

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

JANUARY 14, 2002

**PRODUCER CAR LOADING:
NFU ASKS CGC TO GIVE FARMERS MORE TIME TO COMMENT**

SWIFT CURRENT, Sask.—The NFU today requested that the Canadian Grain Commission (CGC) extend the deadline for feedback on proposed changes to producer car loading regulations.

In a letter to Chief Commissioner Barry Senft, NFU President Stewart Wells said: "The CGC discussion document raises many points for consideration. The proposed changes are wide-ranging and there is potential to make producer car loading less attractive to farmers." Wells asked the CGC to extend the deadline for written submissions to March 1, 2002.

Farmers in west central Saskatchewan have completed several producer-car loading facilities. The CGC, bowing to grain company pressure, had originally announced that it would require producer car loading facilities to obtain licenses as primary elevators. This, despite the fact that the producer facilities, unlike elevators, do not take ownership of farmers' grain or commingle that grain.

In the face of widespread farmer objections, the CGC backed off from its original position and called for a study. The CGC circulated a discussion paper in December entitled "Review Of Regulation Of Producer Car Loading Facilities". The CGC had asked that farmers comment on the discussion paper by February 1, 2002.

Farmers won the effective right to load producer cars in the 1902 Sinaluta case. That right was enshrined in the 1912 Canada Grain Act. Producer cars have always been an important check on grain company power and on increasing elevator charges. With the loss of branchlines and the increased distances to sidings, farmers who want to load producer cars increasingly need to use producer car storage and loading facilities. The decision to require primary elevator licenses for such facilities dramatically undermines farmers' effective access to producer cars as a competitive remedy.

Wells concluded the NFU letter by saying, "The National Farmers Union believes that the regulations pertaining to producer cars are extremely important to all farmers, including the farmers that are not presently loading producer cars. I hope that you will agree that the producer car issue is of sufficient importance to farmers and the Canadian Grain Commission to warrant a four-week extension to the comment period."

— 30 —

For more information, contact:

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