



Last push for online producer survey on seed royalties

Survey to close in mid-October; results to be presented to Federal Ag Minister after election

September 6, 2019 – For Immediate Release – Canadian agricultural producers have until October 15th to share their views on proposed changes to seed royalty structures for cereal crops at seedroyaltysurvey.com.

The online survey was launched in July by the Alberta Federation of Agriculture, the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan and the Keystone Ag Producers of Manitoba. The three prairie farm groups are collecting producer feedback on proposed changes to the way royalties are collected on saved cereal crop seeds, after concerns were raised about the level of producer input in the government's consultation process.

"It's pretty clear in the responses we have received so far that Canadian producers have a lot to say and feel very strongly about the seed royalty issue, and they deserve to be heard. We encourage as many producers as possible to take the survey before October 15th. These changes will affect producers first and foremost, and their views need to be considered in this decision," said Todd Lewis, president of the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan.

"When it comes to the issue of seed royalty structures there is a single payer in every possible model and that is the producer," noted Lynn Jacobson, president of the Alberta Federation of Agriculture. "Harvest is a busy time of year on the farm but taking a few minutes to participate in this survey is one way producers can ensure their voices are heard."

"We have received clear feedback from producers across our three provinces on proposed changes to seed royalty structures, but we want to ensure that with harvest underway we provide the ability for producers to continue to respond during this busy time of year," said Bill Campbell, president of Keystone Agricultural Producers. "Producers need to be involved in the consultation process to ensure that these structures work in their best interest."

After the survey closes, the results will be compiled and presented to the Federal Agriculture Minister after the Federal election.

-30-

For more information, or to arrange an interview please contact:

Shannon Scofield
Executive Director, Alberta Federation of Agriculture
403-789-9151 / shannon.scofield@afaonline.ca

Joey Dearborn
Communications Coordinator, Keystone Agricultural Producers
431-588-3869 / joey.dearborn@kap.ca

Colleen Hennan
Communications and Community Relations Coordinator, Agricultural Producers
Association of Saskatchewan
306-789-7774 ext. 6 / chennan@apas.ca

Background:

The **Alberta Federation of Agriculture** is Alberta's largest producer funded general farm organization. Whenever decisions are being made that affect the province's agricultural industry, AFA is there, providing an effective voice for Alberta's farmers. For more information on AFA, please visit www.afaonline.ca.

The **Keystone Agricultural Producers** is the voice of Manitoba farmers, both member funded and member directed. KAP works with governments, industry and stakeholders on overarching issues that affect all farmers. KAP promotes agriculture and its contributions to the Manitoba and Canadian economies and speaks up on the issues that are important to both crop and livestock producers to affect the changes needed for farmers to remain successful and profitable.

The **Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan** is Saskatchewan's general farm organization – formed to provide farmers and ranchers with a democratically elected, grassroots, non-partisan, producer-run organization. As the united voice of agricultural producers and ranchers in Saskatchewan, APAS strives to represent the views of a wide variety of agricultural stakeholders in order to form comprehensive policies that can benefit all sectors of society. Learn more at APAS.ca.