



“The Voice of Manitoba Farmers”

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Increased Ag Funding a Good Start from Ministers' Meeting

Winnipeg –At the conclusion of the federal-provincial-territorial ministers' meeting in Quebec City this week, Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP) was pleased to learn that an additional \$330 million will be allocated to priorities like the environment, competitiveness and innovation, and food safety over the next five years.

“When good programs and resources are in place and farmers want to be involved, it's important that adequate funds are available,” says KAP President Ian Wishart. “A prime example in Manitoba would be environmental farm plans, where we had excellent participation from farmers and spent all the money allocated in the last five years. There is room to grow, and we are optimistic that these additional funds will support farmers' innovation and adaptation.”

Canada's agriculture ministers are set to have a busy summer developing federal-provincial agreements on how to allocate money under the *Growing Forward* framework. KAP will continue to work with our provincial government to ensure that the priorities of Manitoba's farmers are addressed.

“One the goals shared by farmers and the provincial government is to continually improve our environment,” says Wishart. “We're optimistic that we can access *Growing Forward* funds to follow through with a province-wide Alternative Land Use Services program, and that's something we'll be raising with our Minister.”

While the funding increase is certainly positive, KAP will continue to work through the Canadian Federation of Agriculture to pursue an *AgriFlex* component within *Growing Forward*, which would allocate additional funds to deal with regional or provincial priorities. CFA's proposal calls for \$1 billion per year for five years, and KAP strongly believes that this would allow Manitoba to build new opportunities for farmers and strengthen our commitment to priorities like improved crop insurance and the environment.

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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.