



*For Immediate Release*

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## **Increase in CWB Payments Appreciated, But Late**

The Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association is pleased to see the increase in CWB initial prices announced yesterday. The Wheat Growers note however the announcement comes more than two months after the Association called on the federal government to approve the increases.

“It’s good to see these increases finally come about,” says Cheryl Jolly-Nagel, President of the Wheat Growers, “but the long delay only serves to demonstrate how this system does not work for farmers. If farmers had marketing choice, we could have had our money in the bank months ago and wouldn’t still be waiting for possible adjustment or final payments.”

The payment delay means farmers have unnecessarily incurred interest costs or have had difficulty making payments on land, tax and supplier bills that were due earlier this fall.

Perhaps more importantly, the low initial payment set by the federal government earlier this year and the long delay in increasing these payments means farmers have been obtaining unnecessarily low prices on sales of their wheat and barley into the off-Board feed market.

“The price-depressing effect of Wheat Board initial prices means farmers have needlessly lost millions of dollars over the past two months,” says Jolly-Nagel. “This cumbersome and slow process of increasing initials represents a huge cost to farmers, especially when you consider the vast majority of feed barley and feed wheat is sold into the off-Board market.”

In September, the Wheat Growers had sent a letter to the Honourable Reg Alcock, Minister responsible for the CWB, asking him to increase initial prices to 80% to 85% of projected CWB final prices. The latest adjustment brings initial payments to farmers to 72% to 81% of projected final prices for wheat and 81% to 83% for barley.

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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***Innovative, farmer-driven solutions.***