

Business Risk Management Committee

The Committee met on March 31st, 2009.

Agricultural Flexibility Program. The \$500 million program was announced as part of the Economic Action Plan. This would mean between \$8.5 million to \$10.5 million for Manitoba. KAP met with Minister Ritz when he was in Winnipeg in early March and he seemed favorable toward an ecological goods and services program (ALUS) as a way of funneling the dollars. We have also met with Premier Doer and the province has a working group established to look at possibilities under this file. It was decided that we just push ahead with our proposal.

Growing Forward Reporting Mechanism. Following MAFRI's information session on Growing Forward in February, KAP developed a reporting mechanism structure which includes a working group and four advisory groups, specifically innovation, business development, food safety, and environment. This structure was further developed by the committee and has been forwarded to MAFRI.

Producer Payment Security Mechanism. The committee received an update on Bill C-13, changes to the Canada Grain Act. The report of the producer payment security mechanism steering committee was discussed. The report will be final on April 3rd when the steering committee meets.

Individual Area Based Insurance. An update was given on this web based insurance product and its development will be receiving funding from the Private Sector Risk Management Partnership Program. Alberta has working on a pilot project and will be represented on the Manitoba steering committee. A steering committee made up of commodity group representation has been selected and consists of Manitoba Pulse Growers, National Sunflower Association, Manitoba Canola Growers, Manitoba Beekeepers Association, Keystone Potato Producers, and KAP.

Business Risk Management. The committee will start looking at what programs should be included in the next generation of programming. There was discussion on how programming could be adjusted to be more applicable. One idea is FIPI (farm inputs price index) which could be used to adjust a producer's reference margin. If government is in agreement with this concept it could be integrated into the Agri-Stability program to better reflect the realities in the primary agriculture industry and, at times, increase the margins. We need to ensure that future programs do not penalize diversification. We want to have long term predictable programming.

Resolutions for GC. The committee passed three resolutions which will be presented for consideration today, dealing with the Agricultural Flexibility Program, changes to BRM programming, and the Farm Inputs Price Index.

National Program Advisory Committee. This committee has been established to provide advice to governments on the delivery of Agri-Stability and Agri-Invest. It replaces the National CAIS Committee and the appointments were made by the federal and provincial governments ensuring that regions and commodities were represented. Manitoba's representatives are Bryan Ferris and Ken Crockatt.

Mandate for 2009. The committee reviewed and updated its mandate for 2009.

Committee Members. Glenn Young (Chair), Wilfred Harder, Keith Gardner, Chuck Fossay, Roger Vaags, Ian Wishart, Robert McLean, Theresa Bergsma, Bev Stober, Bill Swan, Ron Rutherford, Brad Rasmussen, Alvin DePauw. Staff Resource: Yvonne Rideout.