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**national farmers union**  
*In Union Is Strength*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MARCH 7, 2008**

**NATIONAL FARMERS UNION IN NEW BRUNSWICK TO HOLD  
FIRST ANNUAL CONVENTION MARCH 15 IN PERTH-ANDOVER**

The **National Farmers Union in New Brunswick / Union nationale des fermiers au Nouveau-Brunswick** is holding its first annual convention on Saturday, March 15, 2008, at the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 36, in Perth-Andover, Victoria County, NB.

Farmers and their families from around the province are invited to join members of the NFU in NB for this exciting event. NFU National President Stewart Wells of Saskatchewan and regional directors from Prince Edward Island will speak about the work being done by the NFU here in the Maritimes to preserve the family farm and to strengthen rural communities.

Representatives from the New Brunswick Department of Agriculture and Aquaculture will be present to answer questions about the *Agricultural Producers Registration and Farm Organization Funding Act*.

Registration begins at 9:30 AM. The meeting will run from 10:15 AM until 3:00 PM. A buffet lunch featuring delicious local food will be served at 12:15. Registration fees include lunch - \$10/person or \$25/family. Door prizes will be drawn throughout the day.

The NFU in NB is now one of two accredited general farm organizations in the province. This marks a turning point for family farmers, regardless of commodity. The NFU has been an active force for family farmers in this province since 1969.

**The NFU's goals are straightforward and clear:**

- 1. To work towards a fair income from the marketplace for farmers;**
- 2. To collaborate with existing groups to strengthen rural communities; and**
- 3. To contribute to policies which allow family farms to continue to be the foundation of a healthy food system.**

NFU National President Stewart Wells says, "The NFU is eager to help represent the goals and aspirations of New Brunswick farmers." Come to the first annual district convention and bring your ideas, your concerns, your energy, and your neighbours and friends. Take part in electing the new Executive, including Women's Director, Youth Director, and District Director.

One of the major issues facing family farms, and the province of New Brunswick generally, is the question of ensuring young people will be able to take over existing operations. Barb Somerville of Juniper, New Brunswick, noted in a presentation to Agriculture Minister Ron Ouellette earlier this year that concerted action is necessary.

“We are losing farmers in this province at a startling rate,” she stated. “Our rural communities are in jeopardy. If we do not succeed in attracting some of our children to return to our farms, we will lose far more than a single generation of farmers. We will lose the farms themselves and the knowledge of how to farm, learned over a lifetime of working alongside an older generation. And when we lose that, we will also lose the knowledge of how to feed ourselves.

“We must work together to do whatever is necessary to save our family farms.”

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