



“The Voice of Manitoba Farmers”

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KAP President Meets with AAFC Minister

Bringing the voice of Manitoba farmers to Ottawa

Winnipeg – Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP) President Ian Wishart is in Ottawa today, and just concluded a meeting with Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada Minister Gerry Ritz. They discussed a range of issues that are important to Manitoba’s farmers, including the financial crisis facing the hog and cattle sectors.

“Many of our livestock producers need support to get through this challenge, so we identified some options and ways that the government can help,” says Wishart. “We think a national Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) program should be rolled out to create a new stream of revenue for cattle producers. We also talked about the impact that country of origin labeling is having on our farmers and the programming that will be needed to address it.”

KAP believes that there is an ideal opportunity to roll out ALUS as part of the next *Growing Forward* framework. Wishart encouraged Minister Ritz to build on the success of the Manitoba pilot project and the provincial project in PEI.

Their discussions also focused on the timelines for Bill C-39 (Canada Grains Act). A security program to protect producers’ interests must be put in place during the transition. KAP has recommended a three-year pilot project to study the changes in the operating environment and to ensure that the new system works appropriately.

KAP highlighted rising input costs such as fertilizer, the impact that it’s having on the entire industry and young farmers, and how fertilizer prices may be affecting the food prices for consumers. The need for better access to containers to transport value-added industries was also raised.

KAP continues to represent producers and the important issues that affect them on a provincial and national level, through meetings like this and through membership in the Canadian Federation of Agriculture. KAP is the voice of Manitoba farmers.

Please note: Ian’s flight from Ottawa leaves at 11:45 CDT and he arrives in Winnipeg at 3:00 CDT

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