



THE SMALL AND
FAMILY FARMS
ALLIANCE



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**LEARN FROM THE CANADIAN EXPERIENCE WITH GM CROPS:
NFU DELEGATION TELLS UK FARMERS**

SWIFT CURRENT, Sask.—NFU President Stewart Wells and farmer-members Lyle Wright and Wayne Amos arrived home today from the United Kingdom. They spent the past week meeting with farmers and others to provide a more realistic appraisal of the costs and benefits of genetically-modified (GM) crops. The UK government will soon make a decision on whether it will authorize the planting of GM crops.

“Farmers in the UK are currently receiving a best-case-scenario from the companies that stand to profit from the commercialization of GM crops. Predictably, the benefits of GM crops are being oversold, and the costs undersold. We went to the UK to make farmers aware of the hidden costs of GM crops,” said NFU President Stewart Wells.

Farmers in Canada are only now becoming fully aware of those hidden costs, which include: increased chemical costs to control herbicide-resistant volunteers, higher seed costs, market loss, and the destruction of organic and non-GM options.

NFU member and Kerrobert-area farmer Lyle Wright catalogued many of the negative experiences of Canadian farmers with GM crops and asked: “Why would UK farmers expect that their experiences with GM crops would be any better than ours? In fact, with smaller fields, more consumer resistance, and more pressure to protect the environment, it is likely that the UK’s experience with GM crops would be more negative than Canada’s.”

The Canadian NFU delegation has met with farmers, farm organizations, government officials and staff, and MPs. “British citizens, farmers, and farm organizations have been very receptive and eager to learn about the Canadian experience,” said NFU member and Oxbow-area farmer Wayne Amos.

The NFU delegation was hosted by the UK’s Small and Family Farmers Alliance (SFFA).

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