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national farmers union
In Union Is Strength

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JULY 27, 2005

NFU OUTLINES CONCERNS TO MANITOBA OFFICIAL OPPOSITION CAUCUS

WINNIPEG, Manitoba – Over a million acres of Manitoba farmland won't yield a crop this year due to severe flooding and excess moisture conditions. For family farmers, it is a desperate situation, according to the National Farmers Union.

In a presentation to the Manitoba Official Opposition caucus at the provincial Legislature in Winnipeg July 27, Manitoba NFU Coordinator Ken Sigurdson outlined the farm organization's four-point emergency plan to deal with the immediate crisis.

The four-point proposal includes the following measures:

1. Removal of the deductible for Crop Insurance payments, and an immediate \$50/acre payment for unseeded acres;
2. Implementation of a feed and straw freight assistance program;
3. Immediate write-off of all crops that are water-stressed and have little or no production capability, without requiring farmers to go through the unnecessary expense of spraying and harvesting for crop insurance purposes;
4. Implementation of an immediate debt moratorium, which would remain in place for a minimum of 2 years, and would include all financial institutions.

Failure to implement emergency measures could see many Manitoba farmers go out of business by the fall, said Sigurdson.

The meeting between the NFU delegation and the Manitoba Progressive Conservative (PC) Caucus was set up in the wake of the Government's decision to cancel a meeting with the NFU scheduled for the end of June. Attempts are still being made by the NFU to meet with the Government before harvest.

The NFU presentation also dealt with other issues, including:

1. the escalating long-term farm income crisis and proposed solutions to restore farmers' power in the marketplace;
2. the recently-passed Bill 33, which reduces the ability of rural municipalities and rural citizens to set conditions for proposed industrial hog barns;
3. Concerns about deteriorating quality of the province's surface and groundwater supplies.

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