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national farmers union
In Union Is Strength

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CWB ADVANTAGES WILL CONTINUE TO FLOW

SWIFT CURRENT, Sask.—“The tap will stay turned on. The ‘Wheat Board Advantage’ money will keep flowing to farmers. Farmers have given themselves an early Christmas present in these Canadian Wheat Board elections,” said NFU President Stewart Wells. He was commenting on recently-announced CWB election results.

Independent economists have quantified the CWB’s average single-desk price premiums to farmers at more than \$265 million annually for wheat and more than \$72 million annually for barley. “This election fight was over whether farmers continue to receive hundreds-of-millions-of-dollars in extra benefits from CWB marketing. Farmers have made a clear choice and a smart business decision,” said Wells.

Candidates that supported a strong, single-desk CWB and continued single-desk price premiums for farmers won 4 out of 5 Directors’ positions.

This election continues a string of victories for the farmers who want to maintain a strong CWB: numerous CWB Advisory Committee wins, the 1997 “Barley Vote”, and the 1998 and 2000 CWB Directors’ Elections. “Farmers have consistently voted for a strong, single-desk Canadian Wheat Board,” said Wells.

“Pro-Board Candidates won against the combined forces of the Premier of Alberta, Monsanto interference, and unreported money funneled through CARE,” said Wells.

The National Farmers Union was the only farm organization that registered as a Third-Party Intervenor in these elections. “When there is \$265 million plus at stake, why aren’t other organizations active in support of farmers?” asked Wells.

Wells was pleased to see that farmers took seriously some candidates’ conflicts of interest. “It is gratifying to see that farmers stayed away from candidates in cases where it was revealed that they had secretly received benefits from Monsanto—Albert Wagner and Greg Porozni,” said Wells.

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