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national farmers union
In Union Is Strength

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NFU URGES RETENTION OF KVD TO PROTECT GRAIN QUALITY STANDARDS

The Saskatchewan regional meeting of the National Farmers Union (NFU) has come out strongly in support of retaining the Kernel Visual Distinguishability (KVD) system to ensure Canadian grain quality standards are not put at risk.

Last February, federal Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz arbitrarily removed KVD as a registration requirement for all western Canadian wheat classes, despite the absence of any reliable or affordable alternative testing methods, and despite opposition from farmers and other stakeholders in the grain industry. Farmers will now be obliged to sign Declarations of eligibility each time they deliver grain. Farmers could be held liable for any misrepresentation of grain, even if it was unintentional or accidental.

At the NFU Saskatchewan regional meeting, held July 3 near Cochin, in Ritz's own political constituency, NFU delegates unanimously passed a resolution calling for the retention of KVD to ensure Canadian grain quality standards are not put at risk.

The resolution stated: **BE IT RESOLVED that the NFU demand that the Minister of Agriculture rescind his order to remove Kernel Visual Distinguishability (KVD) from grading and variety registration requirements as of August 1, 2008; and reinstate KVD until such time as reliable, affordable measures to maintain class distinctions are in place.**

Don Kelsey, NFU Saskatchewan Coordinator and a farmer near Choiceland, said the Minister's arbitrary decision to remove KVD is misguided and potentially disastrous. "The KVD system is unique to Canada and has proved to be a reliable and cost-effective system for decades," he said. "It's been the single biggest guarantor of Canada's success at marketing grain worldwide. It makes no sense to put our international reputation in jeopardy when a suitable alternative testing method is still likely many years away."

He concluded it is urgent the Minister take immediate action to reverse his order of removing KVD as of August 1, 2008.

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