

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



national farmers union
In Union Is Strength

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JULY 20, 2006

“OUR BOARD – OUR BUSINESS” THEME OF JULY 27 PRO-CWB MEETING

“Our Board – Our Business” is the theme of a pro-Canadian Wheat Board public meeting scheduled for Saskatoon July 27.

The meeting, which will be open to farmers from across western Canada, is being organized by the National Farmers Union in cooperation with the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) and a wide range of other farm organizations. The farm organizations are united in the demand that all farmers should have the final decision over collective marketing of Canadian grain.

“The majority of farmers in western Canada support a strong Canadian Wheat Board and single-desk selling for wheat and barley,” stated NFU President Stewart Wells. “Unfortunately, a vocal minority who want to destroy the CWB now have the ear of government.”

The pro-CWB meeting coincides with a “roundtable” on so-called “marketing choice” which is being organized by David Anderson, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, Chuck Strahl. The roundtable, also planned for Saskatoon on July 27, aims to legitimize the government’s objective of destroying the single-desk sales ability of the CWB. The government’s process involves a hand-picked “rent-a-crowd” for a meeting with a predetermined outcome. As CFA President Bob Friesen noted in comments released earlier this month, this roundtable puts the cart before the horse: “If the government is convinced this is the direction farmers want then give farmers a chance to clearly say it through a plebiscite.”

Wells said the CWB is able to obtain premium prices for high-quality Canadian grain, and compete head-to-head with foreign-owned multinational grain companies, because of the single-desk. “The CWB puts an estimated \$2 million extra per day into farmers’ pockets,” he said.

The so-called “dual market” promoted by government is not realistic, he added. “The real choice is a single-desk that operates in farmers’ interests or an open market dominated by five global grain companies that operate in their own interests.”

An outdoor rally – featuring music by the Carlton Quackgrass Band - is scheduled for the late morning of July 27. The meeting begins at 1:30 PM at the Delta Bessborough. Confirmed speakers at the meeting include NFU President Stewart Wells; CFA President Bob Friesen; Keystone Agricultural Producers President David Rolfe; Hon. Wayne Easter, Federal Liberal Agriculture Critic; Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister Mark Wartman, Charlie Angus MP, representing the federal NDP. Other farm and rural organizations invited include UPA President Laurent Pellerin; Farmer Rail Car Coalition; the Hudson Bay Route Association; Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities; Wild Rose Agricultural Producers; Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan; producer-car loading facilities and others.

- 30 -

Contact: Stewart Wells, NFU President (306) 773-6852 or (306) 741-7694
 Terry Pugh, NFU Executive-Secretary (306) 652-9465