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RE: Expert Advisory Council and Emission Reduction Targets

Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP) is Manitoba's general farm policy organization, providing a unified voice for farmers on issues that affect agriculture. KAP represents and promotes the interests of 4,600 farmers and 19 commodity associations.

In 2018, agriculture accounted for 31 percent of the total greenhouse gas emissions in Manitoba. KAP sees that farmers are part of the climate change solution where a feasible path exists that would keep Manitoba agriculture competitive while reducing GHG emissions. The following is a list of recommendations we would like the Expert Advisory Council to consider regarding the Carbon Savings Account emission reduction target for 2023-2027.

1. Increase funding and promotion of the 4R Nutrient Stewardship program. Research indicates that not all farmers have fully implemented 4R practices on their farms in Manitoba. Higher uptake of the 4Rs would result in a decline in agricultural soil emissions.
2. Increase the ethanol mandate to 15 percent in gasoline and establish a 10 percent biodiesel mandate if endorsed by the majority of North American engine manufacturers. Increasing the mandate would support the grains and oilseed sectors whereby increasing the demand for these commodities.
3. Fund research and programs targeting livestock feeding and grazing practices that would mitigate enteric methane emission.
4. Increase funding and expand the current suite of practices covered under the Ag Action Manitoba programs. A whole of agriculture approach is required that focuses on greenhouse gas mitigation through incentives.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback on this important issue and look forward to reading your report of recommendations to the minister in the future.

Sincerely,

Bill Campbell
President, Keystone Agricultural Producers Inc.