



*For Immediate Release*

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## **Wheat Growers 36th Annual Convention Finds “Solutions for Profitable Agriculture”**

The Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association (WCWGA) is pleased to present its annual convention, "Solutions for Profitable Agriculture," from Wednesday March 15 through to Friday March 17 at the Bessborough Hotel in Saskatoon.

The convention features 18 top-notch speakers presenting on a number of key policy issues facing western Canadian farmers. Topics to be covered include the future role and structure of the Canadian Wheat Board, developments in the ethanol industry, plant research, international trade negotiations, biotech wheat, grain quality and assurance issues, transportation and a market outlook.

Kicking off the convention will be a presentation from Brian Hayward, CEO of Agricore United talking about trends in global and Canadian agriculture. Other featured speakers include:

- Neil Wandel, Deputy Chairman of Co-operative Bulk Handling Ltd. (CBH) of Australia. CBH is one of three companies in Australia that has recently received authority to export wheat directly to Iraq, outside the authority of the Australian Wheat Board.
- Dr. Colin Carter of the University of California, Davis giving a presentation on *Global Biotech Crop Production: Are Wheat Growers Missing Out?*
- Terry Enright, Chairman of the Grains Research and Development Corporation of Australia. The GRDC is responsible for investing AU\$100 million annually in research in Australia.
- Vince Chin of Husky Energy Inc., who will be speaking about Husky's large investments in ethanol production in western Canada.
- Dr. Hartley Furtan of the University of Saskatchewan who will be giving his views on the future role and structure of the Canadian Wheat Board.

At the convention the Wheat Growers will also be releasing its position paper on the implementation of marketing choice and structural reforms to the CWB. A number of resolutions on a wide range of policy issues will also be debated.

“We’re excited about the agenda” says Cherilyn Jolly-Nagel, President of the Wheat Growers, “and we invite farmer members and non-members, as well as industry officials, to attend and share their views on solutions to improve profitability in the agriculture sector.”

Conference activities get underway at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday March 15. For more information on the conference, including an agenda and registration form, visit [www.wheatgrowers.ca](http://www.wheatgrowers.ca) or contact the Wheat Grower office.

The WCWGA, an independent producer organization, has spent over 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.***