

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



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JUNE 12, 2002

**FARM ORGANIZATIONS AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS MUST PRESENT
UNIFIED FRONT ON QUESTION OF FEDERAL FARM AID**

REGINA, Sask.— As a result of yesterday's meeting between the government of Saskatchewan and farm organizations, the NFU has two messages.

First, the NFU urges all provincial governments and farm organizations to stick together on the call for a Free Trade Injury Payment of \$1.3 billion, totally funded by the federal government. "We are in the position where several farm organizations and provincial governments are attempting to sell agricultural policy to a single buyer—the Federal government. In this situation, where the number of sellers is much higher than the number of buyers, the first government or organization to sell out sets the 'floor price' for everyone else. This rule is just as true for farm policy as it is for farm commodities," said Wells.

Second, the NFU urges provincial governments to ensure that they have a firm commitment for a federally-funded Free Trade Injury payment of \$1.3 billion *before* they sign on to the new Agricultural Policy Framework (APF). "Provincial leaders have a unique opportunity at this time to put effective pressure on the Federal government to shape the Ag. Policy Framework and to secure immediate aid. The order in which pieces of the puzzle come together is very important—the federally-funded Free Trade Injury payment must be secured before provincial leaders agree to sign onto the APF," said Wells.

The National Farmers Union was one of the first Canadian farm organizations to identify the current farm income crisis, in 1998. Since then, the NFU has been consistent in calling for federal government funds to deal with a farm crisis caused by trade and investment agreements, globalization of commodity markets, corporate concentration, and a swiftly-growing imbalance in market power between farmers and agri-business transnationals.

— 30 —

For More Information:

Stewart Wells, NFU President: (306) 773-6852 OR (306) 741-7694
Darrin Qualman, Exec. Sec.: (306) 652-9465