



NEWS RELEASE

“The Voice of Manitoba Farmers”

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KAP: Farm Flooding is an Emergency

Winnipeg – Farmland, pastures, and homes are being flooded throughout much of the northern Interlake and other areas, and Keystone Agricultural Producers is calling on governments to declare a disaster so that farmers and residents can access additional assistance.

“Farmers here are losing everything,” says KAP President Ian Wishart. “Farmers are struggling to find enough hay and feed for their livestock, and the fields that were supposed to grow the crop of a lifetime are drowning. Urgent assistance is needed, and we have to get this moving by declaring it a disaster area.”

Wishart will be touring the flood-stricken Interlake area next week and meeting with affected producers. KAP is recommending that federal and provincial governments continue pursuing *AgriRecovery*, a disaster assistance program under the new Business Risk Management suite, to provide assistance to producers. A federal election call must not delay this process as it needs to move ahead as quickly as possible for producers.

In the meantime, KAP is encouraging any farmers across the province who have extra feed or hay stores or unharvested cereals to contact MAFRI GO Centres or the Manitoba Cattle Producers Association so that they can be connected with those in need.

“Farmers have a history of coming together to support one another,” says Wishart. “Those producers in the flooded areas need our help and KAP is encouraging everyone to do whatever they can to lend a hand.”

The provincial government currently has an online program to match those who have hay with those who need it, at <http://web2.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/haysearch/index.php>.

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