



The KAP Alert

March 5, 2010

Let's Get on the Right Track Commentary by Ian Wishart, KAP President

Western Canadian farmers are linked to our two national railways, Canadian National Railway Co. and Canadian Pacific Railway Ltd. We depend on those slender ribbons of steel to get much of our product to market, and even if we do not, the price of other products is often influenced by the cost of bringing them in on those same railways.



That is why the performance and cost of these companies is so essential to us. A level of service review is slowly working its way toward completion over the coming summer, and we will be participating along with others to make sure that farmers' interests are well represented. This includes ensuring that the tribunal hears about of the problems poor service can cost both companies and

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KAP Membership

Membership renewals for 2010 have been sent out and we encourage members to pay. You may now pay using a credit card on the KAP website using [**PayPal**](#).

Looking for your EFP

Certificate?
If you are a producer who has misplaced your Environmental Farm Plan Statement of Completion and you need another copy, please contact Christine at KAP at 697-1140 or kap@kap.mb.ca.

individuals.

Beyond this, there is rising concern over railway costing. Both railways have been on a cost-plus formula that was originally developed in 1992. Every farmer knows that rail infrastructure has changed dramatically since that time, and technology has also changed railway efficiency in major ways. This has led to savings on the part of the railways. These savings were supposed to be shared with the grain shipper customers, which would eventually flow to those of us who really pay those costs. I am still waiting!

Railways have become very profitable businesses with virtual monopoly control over their relatively powerless customers. Government has an obligation to make sure that the fees railways charge are realistic and competitive. It is time to give these formulas and charges a long hard public examination, and make the necessary changes—no matter how powerful the railways are.



KAP will be at Agriculture in the City
at The Forks Market, March 19-21, 2010
See you there!

CLICK
for event info!



Activities

Monday, March 1:

The Workplace and Employment Committee met at the KAP office.

Tuesday, March 2:

The Transportation Committee met at the KAP office.

Wednesday, March

3: President Ian Wishart, VP Rob Brunel, VP Doug Chorney, GM Yvonne Rideout and Policy Analyst James Battershill met with Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives' policy staff to discuss various government policy and the resolutions from KAP's annual meeting.

Thursday, March 4:


VP Doug Chorney attended the Adapting Agriculture to a Changing Prairie Climate meeting, sponsored by

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Canadian Agricultural Safety Week
March 14 - 20, 2010

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This Week's KAP Minute

The KAP Minute is news for and about farmers from
Keystone Agricultural Producers.

 **LISTEN HERE!**

Tune in to the KAP Minute every Thursday on 3 stations in
Manitoba!

CFAM
Radio 950

CFAM Radio 950 Community Service
Radio in Altona
Listen at 12:56 p.m.

sponsored by
Manitoba Agriculture,
Food and Rural
Initiatives and the
Canadian Agri-Food
Policy Institute.
President Ian Wishart
attended the Manitoba
Chambers of
Commerce breakfast
Agricultural Innovation
- Delivering Solutions
in Health, the
Environment and the
Economy with Hon.
Stan Struthers,
Minister of Agriculture,
Food and Rural
Initiatives. President
Ian Wishart attended
the International
Institute for
Sustainable
Development Climate
Change and Ag
Symposium.

Friday, March 5: The
Rural Development
and Land Use
Committee met at the
KAP office. VP Doug
Chorney attended the
Manitoba Biomaterials
Consortium initial
stakeholder meeting.
President Ian Wishart
met with Minister of
Water Stewardship
Christine Melnick.



CFRY 920AM and 93.1FM Real Country
Radio in Portage La Prairie

[Listen](#) at 12:48 p.m.



880 CKLQ Today's Best Country in
Brandon

[Listen](#) at 12:28 p.m.

Manitoba Farm and Rural Stress Line
1-866-367-3276 www.ruralstress.ca



Not much new for Canadian Agriculture in Federal Budget

Canadian Federation of Agriculture Release March 5, 2010

While the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) recognizes the current economic constraints facing government, it was disappointed at the lack of new money and initiatives announced for the agri-food sector in yesterday's federal budget.

"Dubbed a 'Jobs and Growth Budget,' we had hoped the budget would show increased investment in the agri-food sector--a sector which was recognized in the Speech from the Throne as an industry that is the foundation for Canada's prosperity and supports thousands of communities, both rural and urban, and provides one out of every eight jobs in 2008," said Laurent Pellerin, CFA President. "We had hoped to see some initiatives that would encourage and assist new entrants to provide the needed growth and increased stability within the sector."

Events

March 5 - 6: Manitoba Direct Farm Marketing Conference, Southern Manitoba Convention Centre, Manitoba Stampede grounds, Morris, MB. For more information, please [email](#) or visit the [website](#).

March 6: Manitoba Sheep Association annual general meeting, Herman Prior Centre, 40 Royal Rd. N., Portage la Prairie, MB. For more information please call 204-834-2261 or visit the [website](#).

March 8: CWB Farmer Forum, District 10: Bill Toews, McCreary Community Centre, McCreary, MB. For more information, please [email](#) or visit the [website](#).

March 10: Winter Cereals

The CFA was, however, pleased to see money targeted under the previously announced AgriFlexibility program to assist the competitiveness of the cattle sector. While not new money, the CFA was relieved to see government augment the amount of funds available under the Slaughter Improvement Program to support the introduction of new effective technologies for the disposal of Specified Risk Material (SRM), assist processing plants handling cattle over 30 months of age, and develop and commercialize SRM disposal technologies.

It was also encouraged to see the government maintain reduced tariffs on imported equipment--providing possible benefits for agricultural capital purchases as well as the announcement of the creation of the Red Tape Reduction Commission--which will hopefully result in increased efficiencies in the long-term for Canadian farmers and their businesses.

However, it was alarmed to see no mention of the Election Campaign promise of the 2 cent/litre diesel fuel reduction which was announced in the last budget but remained unimplemented. The CFA was also surprised there was no mention of allowing new entrants or young farmers to use their RRSPs for a one-time purchase of capital on their farms or reference to supporting the Cooperative Investment Program--both of which were recommended to the Finance Department by the Finance Committee following Budget hearing and submissions.

"The Government has consistently indicated it is putting farmers first," added Pellerin. "We had hoped to see additional measures announced to help tide the struggling hog and cattle sector over until the next generation of agricultural programming can be developed and implemented, but remain optimistic the government will continue to show flexibility in working with us in addressing some of these outstanding issues in the coming months--to ensure we can continue to work towards a renewed and strengthened agriculture sector."

Canada/Winter
Cereals Manitoba
annual meetings,
Heartland Inn, 851
Main St., Winkler, MB.
Call 1-866-472-4611
or [email](#).

March 11: CWB
Farmer Forum,
District 10: Bill Toews,
Oak Bluff Community
Centre, Oak Bluff,
MB. For more
information, please
[email](#) or visit the
[website](#).

March 12: Canadian
Organic Growers'
Record Keeping for
Organic Farmers
workshop, Arborg,
MB. [Website](#)

March 13: Canadian
Organic Growers'
Transitioning the
Small Produce Farm
workshop, Winnipeg,
MB. [Website](#)

March 16: CWB
Farmer Forum,
District 9: Bill
Nicholson, Shoal Lake
Community Hall,
Shoal Lake, MB. For
more information,
please [email](#) or visit

About the Canadian Federation of Agriculture

Founded in 1935 to provide Canada's farmers with a single voice in Ottawa, the Canadian Federation of Agriculture is the country's largest farmers' organization. Its members include provincial general farm organizations, national and inter-provincial commodity organizations, and cooperatives from every province. Through its members, CFA represents over 200,000 Canadian farmers and farm families.

Member Benefits Corner

For information on any of our benefits programs, call our Member Benefits line at 1-866-527-0123, or go to our website, or email us.

the [website](#).

March 18: Manitoba Rural Adaptation Council annual general meeting, Canad Inns, Portage la Prairie, MB. [Website](#)

April 16-18: Equine Educational Weekend Horse3 (Head*Heart*Hooves), Keystone Centre, Brandon. [Website](#)

June 16 - 18: Western Canada Farm Progress Show, Evraz Place, Regina, SK. [Website](#)

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