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national farmers union

In Union Is Strength

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Federal Refusal to Act Costs Farmers Millions

Saskatoon, SK - The federal government's refusal to grant the Canadian Wheat Board's (CWB) request to increase prices for wheat and barley is costing prairie farmers millions, according to the National Farmers Union (NFU). Seven weeks have passed since the CWB made its second request to the government, and more than two months have passed since the CWB made its first request.

Each year prairie farmers receive an initial payment for the grain they sell through the CWB, and if grain prices increase during the year that initial payment is increased. Also, many farmers have large bills that are due at the end of October, and if these payments are missed large interest rates are charged right back to the time last spring when fertilizer and chemical are picked up from the dealers.

"In the summer of 2010 there was a substantial increase in grain prices, and the CWB requested increased payments way back in September," said NFU Region 6 Coordinator Glenn Tait. "But the Conservative government is just sitting on its hands and is refusing to grant the increase. This refusal to act by the government is costing farmers millions of dollars," continued Tait.

"It is justified to accuse this Conservative government of meddling in the on-going 2010 CWB Director elections," stated Tait. "They have employed all sorts of dirty tricks to destroy the CWB since 2006, and not allowing money collected from grain sales to be paid to farmers by the CWB is just another one of those dirty tricks. The government is obviously hoping that farmers can be deceived into thinking that the CWB is responsible for the low initial prices when the real culprit is the government," concluded Tait.

"There is no question that the Conservative government was surprised and hurt that farmers overwhelmingly supported the CWB in the CWB Director elections in 2008. Their refusal to grant the CWB's request for increased grain prices now can be seen as retribution—punishment of the farmers that want to control our own marketing and meddling in the Director elections," argued Tait.

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