form of a mustering fee for TB testing, and if necessary, further compensation for other losses associated with TB testing that are not covered by the federal *Health of Animals Act*.

Livestock Support

THAT KAP lobby the federal and provincial governments for an equivalent level of support for the livestock industry, since it is impacted by the development of the government-supported ethanol industry, paid in such a manner as to not attract trade challenges.

Livestock Support

THAT KAP work closely with Manitoba Cattle Producers Association & Manitoba Pork Council to take a strong message to government that urgent action is needed now; and further be it

THAT KAP lobby governments with the message that CAIS / AgriStability is especially not satisfying the need of cattle producers who have had their margins eroded by BSE.

RESEARCH & BIOTECHNOLOGY

Registration of Novel Traits

THAT KAP request that the Canadian Food Inspection Agency revisit its definition of novel traits in consultation with agricultural stakeholders including primary producers, to ensure that the registration process reflects current conditions in today's market.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT & LAND USE

Communication Services

THAT KAP lobby service providers, the Association of Manitoba Municipalities, and Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) to enhance cell and high speed internet services to Manitoba.

TRANSPORTATION

Farmer Rail Car Coalition Members

THAT KAP continue to work with other member organizations of the Farmer Rail Car Coalition to retain an open dialogue on important transportation issues as they arise.

WORKPLACE SAFETY, HEALTH & LABOUR STANDARDS

Safe Play Areas

THAT KAP lobby the provincial government to continue the safe play area program and, in consultation with producer groups, expand the funding and eligibility for the program.

Burying of Lines

THAT KAP lobby the provincial government to develop an incentive program for the burying of hydro lines within farm yards, in an effort to increase safety on the farm.

MISCELLANEOUS

Competitiveness With Other Jurisdictions

THAT KAP, in cooperation with the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, investigate how other countries deliver programs and programming such that their producers have a competitive advantage over Canadian farmers.

Food Sovereignty

THAT KAP support the food sovereignty movement to ensure a viable agriculture industry in Canada.

For more information, please contact:

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