

MEDIA RELEASE

Wheat Growers Call on the Federal Government to Take Action

March 6, 2003: The Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association is calling on the federal government to address the key issues that underlie the current trade dispute with the U.S., namely Canada's continuing support for a single desk selling (SDS) system.

The Wheat Growers have sent a letter to the federal ministers responsible for agriculture, trade and the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) pointing out the costs of trade disputes borne by farmers and the pressures for change from within Canada and from the international community. The Association called on the government to change its legislation removing the monopoly powers of the CWB and requiring it to evolve into a "commercial marketing agent relevant to farmers in the 21st century."

The letter points out that SDS cannot long survive in today's environment, which increasingly relies on free market principles to govern world trade. It is the position of the Association that this issue must be addressed by Canadians, in a way that benefits Canadian farmers, rather than risking the possibility of a change imposed by international trade bodies.

According to the Association, the ongoing battle between those who want change and those protecting the status quo is tearing the industry apart.

The letter to the federal ministers is posted on the Wheat Growers website at www.wcwga.ca.

The Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association is a progressive, responsible organization dedicated to a self-reliant and profitable agriculture industry.

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