

MEDIA RELEASE

Wheat Growers Seek Information

September 12, 2002: The Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association (WCWGA) today issued an open letter to the Chairman and Board of Directors of the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) demanding more information regarding the Board's alleged withdrawal from the export market.

"We recognize that the drought and poor harvest conditions are causing severe supply problems for the Board, but farmers need information to make their own marketing decisions," said WCWGA President, Art Enns. "Reports of the Board's withdrawal from the market while simultaneously buying back futures contracts on the Minneapolis Grain Exchange raise questions about precisely what their strategy is."

The open letter raises questions, which Enns says farmers need the answers to if they are to properly manage their own farms.

"The fact is that the CWB is trying to devise a 'one size fits all' marketing strategy in a year when each farmer's situation is different," said WCWGA Vice-President, Bernie Sambrook. "This year, that is just not going to work. If the CWB isn't going to sell my grain, then I should have the opportunity to market it myself."

The letter suggests that farmers would be wise to hold off entering into CWB delivery contracts until the Board's selling strategy is better understood.

"In a year like this we need information, and we need real marketing options," said former WCWGA President, Ted Menzies. "We are getting neither out of the present system."

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