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**national farmers union**

***In Union Is Strength***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**APRIL 2, 2009**

**NFU TO HOST ONTARIO REGIONAL MEETING APRIL 4 IN WOODSTOCK**

The National Farmers Union will hold its Ontario regional meeting in Woodstock, Ontario on Saturday, April 4 at the John Knox Christian School, 800 Juliana Drive (at Highways 59 and 401). The meeting begins at 9:00 AM and concludes at 5:00 PM.

In addition to providing a forum for annual elections for NFU regional officials, the NFU regional meeting will also highlight two important issues:

1. Increasing farmers' incomes from the marketplace, and
2. A critical analysis of genetically-engineered foods and seeds.

A panel entitled "Genetic Engineering: Challenges, Concerns and Realities" will feature Rene Van Acker, a professor and Chair of the Department of Plant Agriculture from the University of Guelph; and Lucy Sharratt, Coordinator of the Canadian Biotechnology Action Network.

A panel entitled "Farmers regaining the marketplace" will feature Joe Seilli, an advocate for the Brussels Beef Plant; and Gary Eagleson – speaking on a regional beef processing alliance.

NFU President Stewart Wells, NFU Women's President Colleen Ross, and NFU Youth President Nigel Smith are also scheduled to address the meeting. Resolutions on issues will also be debated at the event by delegates from NFU Locals from across the province.

NFU Ontario regional coordinator Grant Robertson extended an invitation to all NFU members in the region to attend this important meeting. The meeting is also open to the public and the media.

"The NFU is a democratic organization which represents family farmers across Ontario," stated Robertson. "This meeting is designed to provide a forum where important issues can be discussed and debated."