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national farmers union
In Union Is Strength

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARCH 2, 2007

STRAHL SNUBS FACTS, HAND-PICKED CEO, AND TRUTH

Yesterday in Ottawa, Greg Arason, CEO of the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) contradicted Agriculture Minister Chuck Strahl, and went on to chastise the Minister for putting partisan politics ahead of the truth.

During testimony before the House of Commons Agriculture Committee in Ottawa, Arason indicated that “a number of parties, including Members of Parliament,” have stated publicly and in printed material that the CWB has been underselling the market for durum wheat.

Strahl himself is on record in the February 8 edition of the Western Producer as stating: “They (the CWB) sell way below market” in reference to sales to Algeria.

Arason directly contradicted the Minister’s statement by saying: “This information is not factual.” He went on to say: “I would like to state unequivocally that sales of durum to Algeria have been made at competitive market prices, which are not discounted or low,” adding that the CWB had obtained premiums over competitors in the Algerian market.

Arason was critical of Strahl and other MPs for spreading misinformation, saying: “Making inaccurate statements about sales values and our relationship with specific customers is damaging to our business and, as a consequence, damaging to western Canadian farmers.”

The subject of Algerian wheat sales came up in Question Period this past week, and on both occasions Chuck Strahl has refused to answer the questions put to him. Strahl has admitted to having the actual sales figures for the CWB/Algerian sales, but he will not acknowledge that his previous statements are opposite to the facts presented by the CWB and Mr. Arason.

“It is outrageous that the Minister will continue to lie to farmers and the public,” stated Stewart Wells, President of the National Farmers Union (NFU). “Strahl may be supported in his lie by other Harper MPs that have published the same misinformation in barley plebiscite material, but he is not supported by the facts, or by his own hand-picked CEO.”

“No Canadian is safe as long as the Prime Minister and his Cabinet condone outright lies as acceptable behaviour,” concluded Wells. “Canadians deserve better.”

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