



The KAP Alert

Friday, January 16, 2009

25th Annual Meeting News

KAP is excited to host its 25th Annual Meeting January 28-30 and we look forward to seeing you there!

Banquet Update

Delegates: If you and your spouse plan to attend the banquet on Thursday, January 29, please ensure you buy a ticket for your spouse as they are going fast. We ask any delegates who will not be attending the banquet to please call the office at 697-1140 and let us know.



Hotel Reminder

Hotel rooms are no longer available at the Delta Winnipeg. We advise delegates who require accommodations to book at the Best Western Charterhouse Hotel - Downtown Winnipeg. Please let the Charterhouse know you are booking through Keystone Agricultural Producers. The rate they are offering KAP is \$119.99 per night.

Contact information:
Best Western Charterhouse Hotel

NOTE: The KAP Alert will not be published on January 23 or 30. Please see our full coverage of the 25th Annual Meeting on February 6.

NEW! You may now pay your KAP membership by using a credit card on the KAP website using [PayPal](#).

See You at Manitoba Ag Days!

Visit KAP's booth at Manitoba Ag Days January 20, 21 and 22, 2009 at the Keystone Centre in Brandon. Members of the KAP Executive will be on hand to

330 York Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0N9
Toll-free 1-800-782-0175
(204) 942-0101
www.bwcharterhouse.com

KAP's Annual Meeting is our major policy-setting event for the year, and will bring together farmer delegates from across the province to learn, debate, and decide on the future of agricultural policy. This year KAP celebrates 25 years as the Voice of Manitoba Farmers, and we invite you to join us to mark this milestone!



Above: Our Roots - KAP's Founding Executive

FULL AGENDA

The Annual Meeting is being held at the Delta Winnipeg. For more information or to register, please contact us at (204) 697-1140 or kap@kap.mb.ca.

Young Farmers Committee Annual Meeting

discuss Ag issues from 9am to 5pm daily.

Attention Young Farmers: Join KAP for a FREE LUNCH on Wednesday, January 21 as we gather to talk about issues that are important to you. The event will be held in Salon A of the Keystone Centre from 11:30 pm to 1:00 pm.

KAP Activities

Monday, Jan. 12: President Ian Wishart and Policy Analyst James Battershill met with Rod Bruinooge, MP Winnipeg South. President Ian Wishart and GM Yvonne Rideout participated in a CFA conference call. Communications Officer Kristen Lucyshyn and Executive Member Doug Chorney met with Manitoba Cooperator and The Co-operators representatives to judge the Share What

Keystone Agricultural Producers' Young Farmers Committee is gearing up for its annual meeting in conjunction with KAP's 25th, and we invite all young farmers to join us for this exciting event.



There is no cost for registration for young farmers (under 40) which includes meals and a banquet ticket (accommodations are the individual's responsibility). Young farmers are invited to the annual Bearpit Session on Wednesday evening to discuss priority areas, and ask questions of invited guests (government and others). At the same time, this is also an opportunity for these guests to get feedback from young farmers about important ag issues.

[FULL AGENDA](#)

For more information, email or call 697-1140.

Taking Care of Our Environmental Business

KAP Commentary January 15, 2009

By Ian Wishart, Keystone Agricultural Producers and Robert D. Sopuck, Delta Waterfowl and Member of the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy

Wikipedia defines infrastructure as "...the socio-technical structures that support a society such as roads, water supply, wastewater, power grids, flood management systems, telecommunications and so forth."

You See in Agriculture Contest. President Ian Wishart and GM Yvonne Rideout met with Candice Hoepfner, MP Portage-Lisgar at the KAP office.

Tuesday, Jan. 13: President Ian Wishart attended a breakfast held by the Manitoba Chambers of Commerce featuring guest speaker Agriculture Minister Rosann Wowchuk.

Wednesday, Jan. 14: President Ian Wishart attended a meeting with Farm Credit Canada in Portage la Prairie. The Member Benefits Committee held a meeting at the KAP office.

Thursday, Jan. 15: President Ian Wishart and Communications Officer Kristen Lucyshyn participated in an ALUS Committee conference call.

Other Events

Infrastructure renewal is all the rage these days and all governments are ready to turn on the money taps to invest in it and kick start the Canadian economy.

But there is another type of infrastructure that also “supports a society,” our environmental infrastructure. Indeed many of the things in the Wikipedia definition, especially those related to water, have a counterpart in nature. Nature has mechanisms that deal with water purification, flood control, and the elimination of waste. And in many cases it is far cheaper to invest in protecting and enhancing our environmental infrastructure than it is to try to recreate what Mother Nature already does. Or to put it another way, inexpensive investments in landscape conservation can free up even more money for “socio-technical structures.”

The Millennium Ecosystem report from the United Nations calculated that an acre of Canadian wetlands is worth \$2400 in terms of environmental benefits delivered to society. Wetlands



deliver flood control, clean water, habitat, biodiversity, and waste treatment at a fraction of the cost of man-made structures. A 2001 study in North Carolina concluded that “...watersheds with 13.8 per cent wetlands coverage or greater appeared to be buffered against excessive turbidity and fecal coliform runoff after rain events.” Wetlands make clean, safe water all by themselves! Yet we are losing wetlands, especially on the agricultural landscape, at a rapid pace as farmers respond to the market signals by intensifying their operations.

January 27: Parkland Ranchers' Seminar, Ste. Rose Community Hall, Ste. Rose du Lac. Register by calling (204) 447-4030.

January 27: Adding Value to Canadian Chicken, Lamb, Pork and Veal, Smartpark lobby boardroom, 135 Innovation Drive. Winnipeg. Pre-register by Jan. 23. [Website](#)

January 28-30: [KAP Annual Meeting](#) and KAP Young Farmer's Committee Meeting, Delta Hotel, Winnipeg.

January 28-29: 2009 Beef & Forage Days in Rosa. Shevchenko Ukrainian Centre (Hwy 59 - 7 miles south of St. Malo). Contact Peter Petrash at 204-425-5050 or [Email](#).

January 30: South Interlake Beef Seminar, Teulon. Phone 204-886-2696.

And then there is the famous New York City Water Supply project that provides incentives to landowners to adjust land use so that the ecosystems and watersheds that provide New York's water are maintained. This allows for the delivery of clean water while farmers still continue to farm. This program eliminated the necessity to build a much more expensive water filtration plant which was estimated to cost billions of dollars.

Most of Canada's population lives on the "southern working landscape" that also happens to be where most of our farmers and farmlands are located. Canada has the opportunity to enlist agricultural producers via a landscape conservation incentive program, so that the maintenance and enhancement of our environmental infrastructure is accorded the same efforts as crop production. Indeed the Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) program being promoted by KAP would fill this role very nicely. We know it works, and we know farmers can get the job done. Conserving Canada's environmental infrastructure on the "southern working landscape" should be a part of any infrastructure program.

For more information, please contact:

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

Robert D. Sopuck, Delta Waterfowl Vice President of Policy. Office: (204) 848-4007.

February 11-12:
Manitoba Special
Crops Symposium,
Winnipeg Convention
Centre, Winnipeg.
[Website](#)

Member Benefits

KAP is pleased to offer a comprehensive member benefits program with special pricing on a wide range of products. For more information, visit our member benefits [web page](#), or call us toll-free at 1-866-527-0123.

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(204) 697-1140

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