

MANITOBA BEEF PRODUCERS

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NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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Manitoba Beef Producers Welcomes Forage Insurance Program

WINNIPEG – Manitoba Beef Producers (MBP) applauds the announcement of a new AgriInsurance forage program for beef and forage producers.

“We want to thank Hon. Ron Kostyshyn, Minister of Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Development and Hon. Gerry Ritz, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, for their support for this new program,” said Trevor Atchison, Manitoba Beef Producers president.

MBP also thanks Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation (MASC) staff for their development work and for attending MBP’s 14 district meetings this fall.

MBP has been advocating and working towards reforms to the suite of forage insurance programs for a number of years.

“We are pleased to see this new program rolled out because producers have been asking for this type of insurance coverage for their operations,” said Atchison. “Beef producers require strong, bankable risk mitigation tools and the revisions to forage insurance will be a key tool in our tool box.”

Some enhancements to the forage insurance program include increased flexibility in the level of coverage, individual coverage rather than a regional approach, differentiated coverage for different forages and mixes, and a disaster component. Like crop insurance, a portion of the premium costs will be paid by the federal and provincial governments.

Beef producers can learn more about improved forage insurance by attending their local MBP district meeting which will feature a MASC presentation on the new program. Producers can also access more information on forage insurance by contacting their local MASC Insurance Office or at www.masc.mb.ca. The deadline to sign-up for forage insurance is March 31, 2014.

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Manitoba Beef Producers is the exclusive voice of the beef industry in Manitoba. Our role and mission is to represent our beef producers through communication, research, advocacy and education. Manitoba Beef Producers represents 8,000 beef producers across the province.

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