



# Manitoba Pulse Growers Association Inc.

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January 21st, 2009

## MPGA Welcomes Expansion Of Soybean Crop Insurance Coverage Area

Manitoba Pulse Growers Association (MPGA) is pleased to hear Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation (MASC) will be expanding the crop insurance coverage area for soybeans to cover almost all of southern Manitoba, the Interlake, and areas along the west side of Lake Manitoba. MASC will be implementing a Soybean Insurance Area 3 that will encompass these areas.

MPGA, its members, and Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives (MAFRI) have been working on expanding soybean crop insurance coverage to several areas of the province. Those areas included the RM of Reynolds where a group of farmers had approached MPGA about expanding coverage to that area. MPGA and MAFRI were also involved in collecting data to support the expansion of crop insurance into the Interlake, specifically the Arborg area. With the assistance of growers, industry, and the expertise and hard work of MAFRI, a science based case was built to support an expansion into both regions.

MPGA and its partners have not been working on an expansion to southwestern Manitoba, but are supportive of the decision by MASC to include areas south of Riding Mountain National Park. The proactive move taken by MASC will avoid a piecemeal approach to future expansions. MPGA is confident, with the availability of new short season soybean varieties, that southwestern Manitoba farmers will be able to grow a successful crop.

MPGA Soybean Committee Chair Andrew Saramaga says, "We are very happy to hear the expansion is happening. MPGA and its partners have been working for a number of years on expanding soybean crop insurance coverage, and it's great to see the hard work has paid off." Saramaga continues, "MPGA would like to thank its industry partners and MAFRI for helping to collect the data necessary to provide a new cropping opportunity for growers outside the traditional soybean production zone."

Along with the expansion of the soybean crop insurance coverage area, the dry edible bean crop insurance coverage area has also been expanded to ensure that coverage areas for both soybeans and edible beans are the same.

MPGA encourages growers interested in growing soybeans in 2009 to check with their local MASC office to find out if they are now included in Soybean Insurance Area 3.

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