

2020 Grain Industry: Supply Chain Performance Metrics Survey

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Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP) represents and promotes the interests of 4,500 Manitoba farmers and 21 commodity associations. KAP is Manitoba's general farm policy organization, providing a unified voice for farmers on issues that affect agriculture. KAP aims to ensure a sustainable and profitable future for all Manitoba farmers.

The Crop Logistics Working Group (CLWG) subcommittee, Data and Performance Measurement, has issued a survey seeking input from CLWG members on the current state of grain performance measurement programs. The submission below is guided by KAP policy as well as viewpoints recently provided by KAP's transportation committee.

KAP is supportive of third-party grain monitoring programs as well as other industry led data gathering initiatives. Agricultural groups such as KAP value the data provided by the Ag Transport Coalition (ATC) Performance Measurement Program and the Grain Monitor Program (GMP). Measurements such as hopper car demand, loads on wheels, transit time, port unloading time, outstanding hopper car orders, destination dwell times are all important data at the individual shipper level or at an industry level. It is also important that reporting is listed by individual railways to ensure a more accurate and insightful understanding of railway performance.

Data such as these provide valuable information for industry groups to monitor grain movement with the ability to recognize potential problems as they develop. This information can then be used to inform producers, thereby enabling them to make more informed decisions within the supply chain. These data also provide industry the chance to make recommendations that can lead to rail transportation improvements.

KAP advocates for the continual delivery of these metrics. It is important that industry groups have open access to these data that can assist with supply chain efficiency. The health and quality of the railway network benefits from third party insight. KAP is committed to working with industry and government to ensure that these supply chain performance metrics continue in the future.