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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**DON'T TRADE AWAY ORDERLY MARKETING AT WTO TALKS, SAYS NFU  
IN OTTAWA**

Canada's orderly marketing system of supply-management and the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) must not be negotiated away at the World Trade Organization (WTO) discussions.

This message was delivered in Ottawa October 8 by Stewart Wells, President of the National Farmers Union (NFU). Wells met privately with Canada's Chief Agricultural Trade Negotiator at the WTO, Gilles Gauthier; and later testified as an invited witness before the House of Commons Committee on International Trade.

Wells said based on the present draft text of the WTO agreement, it is apparent that Canada's farmers are being singled out for special punishment at the WTO. "The moment this present WTO draft comes into force, Canadian farmers will lose money," he stated.

"Supply-management and the CWB are legislated marketing tools, just like patent protection and copyright," stated the NFU President. "And you don't see the corporate sector and other governments clamouring to destroy patent protection and copyright."

Wells urged Gauthier and the Parliamentary Committee on International Trade to pay special attention to the words of federal Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz, who stated September 16 that any policy decisions must be made domestically in Canada and not at the WTO. The Minister was quoted on CFAM Radio (Altona, MB): "We also want to make sure that any work that's done on single-desk selling, like our Canadian Wheat Board, are domestic decisions, not international decisions."

Copies of the NFU presentation to the Commons Committee on International Trade can be obtained by logging onto [www.nfu.ca/briefs/2009/NFU%20Presentation%20on%20Supply%20Management%20to%20Parliamentary%20Committee%20on%20International%20Trade.pdf](http://www.nfu.ca/briefs/2009/NFU%20Presentation%20on%20Supply%20Management%20to%20Parliamentary%20Committee%20on%20International%20Trade.pdf)

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