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**national farmers union**  
*In Union Is Strength*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MARCH 31, 2003**

**CGC PROPOSES EQUIVALENT OF GUN CONTROL FOR GRAIN**

**SASKATOON, Sask.**—The comprehensive variety eligibility declaration (VED) system proposed by the Canadian Grain Commission (CGC) would force all farmers—over 99% of whom never misrepresent grain—to take millions of samples and sign millions of forms each year.

“This is the grain system equivalent of gun control: simple in concept, complex and expensive in practice, burdensome on the honest, and unlikely to catch the ‘criminals.’ Curbing grain system contamination and the misrepresentation of varieties does not require such a cumbersome system. Simpler, cheaper, and more effective solutions exist. The NFU has detailed such alternatives,” said NFU President Stewart Wells in a brief and letter sent today to CGC Assistant Chief Commissioner Terry Harasym.

The CGC has identified a problem: some grain companies and a tiny minority of farmers are misrepresenting their grain varieties: for instance, trying to pass off unlicensed varieties as licensed milling wheats. This puts Canada’s global reputation for top-quality, consistent grain at risk. “The NFU commends the CGC for taking the initiative to identify a problem and propose remedies. But we cannot agree that a comprehensive VED system would be an effective way to deal with this threat,” said Wells.

Currently, grain classes are visually distinguishable and new varieties must meet the criteria of kernel visual distinguishability (KVD). In a January 14, 2003 report, “*A Discussion Paper on the Use of Variety Eligibility Declarations*”, the CGC proposes replacing the KVD system with a variety eligibility declaration (VED) system wherein parties would attest to the varietal makeup of grain. The CGC explains that “Every time grain changes hands, samples would be taken, and declarations signed.”

The NFU told the CGC: “The proposed VED system will be extraordinarily complex in practice when implemented in the real world of commercial trucks, unit trains, and high-throughput elevators. And this complexity will introduce a multitude of opportunities for system contamination and a multitude of costs for farmers.”

The NFU also provided details of measures that would be much less expensive and failure-prone and far more effective at curbing grain system contamination and variety misrepresentation. The NFU brief is on its website: go to [www.nfu.ca](http://www.nfu.ca) and click on “Briefs”

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