



NEWS RELEASE

"The Voice of Manitoba Farmers"
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Struggles Continue for Interlake Farmers

Winnipeg – Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP) is calling on the federal and provincial governments to ensure business risk management programs work for producers who have been affected by excess moisture, specifically in the Interlake region of Manitoba at this time.

The \$2.5 million in assistance announced last week for north Interlake producers through AgriRecovery is inadequate for the need in the region, and it is only a start to rebuilding lost equity. It was KAP's hope that the method of payment for this funding would not exclude any producers in the region who have experienced hardship due to excess moisture conditions.

"It's clear AgriRecovery is not working well for producers," said Ian Wishart, KAP President. "We need adequate programs that respond in a timely manner as producers in the affected areas have experienced a drain on financial and human resources for multiple years."

With the high costs of field work and weed control, it is difficult for producers to properly recover the fields for seeding with the amount of funding that has been offered.

"When you add up the costs, fifteen dollars per acre would only cover one pass of the tractor and cultivator across a field," said Wishart.

KAP would like to work with both levels of government to ensure current and future assistance programs meet the needs of producers, including AgriRecovery and other programs such as AgriStability and the Advance Payments Program.

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Keystone Agricultural Producers is Manitoba's largest general farm policy organization, representing over 7,000 farm families and 22 commodity groups throughout the province. Our strength is our democratic structure, and our mission is to represent and promote the interests of the province's farm families.