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# PRESS RELEASE

## MANITOBA BEEF PRODUCERS Thankful for Announcement of Aid; Look Forward to Swift Implementation

**December 17, 2010 (WINNIPEG, MB)** – The Provincial and Federal Government jointly announced today that they are supporting beef producers in the Province of Manitoba who can demonstrate loss due to excess moisture in 2010. Though more details will be forthcoming shortly, this urgent funding will allow producers to manage and plan for necessary feed. The announcement was made today by Gerry Ritz, Federal Agriculture Minister and Stan Struthers, Manitoba Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives.

The Manitoba Beef Producers have been working very hard over the last number of months with the Federal and Provincial Governments to get a meaningful recovery package in place, according to Major Jay Fox, President of MBP. “The Ministers’ announcement today is the result of those efforts and also reflective of a good working relationship between MBP and both levels of government when dealing together on issues such as these,” said Fox. “We are grateful that recovery measures have been announced and we wish to thank both Minister Struthers and Minister Ritz and their departments at this time. This announcement will finally give our producers the opportunity to stabilize and rebuild their operations after another year of devastating excess rainfall.”

The Governments of Canada and Manitoba are providing funding on a 60-40 basis for a Feed and Transportation Assistance Program, which will deliver the following initiatives:

- Transportation assistance of up to \$0.22 per tonne per loaded mile for producers who must transport feed to livestock or up to \$0.10 per head per loaded mile for producers who need to transport breeding animals to feed at distances greater than normally expected due to excess moisture;
- Feed Assistance of up to \$30 per ton based on an identified forage shortage to help producers who normally grow their own forage to purchase enough feed to sustain their breeding stock.

For Manitoba Beef Producers, 2010 was a year that many would rather forget. Another year of excessive moisture saw hay, forage and pasture fields drowned out, making it difficult for producers to obtain feed for their livestock and re-establish feed crops. Others, who were not able to wait for the announcement, were for the same reasons forced to sell their herds. “Unfortunately, not every one of them has been able to hang on through the wait, and that’s been frustrating,” said Fox. “For those guys, the tax deferral program announced earlier last month will be of benefit. But there are guys out there who will benefit from this announcement and for them we seek the continued support of government through the swift implementation of the program and its necessary details.”

“We are very pleased with today’s announcement,” said Trevor Atchison, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of MBP. “As we move toward 2011, the timely implementation of this program will be necessary for those still hanging on. The beef industry in Manitoba is still facing great challenges and is not out of the woods yet. After seeing years of struggle, there are some indications of our industry strengthening, but we are still in difficult times, and it is still not going to be easy moving forward. But by bringing continued awareness to the situation, working hard and working together for our affected producers, and with this announcement of government support, I believe we now can have some hope looking forward.”

*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. 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. The Manitoba Beef Producers represents 10,000 beef producers across the province.*

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