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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SCIENTISTS DEFINE LINK BETWEEN
GLYPHOSATE HERBICIDES AND FUSARIUM**

SWIFT CURRENT, Sask.— "Agriculture Canada scientists at Swift Current, Sask. have identified the use of glyphosate formulations, like Monsanto's Roundup, as a factor contributing to increased levels of fusarium," says Stewart Wells, President of the National Farmers Union (NFU). "And because Roundup Ready Wheat demands the use of more glyphosate, it is now time for the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) to reject Monsanto's application for genetically-modified Roundup Ready Wheat", continued Wells.

An abstract of a paper to be delivered in Winnipeg on December 10 outlines the findings of the scientists. The abstract can be found by looking at the program listing on www.umanitoba.ca/afs/agronomists_conf/, and then looking for the presentation on fusarium.

In the Swift Current study, 648 wheat fields were sampled over four years. The results showed that previous use of glyphosate formulations was a significant factor in the incidence of fusarium. (Fusarium can be a devastating disease in wheat, but other strains of fusarium also attack other crops like potatoes, cotton, soy beans, etc.) In part, the abstract states, "Glyphosate formulation application in the previous 18 months was significantly associated with higher fusarium head blight levels every year..."

This latest study comes on the heels of laboratory results, conducted in Swift Current and released in 2002, that showed that some glyphosate herbicides, including Monsanto's Roundup, acted as a growth promoter for fusarium and some other plant diseases.

"We know that the Canadian Food Inspection Agency is aware of the problem. We have written to them twice on the subject, and they have responded once," said Wells. (Copies of these letters are available upon request.) "It is now time for the CFIA to act on the information available and reject Monsanto's application for genetically-modified Roundup Ready Wheat," concluded Wells.

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