



For Immediate Release

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Wheat Growers support CGC wheat class restructuring proposal

The Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association supports the proposal by the Canadian Grain Commission to restructure the wheat classes and remove the kernel visual distinguishability (KVD) requirement for the minor classes of wheat.

“This is a positive first step,” says Cherilyn Jolly-Nagel, President of the Wheat Growers. “Removing the KVD requirement will eliminate an important constraint to the development of new wheat varieties. It means farmers will be able to get better access to those varieties that can improve the profitability of their farms.”

The existing KVD requirement has meant that plant scientists have been limited in their ability to bring new wheat varieties to the western Canadian grain market. As a result, prairie farmers have not been able to access varieties with potentially higher yields or other desirable quality attributes.

The move by the CGC to reserve the six minor wheat classes for variety specific or contract wheat programs is consistent with the trend toward greater product specification by end-use customers. Increasingly, end-users are demanding certain varieties that are tailor-made to their specific processing needs.

“Reserving the six minor wheat classes for variety-specific programs will give farmers the ability to capture higher value markets for these types of wheat varieties,” says Jolly-Nagel. “At the same time, the creation of two new ‘catch-all’ classes will retain a market outlet for those varieties that may be higher-yielding or provide other valued agronomic traits.”

The Wheat Growers believe the contracting programs and the variety declaration systems recently introduced by grain companies have worked well and have effectively replaced the need for the KVD requirement as a means to ensure good segregation among wheat classes.

“The Wheat Growers hope the introduction of this program will pave the way for the relaxation of the KVD requirement on the key CWRS and CWAD wheat classes,” says Jolly-Nagel. “We’ve been calling for the elimination of KVD for many years as a way to improve farmer profitability and we’re pleased to see the industry is now moving in that direction.”

The WCWGA, an independent producer organization, has spent 35 years bringing forth innovative farmer-driven solutions and will continue to lobby on behalf of forward thinking, progressive producers in an effort to make farming sustainable and profitable.

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