



## NEWS RELEASE

---

### “The Voice of Manitoba Farmers”

203-1700 Ellice Ave. ~ Winnipeg MB ~ R3H 0B1

ph: (204) 697-1140 ~ fax: (204) 697-1109

[kap@kap.mb.ca](mailto:kap@kap.mb.ca) ~ [www.kap.mb.ca](http://www.kap.mb.ca)

#### **For immediate release**

March 4, 2008

## CEC Report Triggers Domino Effect

**Winnipeg** – Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP) says that the Clean Environment Commission’s report on the future of the hog industry in Manitoba has triggered a domino effect of increasing costs and decreasing opportunities for producers.

The report includes 48 recommendations, including shortening all compliance dates for nutrient management regulations and ban on winter spreading for all livestock to 2013. This is a relatively short time span considering the extent of changes required, and the current financial crisis facing all livestock producers. Producers certainly need details on how government will assist them in meeting these deadlines.

“We are extremely concerned that the increasing requirements will push smaller farms out of business, because they often have to carry a more concentrated financial burden,” says Wishart. “The right tools and incentives have to be in place to make sure that all farms, including beginning farmers, can adjust to the requirements of the CEC’s recommendations.”

Manitoba’s farmers continue to take their role as stewards of the land very seriously. They have voluntarily adopted Environmental Farm Plans at an impressive rate, invest in environmental research and on-farm technologies, comply with regulations, and manage nutrients effectively.

The provincial government went beyond the CEC recommendations and announced an indefinite moratorium on any new or expanding hog operations includes an area that extends from the Interlake to the U.S. border – a huge stretch of agro-Manitoba.

“Nothing in the CEC report recommends a moratorium,” says Wishart. “The government has eliminated any opportunity for beginning or existing hog farmers across the entire middle swath of Manitoba, without any regard for their ability to raise hogs in a way that is environmentally sustainable.”

KAP believes that government must give serious consideration to this decision and its impact on agriculture and the province, as this will have far-reaching implications for rural Manitoba.

- 30 -

#### **For more information, please contact:**

Ian Wishart, KAP President. Cell: (204) 856-6964.

Lenore Kowalchuk, KAP Communications. Office: (204) 697-1140. Cell: (204) 792-2661.