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**national farmers union**

*Union is Strength*

June 11, 2003

VIA FAX: 613-228-6610

Mr. Richard B. Fadden, President  
Canadian Food Inspection Agency  
59 Camelot Drive  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0Y9

Dear Mr. Fadden:

It has recently come to our attention—through work done at the Semiarid Prairie Agricultural Research Centre at Swift Current, Saskatchewan—that glyphosate herbicides affect plant pathogenic fungi. More specifically, in laboratory studies, *fusarium graminearum*, *F. avenaceum* and *pyrenophora tritici-repentis* are stimulated by most glyphosate herbicides.

In recent years, the incidence of *fusarium graminearum* has been increasing. If some glyphosate herbicides are a contributing factor to this increase, farmers deserve to be informed of any links. Also, it is vital that we understand any possible links between glyphosate herbicides and plant pathogens when seed companies apply for the approval of glyphosate-resistance varieties.

The National Farmers Union asks that the CFIA and other agencies of the Government of Canada immediately undertake further research on this subject. Further, the NFU asks for a commitment from the CFIA that it will not approve glyphosate-resistant cultivars if research shows that glyphosate herbicides contribute to the growth of plant pathogens, such as the ones previously mentioned.

I trust that you will pursue this important issue. I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

Stewart Wells  
President  
National Farmers Union

cc: Stephen A. Yarrow, National Manager, Plant Biosafety Office, CFIA  
cc: Members of the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food  
cc: Federal Cabinet Ministers  
cc: provincial Ministers of Agriculture