



NEWS RELEASE

“The Voice of Manitoba Farmers”

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Governments Need to Step Up on Flooding

Winnipeg – KAP President, Ian Wishart, toured the flood-stricken Interlake region via air on September 14, to view the extensive damage to farmland, pastures, and homes throughout the area. Wishart travelled over the southern part of the region and viewed the areas from Teulon across to Gimli, and then headed north to Arborg and Ashern, where he met with producers.

“After seeing the damage on that scale, we are even more convinced that we need a feed program as well as forage and land restoration programs to support the producers facing these difficult times,” said Wishart.

On September 15, KAP met with Manitoba’s Minister of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Initiatives, Rosann Wowchuk, to discuss the situation and constructive ideas for moving forward. One program KAP encourages producers to use is the [Manitoba Forage Assistance Program \(MFAP\)](#). MAFRI also has a list of producers who have feed and straw available for affected producers who would like to harvest it for their farm’s own use. See the MAFRI website at <http://web2.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/haysearch/index.php> or call your local MAFRI office for more information.

KAP encourages producers to apply for programs that are already available such as AgriStability and associated advances. KAP will continue to lobby for a land restoration program for Spring 2009 under AgriRecovery.

“Producers in flooded areas need to be able to access adequate and fair compensation to cover their significant losses, and we would like to see the federal government extend the tax deferral program to excess moisture situations, in addition to drought,” said Wishart.

The drought deferral allows eligible producers a one-year tax deferral on income on the sale of breeding livestock, in order to replenish that stock the following year. KAP believes it is necessary to bring in this type of program due to the severe financial hardship facing many producers.

- 30 -

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