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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**BATTLE RIVER RAILWAY NEW GENERATION COOPERATIVE LEADERS WIN NFU  
GRASSROOTS MEMBERSHIP AWARDS**

**Saskatoon, Sask.** – National Farmers Union (NFU) Grassroots Membership Awards were won by three of the core leaders in the Battle River Railway New Generation (BRRNG) Cooperative, highlighting their enormous achievements in setting up the new shortline railway. The award winners are Ken Eshpeter from Daysland, Reg Enright from Rosalind, and John Oberg from Forestburg. The Grassroots Membership Awards were recently announced at the NFU's 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention held from December 2-4, 2010 in Saskatoon.

Since 2003 farmers have cooperatively used sidings along the rail line from Camrose south-east towards Alliance, in six communities, in order to load producer cars with grain. Use of this shortline has effectively lowered these farmers' transportation and grain handling costs. "If farmers work together, mountains can be moved", says Dennis Freadrich, grain farmer from Forestburg, active as a producer car loader, and a leader in the new cooperative.

After CN announced a discontinuation of services on the Camrose-Alliance line, it was put out for tender. A group of farmers, led by Eshpeter, Enright, and Oberg, decided to form their own cooperative shortline railway. They subsequently raised several millions of dollars and purchased the line in 2010, and the BRRNG Cooperative was established.

Farmers were loading an average of 525 producer cars per year on the Camrose-Alliance line, between 2003 and 2010. The BRRNG Cooperative now plans on moving up to a thousand cars on the track. The aim is to save costs, revitalize local rural communities, and reduce the carbon footprint of transportation.

The BRRNG Cooperative purchased its own locomotive in order to pull the first 50 car train to Camrose in the second week of December. From Camrose the shipment will move to the coast on the CN Rail or CP Rail main rail tracks.

"If farmers in six communities work together, the impossible becomes reality," stated Freadrich.

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