

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

OCTOBER 3, 2007

INITIAL PRICE INCREASE WELCOME, FURTHER ADJUSTMENTS NECESSARY

Federal Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz's announcement that the government has finally approved a request by the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) for higher initial payments for wheat, durum and barley is welcome news, says Stewart Wells, President of the National Farmers Union (NFU).

He added the federal government needs to act quickly to further adjust initial payment requests in response to the most recent CWB Pool Return Outlook (PRO) forecasts. The CWB has announced that it submitted new recommendations October 1 for a further increase to the initial payments.

"Given the market situation where prices for all three major grains are rising rapidly, it is important that the government expedite approval for the most recent adjustment request," stated Wells. "After being a bit slow approving this request, Minister Ritz should be very familiar with the process now."

Wells added he is hopeful the Minister will communicate more effectively with the CWB Board of Directors in an effort to work in the best interests of farmers.

The NFU President said the record-high durum prices and near-record wheat and barley prices forecast by the CWB in its PROs are evidence the single-desk sales advantage is maximizing returns to farmers. "Today's values demonstrate what independent economists have consistently found: the CWB's single desk returns higher prices to farmers than would be the case in a grain-company controlled, multiple-seller environment," he stated.

- 30 -

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