

National Office
2717 Wentz Ave.
Saskatoon, Sask.
S7K 4B6
Tel (306) 652-9465
Fax (306) 664-6226
E-Mail: nfu@nfu.ca



national farmers union
In Union Is Strength

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***CAMPAIGN FOR NEW FARMERS SET TO LAUNCH AT NFU CONVENTION
IN OTTAWA NOVEMBER 26-28***

The National Farmers Union Youth is set to launch the **Campaign for New Farmers** later this month at the 40th annual convention of the National Farmers Union (NFU) in Ottawa, Ontario.

The nation-wide campaign is aimed at bringing awareness to the rapid decline in the number of farmers in Canada, particularly of young and beginning farmers, who are the cornerstone of our future food system.

NFU National Youth Vice-President, Kalissa Regier, who farms near Laird, Saskatchewan, stated: “This is an issue that has been left on the table far too long. Canada simply can’t afford to lose any more of its farmers.”

Statistics Canada figures reveal that between 1991 and 2006, Canada lost over 60% of its farmers under the age of 35. This ongoing trend has taken its toll on Canada’s food supply and agricultural systems. In order to reverse this destructive trend, Regier said all levels of society need to be concerned and take action.

The Campaign for New Farmers will combine new farmer training and support programs with sound political education and analysis in an effort to find and implement meaningful solutions. The campaign also aims to increase public awareness, which is vital to breaking down the many economic, social and political barriers faced by our farmers today.

“This is a campaign that truly includes everyone who eats Canadian-grown food and wants to continue to do so in the future. Farmers are the most important food-producing resource we have in this country.” Regier stated.

The official launch of the **Campaign for New Farmers** will take place during the NFU convention, at 10:30 AM on Saturday, November 28th at the Travelodge Hotel and Convention Centre, Ottawa West.

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Contact: Kalissa Regier, NFU Youth Vice-President (306) 232-7591

