

National Office
2717 Wentz Ave.
Saskatoon, Sask.
S7K 4B6
Tel (306) 652-9465
Fax (306) 664-6226



national farmers union
In Union Is Strength

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FARM ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD OPPOSE \$3 MILLION PROGRAM CAPS

REGINA, Sask.—“Any so-called farm organization that supports multi-million-dollar caps should be ashamed. These organizations are using farmers’ funds to promote the interests of corporate agri-business,” said NFU President Stewart Wells.

Wells was commenting on continuing plans to increase farm safety net caps to \$3 million per operation. Wells was in Regina yesterday to participate in a meeting between farm leaders and new Minister of Agriculture Bob Speller. Speller and Sask. Minister of Agriculture Clay Serby announced that that Province would sign on to the Agriculture Policy Framework (APF).

Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) member organizations such as the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS) support raising caps from their current \$975,000 level up to \$3 million. Other CFA members such as the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) and Prince Edward Island Federation of Agriculture (PEIFA) have not yet taken a position on the issue. “Farm organizations should actively condemn any moves toward multi-million dollar caps,” said Wells.

NFU Ontario Coordinator Don Mills agreed: “These high caps will essentially allow huge, corporate operations to pick the pockets of family farmers. While it is inappropriate for government to facilitate this, it is incomprehensible that so-called farm organizations would support it. I would anticipate that other general farm organizations representing farmers in Ontario will condemn raising the caps.”

NFU Prince Edward Island Board member Ranald MacFarlane said that “It is obvious that a \$3 million cap is not aimed at family farm operations in PEI. All farm organizations on the Island should be opposed to a \$3 million cap.”

The NFU has written to the Minister of Agriculture asking that he set caps under the new Canadian Agricultural Income Support (CAIS) Program at \$400,000 per operation per year. A \$400,000 cap would provide complete coverage to 95% of Canadian farms and significant coverage to the remaining 5%.

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For More Information:

Stewart Wells, NFU President: (306) 773-6852
Ranald MacFarlane, NFU Board member: (902) 887-2917
Don Mills, Ontario NFU Coordinator: (519) 225-2163
Darrin Qualman, Executive Secretary: (306) 652-9465