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**SENATE HEARINGS ON MILK HORMONE RESUME:
HEALTH CANADA SCIENCE REVIEWERS TO APPEAR**

GANANOQUE, Ont.—“The Posilac (the U.S. trade name of rBGH) label warns of over 20 side-effects in the cows into which it is injected. Recent research also suggests links to breast and prostate cancer in humans. For many very good reasons, neither farmers nor consumers want this product approved in Canada. We hope that the Senate Committee hearings tomorrow move us toward a ban on this drug,” said NFU Region 3 (Ontario) Coordinator Peter Dowling.

Senate hearings will resume on October 22 at 9:00 AM in room 505 Victoria Building on Parliament Hill and be broadcast over the Canadian Parliamentary Access Channel.

Recombinant Bovine Growth Hormone (rBGH: also know as rBST or BST) is a genetically-engineered, non-therapeutic veterinary drug which, when injected into dairy cows, forces increased milk production. It is approved for use in the U.S. but not in Canada.

Several Health Canada scientists who have raised questions about the department's independence in evaluating rBGH will appear at tomorrow's hearings. In addition, four of these scientists have written a report outlining the gaps in the department's analysis of rBGH. This “Gaps” report is available from the NFU website at www.nfu.ca .

“The Health Canada science reviewers are courageous and conscientious. They provide an informative look inside a government agency under intense pressure by industry to abandon its citizen-protection role. We are grateful that they are fighting to expel the fox from the henhouse,” said Dowling.

The averse health effects of rBGH on cows are numerous and serious. Among over twenty side-effects listed on the U.S. version of the drug are: metabolic changes; reproductive problems; and udder, foot, and leg problems. “In the U.S. farmers

whose cows fall victim to these side-effects are labeled poor managers. Needless to say, farmers have been reluctant to come forward with their problems,” stated Dowling.

“There is no shortage of milk in Canada and no need for increased supply. Consumers have stated that they will reduce milk consumption if the drug is approved. Any product which promises to increase supply and decrease demand will have devastating economic consequences. The NFU continues to call for a ban on this unnecessary and damaging drug,” concluded Dowling.

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