

MEDIA RELEASE

**Wheat Growers Support Jailed Farmers**

**November 4, 2002:** The Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association has issued the attached statement of support for the farmers jailed in protest over the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) monopoly. Vice President Bernie Sambrook says that the jailed farmers have taken this extreme action at great personal cost because of their belief that the CWB's monopoly must end.

“By choosing to go to jail, these farmers have drawn worldwide attention to the injustice of the CWB monopoly,” says Sambrook. “Marketing choice has been a core objective for the Wheat Growers for over 30 years. We respect the difficult decision these farmers have made to try to change an unjust and outdated law and give western farmers the kind of marketing choices enjoyed by grain farmers elsewhere in the country and around in the world.”

In the statement of support, the Wheat Growers call on the federal government to take responsibility for the intolerable circumstances western farmers find themselves in and take immediate action to address this issue.

“When an Act of Parliament dictates that farmers in only one part of the country can be jailed for selling their own wheat, while farmers in the rest of the country may do so free of that threat, then clearly the federal government has a responsibility to change the law,” states Sambrook.

The events of last week have provoked a groundswell of support across the country as well as a sense of disbelief that this could happen in a country like Canada. The Wheat Growers are working with the Western Barley Growers Association and others to collect donations for the “Free the Farmers” fund to offset outstanding fines, legal costs or other needs of the incarcerated farmers and their families. Donations may be made through the Wheat Growers toll free number at 1-888-776-3276. Cheques can be mailed to Free the Farmers, Box 68, Cremona, AB T0M 0R0. Donations are also being accepted at Bolt Supply House with 13 locations across Canada.

“We also want to stress to farmers how important it is for them to vote in the upcoming CWB elections,” added Sambrook. ““We need CWB Directors who support marketing choice through a voluntary CWB to make the Board relevant to farmers in the 21st century.”

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For more information contact:  
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