



The KAP Alert

Another Tool for the Toolbox— Expanded Credit Access

Release May 1, 2009

Keystone Agricultural Producers is encouraged by the announcement made by Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Gerry Ritz today on a change to the Farm Improvement and Marketing Cooperative Loans Act. The expanded access to credit is another tool in the kit for farmers.

Following up on Canada's Economic Action Plan to provide assistance in the tough economic times, the federal government will introduce legislation that will guarantee an estimated \$1 billion in loans over a five year period.

A change in the act will expand the mandate and make credit available to new farmers and support inter-generational farm transfers.

"Previously, the loans under the act were only available to existing farmers so this expansion of the program will be key to help beginning farmers establish their businesses," said Rob Brunel,



Activities

Wednesday, April 29: Executive member Doug Chorney attended a Manitoba Employers' Council meeting. President Ian Wishart and Policy Analyst James Battershill met with Rob Merrifield, Minister of State, Transport and MP for Yellowhead in Ottawa to discuss transportation issues such as short-line rail discontinuance, the level of service review, and the Port of Churchill.

Wednesday and Thursday: President Wishart attended a National Ecological Goods and Services Technical Meeting in Ottawa.

Friday, May 1: Executive member Bev Stober and District 12 members attended a meeting in the RM of Kelsey to discuss the future of the grain elevator in The Pas and the potential impact on the community.

KAP Vice President and Chair of KAP's Young Farmers Committee. (Pictured right)

The announcement includes backing for intergenerational transfer which will help young farmers take over the family farm. There are many challenges facing the agricultural industry and the situations that some farmers find themselves in did not happen overnight or come about as the result of one isolated incident. There are many problems that need to be addressed in order for producers to move forward with strength, and producers look to the federal government for leadership in this area.

"Although this announcement helps with access to farm credit, we still need to develop long term strategies—government and farmers—to ensure financial viability in all agricultural sectors so that beginning farmers can grow profitable businesses," said Brunel.

KAP looks forward to more details on the legislation regarding the new plan.

KAP Releases Inputs Survey

Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP) has released the [results](#) of its spring fuel and fertilizer survey, which shows only a slight decrease in the extreme pricing for inputs in the 2008 crop year.

When comparing the 2009 fertilizer prices to previous years, KAP observed that the prices are still up considerably



Other Events

June 2-3: Trace R&D 2009, a conference on agriculture and food traceability, Fairmont Hotel, Winnipeg, MB. [Website](#)

June 17-19: Western Canada Farm Progress Show, Evraz Place, Regina, SK. [Website](#)

Provincial Land Use Policies Review

The province is updating its land-use policies and is seeking input from the public. Workshops will be held around the province. Consultation materials including the draft policies are available by clicking here. To provide feedback, email plups@gov.mb.ca.

Consultations will take place between April 20 to May 7. Land-use policies are expected to be finalized in the fall of 2009.

Schedule

May 4: 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Fraserwood Hall (new hall).

May 7: 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Brokenhead River Community Hall, 320 Veterans Lane, Beausejour.

compared to two or three years ago when they were considered to be at more reasonable levels.

“A small decline in the cost of several inputs such as anhydrous, dry nitrogen, liquid phosphate, and dry phosphate is insignificant for farmers who have seen prices for these fertilizers soar over the past three years,” said Ian Wishart, KAP President.

The price increases have been as much as 20 per cent to 208 per cent over the past few years.

“In 2006, potash was at \$297.10 per tonne and that price increased to \$487.08 last year. Now for 2009, potash skyrocketed to \$915.12—this is totally unacceptable,” said Wishart.

Since 2005, KAP has conducted a spring input price survey to monitor provincial prices for fuel and fertilizer, and to shine a spotlight on the increasing costs of doing business on the farm.

The survey results and comparisons to previous years can be viewed [here](#).

H1N1 Type A Flu

There have been several releases on H1N1 Type A Flu information over the week.

In a news bulletin the Manitoba Pork Council reminds the public that H1N1 Type A Flu is not a food safety issue, nor have any cases of H1N1 been reported in pigs in Canada. [Click here](#) for the bulletin.

The province released a bulletin on H1N1 Type A Flu today with

To reserve your spot at a public workshop call 945-2150 or [email](#).

Interested parties are also encouraged to share their views and suggestions on the draft of the proposed Provincial Land Use Policies by forwarding written comments to the address, fax or email below by May 8, 2009.

Provincial Land Use Policies
Review
Community Planning and
Development Division
Manitoba Intergovernmental
Affairs
604 - 800 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3G 0N4
Fax: (204) 945-5059
E-mail: PLUPS@gov.mb.ca

Manitoba Farm Mentorship Program

The Organic Food Council of Manitoba has just launched the Manitoba Farm Mentorship program (MFM)!

This is an exciting new program designed to connect people, land and local knowledge for a food-secure Manitoba.

There are still spaces available for this year for farmers looking to diversify or transition to an

notes on food safety and animal health. To see the full report, [click here](#).

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency released information on H1N1. [Click here](#) for the link.

Pork producers suffer 'collateral damage' in flu's wake
[CTV.ca](#)

Stop calling it swine flu: Canada's pork producers
[Canwest News Service](#)

Message on AgriStability Deadline For Flood-Affected Producers in Manitoba

[Advisory](#) from The Government of Canada and The Manitoba
Government

Manitoba farmers in flood-affected areas will now have additional time to meet the program requirements for 2009 AgriStability.

Farmers in flood-affected areas have until June 30, 2009 to pay their fee for the 2009 program year without penalty, or request a New Participant Package, if they have not previously participated in AgriStability.

For more information or to request an AgriStability New Participant Package, call Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada toll free at 1-866-367-8506.

Congrats to UofM Grads

environmentally sustainable form of agriculture. MFM wants to connect you with a mentor to help you along the way. For more information please call 785-8828 or check out the [website](#).

Interested in Biomass?

KAP's Agri-Energy Sub-Committee is looking for a producer presently using coal for heat who may be interested in converting their system to biomass. Provincial money is available to offset some of the costs associated with conversion and acquiring fuel. Please contact James at policy@kap.mb.ca or at (204) 697-1140 for more information.

Member Benefits Corner

It pays to be a KAP member! We are pleased to offer a comprehensive benefits program to our members in addition to the ongoing policy work that we do on your behalf. For more information, please call our Member Benefits line at 1-866-527-0123.

KAP and the Young Farmers Committee congratulate all of the University of Manitoba's Diploma in Agriculture Graduates who are celebrating their achievements today at the 102nd Diploma Graduation Ceremony and Banquet.



All the best for your careers in Agriculture!

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