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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Manitoba Beef Producers expresses concern over federal carbon tax plans**

WINNIPEG, MB – Manitoba Beef Producers (MBP) have a role to play in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. However, MBP are also concerned about the potential impacts the federal carbon tax plan will have on their operations.

“We have concerns this tax will negatively affect our operations due to higher costs related to transporting cattle, inputs and many other products and services we need on a daily basis,” MBP president Tom Teichroeb said. “While there are exemptions proposed for on-farm use of fuels for tractors, trucks and other farm machinery, Manitoba’s beef producers will still be affected by these types of pass-through costs.”

“As our producers don’t set the price of their herds, they will be adversely impacted and will have to absorb these costs at a time when we are seeking to increase the size of the provincial herd,” Teichroeb said. “Higher taxes place a barrier in the way of fulfilling that objective and decrease our ability to compete in a global marketplace.”

Teichroeb added studies show that pastures and grasslands utilized by cattle producers can sequester as much as eight tonnes of carbon per hectare per year.

“Rather than a carbon tax, additional supports for increasing and enhancing grassland and pasture acres would help the environment as multiple benefits accrue from the carbon sequestration,” Teichroeb said. “Not only would this support protection of biodiversity, these efforts enhance resilience against floods and droughts and provide valuable habitat for an array of species.”

MBP seek further dialogue with the federal and provincial governments to find solutions which both reduce carbon emissions and support the agriculture sector.

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*Manitoba Beef Producers is the exclusive voice of Manitoba’s 6,500 beef producers. Our role and mission is to represent our members through communication, research, advocacy and education. We provide this representation within industry, to government, to the beef consumer and general public. These efforts take place to strengthen our industry viability, improve prosperity and ensure a sustainable future for the beef industry in Manitoba for the benefit of all our producers.*

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