

MEDIA RELEASE

Wheat Growers Applaud Canadian Grain Commission

February 14, 2002: The Western Canadian Wheat Growers applaud the Canadian Grain Commission's (CGC) decision to eliminate shrinkage deductions on grain delivered to primary elevators.

"Shrinkage deductions have been a sore point with farmers and with the Wheat Growers for years," says Wheat Grower President Art Enns. "We have lobbied hard for the elimination of shrinkage and passed a resolution at our recent convention urging the CGC to eliminate this unreasonable and arbitrary charge against growers."

The CGC consulted farmers and industry stakeholders during its review of the shrinkage issue. It found that farmers were strongly opposed to shrinkage deductions and that while grain companies have experienced weight losses in grain, they have also had weight gains to their advantage. The Wheat Growers submitted a brief to the CGC last year on the issue.

"Our resolution states that farmers should not be held responsible for handling inefficiencies resulting in weight loss after we have delivered our grain and no longer own it," says Enns. "Better handling facilities and a reduction in the handling of grain has made shrinkage less and less of an issue anyway so changes were needed in the regulations."

Enns commends the CGC and Chief Commissioner Barry Senft for the move although he questions why these changes won't take effect until August 1, 2003.

"The CGC has done the right thing in setting maximum shrinkage allowances at zero. It shows the Commission is paying attention to the concerns of farmers and making an effort to be responsive to our rapidly evolving industry. We would like to see the changes made effective this year and will be in touch with the Commission in regard to the delay."

- 30 -

For more information contact:
Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association, 306-586-5866