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national farmers union
In Union Is Strength

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NFU TO HOLD SASKATCHEWAN REGIONAL CONVENTION JULY 5 AND 6:

Farmers from across Saskatchewan will be meeting at Wapiti Valley Regional Park near Melfort next week to focus on grains, livestock, transportation and disaster relief issues.

The Saskatchewan regional convention of the National Farmers Union (NFU) is slated for July 5 and 6. The meeting begins at 1:30 PM on July 5.

Don Kelsey of Choiceland, NFU Saskatchewan Regional Coordinator, said Saskatchewan family farmers are dealing with the effects of the worst farm income crisis in decades. "Many areas of the province are still suffering from weather-related disasters," he said. "And there is no recognition from either the provincial or federal governments that farmers' economic power in the marketplace needs to be strengthened." He pointed out 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.

Speakers at the NFU Saskatchewan regional convention include:

- ◆ **Lorne Thomson**, CEO of NESCO Meats, a producer-owned livestock slaughter and processing plant located at Melfort, SK;
- ◆ **Terry Boehm**, NFU Vice-President, speaking on proposed changes to the Crop Variety Registration system, and the recent review of the Canadian Grain Commission;
- ◆ **Doug Hoffus**, a farmer from the Porcupine Plain/Bjorkdale area, who will talk about the need for disaster relief for flood-stricken regions of the province;
- ◆ **Jim Robbins**, Vice-Chair of the Farmer Rail Car Coalition;
- ◆ Allen Oberg, farmer-elected Director of the Canadian Wheat Board, speaking on the World Trade Organization negotiations and the implications for the CWB;
- ◆ **Terry Crush**, President of the Saskatchewan Surface Rights Association, speaking on farmers' and landowners' rights in dealing with oil and gas drilling companies;
- ◆ **Dave Core**, Canadian Alliance of Pipeline Landowners Associations, will talk about the proposed Enbridge and TransCanada pipelines in the west, and the CAPLA class action lawsuit.

In addition, resolutions put forward at the meeting will be debated. Elections will also be held for three members to represent Saskatchewan on the NFU Board of Directors, as well as representatives on the Youth Advisory Committee and the Women's Advisory Committee.

The NFU is a nation-wide, direct-membership organization made up of farm families. The NFU promotes policies which promote environmental stewardship and strengthen the family-farm system of food production.

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