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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CLOSURE OF WELLAND JOHN DEERE PLANT SHOWS CALLOUS DISREGARD**

The impending closure of the John Deere manufacturing plant in Welland, Ontario, illustrates a callous disregard for Canadians, says Nigel Smith, Youth President of the National Farmers Union (NFU).

On September 2, John Deere company officials announced the century-old manufacturing plant will shut down by November, 2009; shifting production to other Deere plants in Mexico and the United States. An estimated 800 jobs will be lost beginning in February, 2009.

Nigel Smith says the closure of the plant is a severe blow to southern Ontario, which has already been forced to deal with massive job losses resulting from a string of factory shut-downs over the past several years. Many farmers rely on off-farm income from manufacturing jobs to keep their operations financially viable, so the impact is felt widely throughout the region.

“John Deere says its Canadian operation is uncompetitive, but this is a company that recorded over a billion dollars in profit this past year,” he noted. “The farmers of Ontario represent a huge market for John Deere, and it is not unreasonable to suggest the company should manufacture machinery here in Canada.”

He concluded that John Deere relies heavily on the loyalty of its customers. “This company has accumulated a tremendous amount of wealth through its Canadian operations over the years,” he said. “A reasonable portion of that wealth should be re-invested back into the communities.”

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