

Young Farmers E-Newsletter

June 20, 2007

2007 CROP DIAGNOSTIC SCHOOL

The 2007 Crop Diagnostic School in Carman will help farmers assess crop health and improve their field scouting skills, by viewing field plots, talking about herbicide injury, discussing product performance, and learning about integrated management strategies. KAP's Young Farmers Committee (YFC) is pleased to be able to pay for the \$160 registration for four young farmers to attend. The day-long workshops take place from July 9 - 13 and July 16 - 20. If you would like to attend, please advise Lenore at the KAP office (information listed below) and provide two or three dates that you'd be able to participate. The YFC executive will then select four delegates (if more than four requests are received) and register you for the date you've selected. The YFC also requests that its participants also provide a brief report (three or four paragraphs) about the event and what you learned. For more information, [contact KAP](#) and we can email you a PDF brochure.

6TH ANNUAL KAP KLASSIC GOLF TOURNAMENT

KAP is holding its sixth annual golf tournament on Friday, July 6th at the Pleasant Valley Golf Course, near Belmont. Tee-times start at 1:00 pm, and the day of golf will be followed by a BBQ at KAP President David Rolfe's cottage. The fee of \$65 (which includes green fees, 1/2 of the golf cart fee, and the BBQ) has to be sent to the KAP office by Friday, June 22. If you'd just like to drop by for a BBQ, the cost is \$25. We'll have prizes for the best and "most honest" golfers, so all skill levels are welcome. It would be excellent to have a good group of young farmers there to participate, so please contact the KAP office for more details. A registration form is also on KAP's web site at www.kap.mb.ca along with its weekly newsletter, the KAP Alert.

MENTORING PROGRAM FOR YOUNG FARMERS

Manitoba Agriculture, Food & Rural Initiatives' staff have created the Young Farmer Mentoring Program, which is available to all young farmers across the province. The goal is to help seasoned farmers transfer valuable information, gained through years of experience, to young farmers. The program matches young Manitoba farmers with mentors who can provide advice and guidance on specific questions and issues. Successful mentoring can happen within families, with parents and grandparents passing on knowledge from one generation to the next. It can also work successfully with experienced mentors from outside a family.

For this program, young farmers are defined as principal managers or operators who are under 40 years old. The applications ask for background on the farm, the farmer's experience and goals and the kinds of questions he/she has. Mentors also complete an application form, describing their experience and background and why they are interested in becoming mentors. MAFRI staff locates the best mentor for each applicant and provides orientation to ensure the expectations of both are clearly understood. The transfer of knowledge from mentor to young farmer depends greatly on mutual trust and respect.

The mentorships are monitored regularly by MAFRI staff so that any difficulties can be resolved early. Both parties evaluate how well their relationship is progressing and how it's meeting the young farmer's needs. Recognizing that mentoring already happens in many multigenerational families, mentors under this program aren't normally close relatives. The program also recognizes that mentors usually volunteer their time. However, financial assistance may be available through the program for a mentor's time and expenses, if required. For details on the program and application forms, contact your local MAFRI GO Team office; or call [Gary Zilkey](#) at (204) 726-6479.

PROVINCIAL INITIATIVES FOR YOUNG FARMERS

As part of the 2007 budget, MAFRI introduced a number of programs designed to help young farmers build their businesses. They include a Young Farm Women Training Program, improving the Young Farmer Rebate through Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation, enhancing the Bridging Generations Initiative, creating a Young Farmer Crop Plan Credit, and establishing a Safe Farm program that will reduce MASC borrowing rates if farms meet a prescribed safe farm status. The news release that details these projects is available online [here](#), and more information can be obtained from MAFRI's Young Farmers Liaison, [Jill Falloon](#), at (204) 726-6381.

KAP'S MEMBER BENEFITS PROGRAM OPEN TO YOUNG FARMERS

KAP has a wide range of member benefits programs that available to young farmers who are KAP members or, if you continue to farm with parents or siblings, if the farm entity has a KAP membership. The program includes everything from special rates on agricultural leasing, Ag Expert management software, marketing information from Pro Farmer Canada, long distance & cell phone packages, travel savings, and group insurance. For more information, visit KAP's [Member Benefits web page](#), email kapbenefits@stratabenefits.ca, or call 1-866-527-0123. *It pays to be a KAP member!*

INTERNATIONAL FARM SUCCESSION CONFERENCE

The Canadian Farm Business Management Council is hosting the 2007 International Farm Succession Conference from August 6 - 8 in Ottawa. The event includes international speakers, plenary sessions, breakout workshops and on-farm tours. Single early-bird registrations are \$275, and family early-bird registrations are \$300 for two people. For more information, contact the CFBMC at 1-888-535-2537 (extension 531) or visit the [conference web site](#).

IDEAS & SUGGESTIONS

We're always looking for suggestions from other young farmers on upcoming events, things you'd like to learn more about, and information to share with others. Contact the KAP office at communications@kap.mb.ca or (204)697-1140.

SHARE YFC INFO WITH OTHERS!

If you know another young farmer who would like to get more information about the YFC and our events, please share this e-newsletter. Anyone interested in receiving it directly can also drop us a line and ask to subscribe. Thanks!

ABOUT KAP & THE YFC

KAP is Manitoba's largest general farm policy organization, and it's our job to represent and promote the interests of Manitoba's farm families. We work on issues like transportation, the environment, research, food safety, taxation, business risk management, and many others. The YFC was formed to help make sure that KAP's work met the needs of the province's young farmers, to ensure that they had an opportunity to build their operations in Manitoba in the future. At the same time, the YFC will provide new opportunities for young farmers in education, leadership, and networking that are tailored to meet your needs. To learn more about the YFC, visit our web site at www.kap.mb.ca/yfc. To learn more about KAP, go to www.kap.mb.ca.