

## MANITOBA BEEF PRODUCERS

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# NEWS RELEASE

## For immediate release

March 21, 2014

## Manitoba Beef Producers on Future of Community Pastures

**WINNIPEG** – Manitoba Beef Producers (MBP) welcomes a pilot program that will see the management of many of the province’s community pastures turned over to the Association of Manitoba Community Pastures (AMCP).

“Having access to the pastures has been integral to the success of many Manitoba beef producers’ operations since the inception of the Community Pasture Program,” said Heinz Reimer, MBP president. “We are pleased that funding is being made available under Growing Forward 2 for this three-year pilot program, thereby ensuring producers’ continued access to the pastures that will be managed by the AMCP.”

The Government of Manitoba recently announced transition funding for the pasture program. MBP appreciates the support of Hon. Ron Kostyshyn, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development (MAFRD) and Hon. Gord Mackintosh, Minister of Conservation and Water Stewardship (MCWS).

MBP is happy to have been a key driver behind the formation of the AMCP and is pleased to have helped facilitate the development of the business plan. AMCP’s formation began when MBP called together all of the producers who chair the pastures’ Patron Advisory Committees (PAC). It is the PAC chairs who have set the path forward.

“A tremendous amount of work went into developing this new pasture management model,” said Reimer. “MBP acknowledges the significant efforts made by the AMCP, representing patron interests, as well as the staff from MAFRD and MCWS. This pilot program is very important to Manitoba’s beef industry and we appreciate that it has been achieved in advance of this year’s grazing season.”

MBP notes that as with any pilot program, participation will be the key to success.

“Pasture patrons have repeatedly told us about the value they receive from being able to use the pastures. MBP hopes patrons will strongly consider participation in the pilot program. This will reinforce the importance to our industry of Manitoba’s community pastures being retained for future grazing,” added Reimer.

“In addition to the economic benefits the pasture program provides to producers, MBP also recognizes the substantial environmental benefits in preserving these lands for grazing, such as protecting valuable wildlife habitat, wetland conservation and improved watershed management,” said Reimer. “This initiative could be called the single largest conservation program in Manitoba today. All Manitobans benefit from this.”

The Government of Manitoba news release can be found [here](#).

-30-

*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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