

National Office
2717 Wentz Ave.
Saskatoon, Sask.
S7K 4B6
Tel (306) 652-9465
Fax (306) 664-6226
E-Mail: nfu@nfu.ca



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NOT MUCH TO LOOK FORWARD TO WITH SASKATCHEWAN BUDGET

The National Farmers Union (NFU) is disappointed the Saskatchewan Government failed to provide any substantial investment in family-farm agriculture in its latest Provincial Budget.

Don Kelsey, NFU Saskatchewan Coordinator, said the Budget merely reiterated previous commitments from the government of \$98 million for CAIS, \$100 million for crop insurance and \$67 million for rural education property tax relief. But it did not contain any new announcements of bridge funding for financially hard-pressed producers.

“Many areas of the province are still suffering from weather-related disasters,” Kelsey noted. “And there is no recognition that provincial support is needed to solidify and strengthen farmers’ collective economic power in the marketplace.” Kelsey pointed out that the average Saskatchewan farmer’s net income from the markets in 2006 is expected to be *negative* \$27,000. At the same time, corporate agribusiness profits are at record or near-record levels.

The NFU met with the Provincial Government on March 28, and recommended a number of initiatives which would have helped alleviate short term crisis and laid the foundation for overcoming the long-term structural problems of the marketplace. A copy of the brief presented to the Saskatchewan Government can be downloaded from the NFU website (www.nfu.ca).

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Contact: Don Kelsey, NFU Saskatchewan Coordinator (306) 428-2258
Lori Erhardt, NFU Saskatchewan Board member (306) 483-2963
Terry Pugh, NFU Executive-Secretary (306) 652-9465