



*For Immediate Release*

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## **Wheat Growers oppose the combination of SWP and Agricore United**

Based on feedback from our membership and information gathered to date, the Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association does not support the proposed combination of Saskatchewan Wheat Pool and Agricore United.

“The Wheat Growers are strong proponents of open and competitive markets,” says Cheryl Jolly-Nagel, President of the Wheat Growers. “The combination of the two largest grain companies would lead to an unacceptable loss of competition.”

A combined entity would have more than 50% of grain handling capacity on the prairies and an unacceptably large market share in the sale of seed, fertilizer and chemicals.

The Wheat Growers have met with both companies in an effort to better understand the ramifications of any proposed combination.

“While a formal proposal has yet to be presented, we cannot see how this deal could be good for farmers,” says Jolly-Nagel. “The Wheat Growers can support alliances that strengthen supply chain efficiencies but in this case, we are not convinced it will lead to higher net returns to farmers.”

The Wheat Growers will continue to monitor developments and engage with both companies to ensure farmer interests are served. The Wheat Growers will also make our views known to the Competition Bureau once a formal proposal is issued.

“For any combination to be supported by the Wheat Growers, the onus is on the companies involved to demonstrate that it would provide net benefits to farmers,” says Jolly-Nagel. “In this case, no such evidence has been provided to date.”

For further comment, please contact:

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