

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

JANUARY 8, 2007

CANADIAN GOVERNMENT TARGETING SUPPLY MANAGEMENT AT WTO

The federal government is intent on undermining Canada's supply-management sectors at the World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations, says Stewart Wells, President of the National Farmers Union (NFU).

Wells said the fact that federal trade Minister David Emerson retained his portfolio following the Cabinet shuffle last week proves the government is being misleading when it claims it will defend supply-management at the world trade negotiations. Emerson embarrassed the Harper government by being candid when he told a reporter for the *Western Producer* newspaper that supply-management would be sacrificed to achieve long-term free trade objectives. When the article appeared in the December 21, 2006 edition of the *Western Producer*, the federal government issued a press release to contain the damage. But a follow-up article in the January 4, 2007 edition of the *Western Producer* contains additional evidence the government is not committed to protecting farmers.

Wells said the Harper government's single-minded and anti-democratic actions aimed at dismantling the Canadian Wheat Board's orderly marketing system should also send a warning to the supply-managed sectors in agriculture. "The CWB increases farmers' marketing power by means of the single-desk advantage," he said. "There are many similarities with supply-management."

- 30 -

Contact: Stewart Wells, NFU President (306) 741-7694
Ranald MacFarlane, NFU Atlantic Coordinator (902) 887-2917
Harold Culberson, NFU New Brunswick (506) 375-6595
Don Mills, NFU Ontario Coordinator (519) 225-2163
Fred Tait, NFU Manitoba Coordinator (204) 252-2773
Don Kelsey, NFU Saskatchewan Coordinator (306) 428-2258
Jan Slomp, NFU Alberta Coordinator (403) 843-2068
Peter Eggers, NFU Peace River area/BC Coordinator (780) 568-3805
Terry Pugh, NFU Executive-Secretary (306) 652-9465