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national farmers union
In Union Is Strength

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JULY 25, 2006

CWB: OUR BOARD, OUR BUSINESS - AGENDA SET FOR JULY 27 MEETING

An impressive list of speakers representing farm organizations across Canada are confirmed for a pro-Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) meeting July 27 in Saskatoon.

“CWB: Our Board, Our Business” is the theme for an open, public meeting set for the Delta Bessborough Hotel beginning at 1:30 PM. The meeting is organized by the National Farmers Union (NFU) in close cooperation with the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA).

Farm organization officials scheduled to speak at the meeting include CFA President Bob Friesen, NFU President Stewart Wells, Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP) President David Rolfe, Wild Rose Agricultural Producers (WRAP) President Bill Dobson, and CWB Director Ian McCreary. Friesen, Rolfe and Dobson will be speaking via phone hookup from the CFA meeting in Newfoundland.

Manitoba Agriculture Minister Rosann Wowchuk; Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister Mark Wartman; Hon. Ralph Goodale; Hon. Wayne Easter – federal Liberal Agriculture Critic; and Charlie Angus – former federal NDP Agriculture Critic; have all agreed to speak at the meeting.

In addition, representatives of organic farmers, producer car loading groups, cooperatives and credit unions, independent grain terminals, the Hudson Bay Route Association and commodity organizations will present statements on why the CWB makes good business sense for farmers.

An outdoor public rally in Kiwanis Park (next to the Bessborough Hotel) begins at 10:00 AM featuring entertainment by the Carlton Quackgrass Band. Registration for the public meeting begins at 11:00 AM.

NFU President Stewart Wells said this open, public gathering shows that the majority of farmers support the CWB and want to have the final say in the future of their marketing agency. “The CWB is our Board, and it is vital to the future of our business,” he said. “The federal government does not have the mandate to weaken the effectiveness of the CWB.”

A “marketing choice” roundtable organized for the same day in Saskatoon by MP David Anderson is closed to both the media and the public. At that meeting, representatives of the Winnipeg Commodity Exchange, the George Morris Centre, the Frontier Centre, the Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association, the Canadian Federation of Independent Business and others will be mapping out ways of implementing an open market for wheat and barley.

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CWB:

Our Board, Our Business

July 27, 2006 – Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

**Sponsored by the National Farmers Union in cooperation with
The Canadian Federation of Agriculture**

Agenda

- 10:00 AM – public rally in Kiwanis Park – entertainment by Carlton Quackgrass Band
- mike for farmers to speak in support of CWB (2 minute time limit)
- lunch available from nearby cafes and outdoor concession vendor on 21st
1:00 PM – conclusion of rally – move to Battleford Room in Delta Bessborough Hotel

Meeting – Battleford Room – Delta Bessborough Hotel

- 1:30 PM– Opening remarks by Wilfred Harder, Chairperson
1:40 PM – **Bev Stow**, National Farmers Union Board member, Manitoba
1:50 PM – **Bill Gehl**, Canadian Organic Certification Cooperative
2:00 PM – **Bob Friesen**, President, Canadian Federation of Agriculture (phone)
2:10 PM – **David Rolfe**, President, Keystone Agricultural Producers (phone)
2:20 PM - **Bill Dobson** – Wild Rose Agricultural Producers (phone)
2:30 PM – **Hon. Ralph Goodale**, Member of Parliament, former Minister for CWB
2:40 PM – **Hon. Mark Wartman**, Saskatchewan Minister of Agriculture and Food
2:50 PM – **Bill Woods**, West Central Road and Rail
3:00 PM – **Charlie Angus**, Member of Parliament, former NDP Ag Critic (phone)
3:10 PM – **Hon. Rosann Wowchuk**, Manitoba Agriculture Minister & Deputy Premier
3:20 PM – **Hon. Wayne Easter**, Member of Parliament, Liberal Agriculture Critic
3:30 PM – **Don Kinzie**, 2nd Vice-President, Hudson Bay Route Association
3:40 PM – **Warren Crossman**, Canadian Co-operative Association
3:50 PM – **Ken Eshpeter**, President, Battle River Producer Car Group
4:00 PM – **Everett Tanis**, Treasurer, Alberta Soft Wheat Producers Commission
4:10 PM – **Paul Stow**, Mission Terminal Inc.
4:20 PM – **Ian McCreary**, Director, Canadian Wheat Board
4:30 PM – **Stewart Wells**, President, National Farmers Union
4:40 PM – Presentation of action strategy
4:45 PM – Adjourn