

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

NOVEMBER 23, 2005

**TAXPAYERS SUPPORT FARMERS TODAY,
MARKETS MUST SUPPORT FARMERS TOMORROW**

"Canadian farm families are very grateful for the ongoing generosity of taxpayers. Today's announcement is the latest in a series that have seen urgently-needed dollars flow to struggling farmers across Canada," said NFU President Stewart Wells.

"But for the good of farmers and taxpayers alike, farmers must once again succeed in recovering their full costs from the marketplace. Such an outcome would mean that these regular tax-funded bailouts could end," he continued.

Wells said that the end of the farm crisis is close at hand if only the government would act. "The government's report, *Empowering Canadian Farmers in the Marketplace*, points the way toward farm prosperity. Similarly, the NFU has a 16-point plan that would restore farmers' ability to reap positive net incomes from the markets. And measures such as modest land set-aside programs promise swift and significant price increases for all farmers," said Wells.

Modest, predictable, multi-country set-aside agreements could raise world grain prices dramatically in just a few months. "In five of the last six years, the world consumed more grain than it produced. Global grain supplies are at their lowest level in 30 years. And every six years we add the population equivalent of a North America. Talk of overproduction is a smokescreen. Demand is outstripping supply. But farmers' prices aren't reflecting this," said Wells.

He continued, "A government initiative to take a small amount of land out of production could help force our highly-concentrated markets to react to the *real* supply and demand situation and to return fair prices to farmers. And this need not mean higher supermarket prices—the few pennies per loaf of bread or per box of corn flakes needed to pay farmers can come out of a rebalancing of revenues and profits between farmers and the corporations that dominate the rest of the food chain," said Wells.

Wells concluded: "Farm prosperity is within our grasp. Taxpayers and farmers will all benefit if we end the farm crisis. For the good of all, the Canadian government must find the courage to act to end this crisis," concluded Wells.

— 30 —

For More Information:

Stewart Wells, NFU President:	(306) 773-6852
Don Mills, Ontario NFU Coordinator:	(519) 225-2163
Darrin Qualman, Director of Research:	(306) 652-9465