

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**

**MARCH 23, 2007**

**NFU PRESIDENT HOLDS PRODUCTIVE MEETING WITH NB AG MINISTER**

National Farmers Union president Stewart Wells and members of the New Brunswick NFU membership committee met on Tuesday, March 20, with Minister of Agriculture and Aquaculture Ronald Ouellette, Deputy Minister T. Byron James, and Assistant Deputy Minister, Kevin J. McKendry at the NB Legislature in Fredericton.

Both Wells and Ouellette described the one hour meeting as interesting and positive.

Under discussion was the implementation of the *Agricultural Producers Registration and Farm Organizations Funding Act*, known as the Stable Funding Act (Bill 71).

This bill allows for certification of more than one general farm organization, provided each organization meets the province's criteria of both number and geographic representation. Once regulations are in place, producers will be asked to register and pay a fee in order to gain access to farm vehicle plates, tax exempt fuel cards, and certain government services.

Farmers will be asked to indicate which organization they wish to support with their fees as Registered Professional Agricultural Producers. The fee structure will be based on the producers' gross farm income.

The NFU has been conducting a membership campaign in NB, advocating that farmers should have a choice of general farm organizations. The NFU has been a presence in the province since the early 1970's. The Agricultural Alliance of NB, a recent amalgamation of English and French CFA affiliates, is currently the only other general farm organization in the province.

By joining the NFU now, before the accreditation process takes place, committee members point out that farmers can help to ensure they will have a choice when they are asked to register.

Ouellette told the NFU President and committee members that the government encourages the application of general farm groups other than the Agricultural Alliance to apply for accreditation, saying, "It's good for producers."

All agreed that in the end, it will be up to the producers to choose what they want in terms of representation.

- 30 -

Contact:        Stewart Wells, NFU President (306) 773-6852 or (306) 741-7694  
                     Barb Somerville, NFU Membership Coordinator (506) 246-5583