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national farmers union
In Union Is Strength

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NFU ONTARIO CONVENTION FOCUSES ON SOLUTIONS FOR THE FUTURE

National Farmers Union (NFU) members from across Ontario gathered in Woodstock April 5 and 6 to discuss the situation facing farm families, and to focus on solutions for the future.

“Over the past year, the NFU has provided leadership on issues that matter to family farmers,” said Grant Robertson, NFU Ontario Coordinator. “This year’s convention set the stage for the NFU to continue its positive leadership over the coming year.”

One of the Convention highlights was the release of a preliminary report on *The Farm Crisis and the Cattle Sector: Toward a New Analysis and New Solutions*. “Fed cattle and feeder steers are trading today at half their inflation-adjusted levels of the 1950s, 1960s, 1970s and 1980s – averaging approximately \$85 per hundred-weight today, compared to prices that averaged more than \$170 per hundred-weight for the nearly 50-year period 1942-1989,” said Darrin Qualman, NFU Director of Research. The final report is expected in the near future, but the preliminary information was very well received by convention delegates.

Convention delegates elected officials for the coming year. Kim Delaney of Wellington was elected Ontario Women’s Advisor. Caitlin Hall, also of Wellington, was elected Ontario Youth Advisor. Elected as NFU National Board members were Dave Lewington of West Nipissing, Don Mills of Middlesex County and Grant Robertson of Bruce County. Elected as Ontario Regional Councilors were Peter Dowling of Frontenac County and Murray Sharpe of Lambton County.

Grant Robertson, NFU Ontario Coordinator, the top elected official in Ontario, addressed delegates on the importance of the voice the NFU provides for family farmers. “I am always in awe of the smarts, savvy and commitment of NFU members from one end of this province to the other,” he said. “It demonstrates that as farmers we have more in common than what divides us through our commodities. For those who want a single voice for all farmers that speaks strongly and passionately for family farmers, the NFU is that voice. It is the voice that works to build bridges between farmers, not pit farmers against each other through entrenched commodity divisions.”

Resolutions passed during the convention focused on issues such as the concern over the sudden desire by government to require horse farmers, retroactively, to pay taxes for

horses sold to those who do not hold a farm business registration number. As well, several resolutions were passed aimed at lowering costs to new entrants into supply-managed systems, and empowering the NFU Ontario Council to take further steps towards making quota more affordable and within reach of young farmers.

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