



*For Immediate Release*

*May 19, 2006*

## **Wheat Growers Welcome Positive Changes in Farm Income Support Programs**

The Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association is pleased the federal government has acted on several of its recommendations to improve farm income support programs.

“The package of federal program changes announced yesterday will provide real, practical income support to farmers,” says Cherilyn Jolly-Nagel, President of the Wheat Growers. “The Wheat Growers had been calling for these improvements in both the CAIS and cash advance programs, so we are glad to see them being implemented.”

The federal government is making retroactive inventory valuation changes that will recalculate the entitlement farmers may be eligible to receive under the CAIS program for 2003, 2004 and 2005. The old rules for valuing inventory often eliminated or reduced compensation for farmers who had suffered significant income losses.

The Wheat Growers are also pleased to see the interest-free portion of cash advances raised from \$50,000 to \$100,000 and the overall limit for advances raised from \$250,000 to \$400,000. The interest-free portion was at \$50,000 for many years, and while the federal government had previously announced an increase to \$60,000, the Wheat Growers had called for a greater increase.

“These changes better reflect the size and scope of today’s farming operations,” says Jolly-Nagel. “Providing interest-free cash advances is a good, trade-friendly way of providing financial assistance to farmers.”

The Wheat Growers will continue to seek changes in federal and provincial agricultural policy to improve the profitability and strength of the farming sector.

The WCWGA, an independent producer organization, has spent 36 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.***