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**national farmers union**  
*In Union Is Strength*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**NEW EVIDENCE PRESENTED: GLYPHOSATE HERBICIDE USE  
INCREASES FUSARIUM DAMAGE IN WHEAT**

**SWIFT CURRENT, Sask.**—“We now have scientific research that shows an unequivocal correlation between the use of glyphosate formulations (like Monsanto's Roundup) and increased fusarium disease in wheat”, said NFU President Stewart Wells. “This is the first time scientists have looked at the role that glyphosate formulations might play in increasing fusarium levels in wheat, and the results are overwhelming.”

Wells was commenting after attending yesterday's Manitoba Agronomists Conference where Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada scientist Dr. Myriam Fernandez presented the results of her research. Fernandez and colleagues collected samples from 648 Saskatchewan wheat fields over four years. The samples were indexed for both the incidence and severity of fusarium. The results showed a direct correlation between applications of glyphosate and fusarium incidence and severity. In the four-year study, glyphosate herbicides increased the fusarium levels in wheat in all four years, even the two dry years in the study.

“This new research is immensely significant for farmers in Ontario, Manitoba, and all across Canada. While the samples were collected in Saskatchewan fields, glyphosate herbicides are widely used across Canada,” said Wells. This new study on wheat crops will add to a wealth of literature on the subject of glyphosate formulations creating extra disease pressure on other plants, such as soybeans.

“This year, the NFU has already written two letters to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency on the subject of fusarium and formulations of glyphosate, and we will be writing again in light of this new information,” said Wells.

“The NFU will be asking the CFIA to reject Monsanto's application for its genetically-modified (GM) Roundup Ready wheat on the basis of the information that glyphosate herbicides increase fusarium disease in wheat. Roundup Ready wheat forces farmers to use more glyphosate herbicides in their cropping practises,” said Wells

Wells concluded: “In light of this new evidence, one of two things has to happen: either CFIA must reject Monsanto's application or Monsanto must beat them to it and voluntarily withdraw its application. Once this application is rejected, or Monsanto withdraws, the NFU will push for a complete overhaul of the way GM crops are evaluated and approved. Our work on GM dairy hormones in the 1990s, on GM flax, and on GM wheat over the past five years has shown us that Canada's approval process is deeply flawed. GM wheat raises clear threats of market loss, increased agronomic costs, and, now, increased disease losses. And our approval system has revealed itself to be ill-equipped to deal with these problems.”

A synopsis of Fernandez's paper on fusarium is available at:

[www.umanitoba.ca/afs/agronomists\\_conf/fernandez.html](http://www.umanitoba.ca/afs/agronomists_conf/fernandez.html)

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