



“The Voice of Manitoba Farmers”

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Support for Areas Affected by Excess Rain

Date of Adoption: 1999

Unseeded Acreage/Livestock Feed Compensation

KAP proposes the following as a minimum compensation package for unseeded acres, hay, forage crops and unusable pastures:

Unseeded acres - \$50 per acre

Unharvestable Tame hay and Forages - \$50 per acre

Unharvestable Native hay - \$25 per acre

Unusable Pasture - \$25 per acre

Suggestions for a delivery mechanism (in order of preference) are as follows:

- 1) Disaster assistance with no connection to an existing program.
- 2) Extension of sign-up deadline for coverage through crop insurance, thus allowing crop insurance to compensate. This could be coupled with a commitment from producers to take coverage in future if the compensation mechanism for unseeded acreage is improved, as the present 10 acre minimum makes the program ineffective in most years. We are concerned that crops seeded toward the end of the crop insurance deadline are more highly at risk for fall frost, at cost to both the crop insurance program and the producer.
- 3) Compensation equivalent to that listed above, but delivered through a different mechanism such as support for land maintenance and overhead costs of the farm business while it is interrupted (i.e. until the next crop can be planted).
- 4) Compensation through the AIDA program, but not limited to producers who can trigger AIDA, and with no capping to the level of support the program can deliver. We are concerned that if the compensation is offered through AIDA under present eligibility criteria, those producers whose reference margin is low due to past years= weather problems will be unable to receive the support they need. Producers eligible to receive AIDA support beyond the acreage support must still be allowed to do so.

Support for Custom Seeding and Spraying

In an attempt to get as many acres as possible seeded before the Crop Insurance seeding deadlines, we propose a support payment of up to \$5 per acre for producers to hire custom spraying services to apply weed burn-off products, and up to \$10 per acre for custom seeding services to assist in getting the crop in the ground.

Compensation for Lost Inputs

Fertilizer and crop protection products applied before the excess rainfall (last fall or this spring), will have been seriously depleted by the excess moisture. If the acres to which they were applied cannot be seeded until next spring, these products will be lost completely. We propose 100% compensation for fall and spring applied fertilizer and weed control products on those acres which do not get seeded. We propose 50% compensation for those acres that do get seeded.

Green Feed/Cover Crops

Concern has been expressed that there will be a shortage of summer feed stocks as a result of damage to pastures. Producers should be encouraged to seed cereal crops to address that shortfall once fields have dried enough, and also to ensure that acres which are not seeded to spring crops have a cover to prevent erosion and absorb excess moisture. Any program put in place must not discourage this type of planting activity.

Support for Transportation of Straw/Hay Supplies

With a shortage of acres planted to cereal grains will come a shortage of straw for livestock bedding/feed. If wet conditions persist, there could also be a shortage of hay. Feed freight assistance will be needed to transport straw and hay supplies into the affected area. Such programs have been established in the past, and a program of similar design would be effective.

Area Affected

This disaster is not limited to the south west corner of the province. The largest area affected includes the whole side of the province west of a line from Gladstone south to Pilot Mound. It is bordered on the south side by the Canada-U.S. border, on the west side by the Saskatchewan border (producers in Saskatchewan and North Dakota are affected as well), and north to the Riding Mountain Park. Compensation cannot be limited to particular geographic areas, as there are small areas throughout the province experiencing equally devastating conditions.