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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**AUGUST 11, 2009**

**NFU CELEBRATES 40 YEARS AT PEACE RIVER REGIONAL MEETING**

On Saturday, August 15, members of the NFU in the Peace River region will be gathering to celebrate 40 years of accomplishments by the family farm organization. The National Farmers Union (NFU) was founded in 1969.

The annual regional meeting, which is slated to take place at the Waterhole Hall in Fairview, Alberta, will focus on the history of the NFU, with a particular emphasis on the contribution made by members in the Alberta and Peace River districts. All NFU members are encouraged to attend this event. The meeting is also open to the public.

The meeting begins with registration at 11:00 AM, followed by a lunch at noon. The call to order takes place at 1:00 PM with a slide-show documenting the history of the NFU. Farmers Union members in the Peace River country have often taken a leadership role within the national organization. Jean Leahy of Fort St. John, BC, served as NFU Women's Vice-President in 1974-75 and NFU Women's President from 1975 to 1979. Art Macklin of Grande Prairie, was NFU Vice-President from 1986 to 1991, and also served as NFU President from 1992 to 1994.

The BC Farmers Union, one of the predecessor organizations of the NFU, was founded in the Peace River area of BC in the 1950s. In 1967, members of the farmers union built the road from Golata Creek to Baldonnel, BC., using volunteer labour and donated equipment, with support from the business community in Fort St. John and Dawson Creek.. The farmers built the road themselves after years of provincial government delay and inaction.

The meeting will also feature presentations on alternative energy, controlled grazing, and the crisis in the cattle sector. A presentation will also be made by a representative from Friends of Medicare. Annual elections will be held for NFU national board and advisory committee positions at this meeting. To pre-register for the lunch, please contact Neil Peacock at 780-833-6939 or Peter Eggers at 780-568-3805.

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Contact:

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