

# Environment

***The Committee met on March 18th, 2009.***

***Farm Stewardship Association of Manitoba.*** Under Growing Forward it is expected that the province is going to take a more active role in delivering the EFP which leaves FSAM uncertain of their future. There remains concern regarding the confidentiality of producer information that could reduce the number of producers willing to participate if the province collects information rather than FSAM. FSAM is asking the province to honour producers' plans for five years after their original completion date.

***Ducks Unlimited Canada.*** KAP met with Ducks Unlimited to receive a presentation on some of the work DU has been doing in the area of wetland preservation and its connection to water health and nutrient management in the province. DU agrees that incentive based programs are preferred options to entice producers to maintain wetland areas on their property but also believes that regulations have a role to play.

***Onsite Wastewater Management.*** There are regulation changes in the works to deal with onsite wastewater management. Systems are restricted to septic holding tanks in the Red River Corridor, certain cottage areas and in designated "sensitive areas." Additionally, sewage ejectors are to be phased out of use in the province and a minimum field size of 2 acres for septic fields will be introduced. The committee will be taking action on this to lobby for the use of ejectors on appropriate sites.

***Drainage Licensing:*** The committee was updated on the new licensing system for all drainage across the province. A drain will have to be licensed before changes or maintenance is performed on them.

***Canadian Fertilizer Institute:*** KAP met with representatives from Agrium and the CFI to discuss KAP supporting them in their lobby to the government to have the 4R system for nutrient management be the foundation of future nutrient management programs. The committee agreed that the 4R system, being based on science, would be a good foundation. Further the committee liked that the 4R system may soon include a component for N<sub>2</sub>O storage.

***Nutrient Management Plans.*** KAP has been participating in the Water Stewardship Technical Working Group and the new Nutrient Management Plans are in their final draft stages. If a producer already has a Manure Management Plan they may forgo the Nutrient Management Plan. The plans have been acceptable to the committee thus far.

***Mandate for 2009.*** The committee added points regarding onsite wastewater management regulations and fuel tank decommissioning in the mandate for 2009.

## ***Committee Members.***

Rob Brunel (Chair), Lawrence Dyck, Lorne Rossnagel, Mike Teillet, Pieter DeJong, Robert Hall, Walt Finlay, Weldon Newton, Alan Ransom, Ken Gross, Duncan Broadfoot. Staff Resource: Yvonne Rideout, James Battershill.

*Keystone Agricultural Producers - The Voice of Manitoba Farmers*

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