

MEDIA RELEASE

Wheat Growers to Attend Top Level Trade Meetings in Ottawa

May 1, 2002: The Western Canadian Wheat Growers have been invited to be part of a small group of farm leaders from Canada and the U.S. asked to attend a breakfast meeting with U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman hosted by Ambassador Paul Cellucci in Ottawa on Friday, May 3. The discussion will focus on the cooperative aspect of the bilateral relationship between Canada and the U.S. and how we can leverage this relationship to achieve our mutual objectives in the WTO.

Past President Ted Menzies notes that the meeting will provide an excellent opportunity for serious dialogue with Secretary Veneman and Minister Lyle Vanclief, the top agriculture officials in Canada and the U.S.

“We have some very serious trade issues facing the grains and oilseeds sector,” says Menzies. “We have the ongoing threat of trade action from the Section 11 complaint by North Dakota and a farm bill that is shaping up to do further damage to our industry with its massive increases in subsidy levels.”

Menzies will also represent the Wheat Growers at the International Policy Council - Agri Food and Trade workshop after the breakfast meeting. Menzies heads the Wheat Grower’s Trade Policy Committee and was part of the Canadian delegation at the World Trade Organization meetings in Seattle and the Cairns Group meetings in Banff.

“We are pleased to be given the opportunity to talk to the people at the highest levels of government about the impact trade disputes are having on farmers and the critical need for discipline through the WTO agricultural negotiations,” says Menzies.

- 30 -

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