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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FARMERS WIN AT COURT OF APPEAL:  
CWB TO RETAIN BARLEY AND WHEAT**

**WINNIPEG, Man.**—In July 2007, farmers won a court challenge, reversing the federal government's Order-in-Council that would have stripped the CWB of its barley marketing mandate. The government appealed its loss. Today, its appeal was heard in Winnipeg.

Late today, the three judges ruled unanimously against the federal government and its appeal, saying that they found no grounds to overturn the original ruling.

"This is a huge victory for farmers, for their collective marketing agency, the CWB, and for all citizens who value democracy and who want it safeguarded against unilateral and illegal government actions," said NFU President Stewart Wells, who was present today in Winnipeg.

"Over the past year, thousands of farmers have contributed time and money toward the defense of the CWB. This is their win," said Wells.

Wells criticized the federal government. "Ottawa acted illegally by issuing its Order-in-Council. They then engaged in a costly court fight, and lost. Then, they appealed their loss, setting up another costly court fight, the result of which we see today. Today's Federal Appeal Court hearing was a colossal waste of taxpayers' money, made even moreso by the Minister of Agriculture's announcement that he will bring legislation to the House of Commons in the coming days that will again attempt to dismantle the CWB," said Wells.

Further, Wells noted that at least one organization was in Winnipeg today arguing that farmers should not have the right to vote on issues critical to CWB marketing. The Western Barley Growers Association (WGBA) had intervened in the appeal, arguing that Section 47.1 of the *CWB Act*—the section that requires a farmer vote before wheat or barley can be taken from CWB jurisdiction—is unconstitutional. Had the Court accepted the Barley Growers' argument, there would have been two consequences: the federal government could have stripped barley from the CWB through Order-in-Council, and farmers would have been deprived of their right to a vote on critical CWB issues.

"The NFU supports the right of farmers to vote on major changes to the CWB mandate. Farmers must be the ones making the decision in a fair and transparent democratic process," said Wells. He added: "The Barley Growers' reckless argument today should be offensive to all farmers." Court documents filed by the Barley Growers state that the organization has less than 130 farmer members.

Farmers held demonstrations today in North Battleford and Camrose to show their support for CWB single-desk selling of wheat and barley.

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