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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**JUNE 29, 2005**

**GRAIN, LIVESTOCK ISSUES FOCUS OF NFU SASKATCHEWAN MEETING**

How will the introduction of Rapid Visco Analyser (RVA) technology to test falling number<sup>1</sup> in wheat affect the current visual grading system for Canadian grain?

That is one of the questions **Donna Welke, Assistant Commissioner for Saskatchewan with the Canadian Grain Commission**, will deal with when she addresses the regional convention of the National Farmers Union (NFU) in Laird, Saskatchewan next week.

Don Kelsey, a farmer from Choiceland who serves as Saskatchewan Regional Coordinator of the NFU, says the upcoming convention is aimed at providing information on grain and livestock issues to the province's farmers.

The Saskatchewan NFU Regional convention is slated for the Community Hall in Laird, beginning at 9:15. Welke, based out of the CGC office in Regina, is one of several keynote speakers on the agenda. She is slated to speak at 10:45 AM on "Protecting Canada's grain quality system."

Other speakers include:

- ◆ **Terry Boehm, NFU Vice-President** (9:45 AM) - update on the NFU Seed Saver Campaign and the initiative for Seed Savers' Legislation;
- ◆ **Larry Erber, Executive-Director of the Saskatchewan Independent Meat Processors Association** (11:30 AM) – "Two years after BSE: What's ahead for farmers and independent processors?"
- ◆ **Ian McCreary, Director, Canadian Wheat Board** (1:00 PM) – Trade and Transportation Challenges
- ◆ **Jim Robbins, Farmer Rail Car Coalition** (2:00 PM) – Update on negotiations with the federal government on the transfer of the hopper car fleet
- ◆ **Stewart Wells, NFU President** (4:15 PM) – an overview of the NFU's successes of the past year and strategies for the coming year

The meeting is open to the public, and all farmers are encouraged to attend. Lunch and supper are provided at nominal cost. Laird is located west of Rosthern off Highway 312.

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<sup>1</sup> "Falling Number" is the internationally standardized method for determining alpha-amylase activity, detection of sprout damage and measurement of wheat soundness. For more information, see "Laboratory Testing Services" on the Canadian Grain Commission website: <[www.grainscanada.gc.ca](http://www.grainscanada.gc.ca)>

*Terry Pugh, NFU Executive-Secretary (306) 652-9465*