



For Immediate Release

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***Wheat Growers pleased federal government is not wavering on
Barley Freedom Day***

The Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association is pleased to see the federal government is staying the course and will implement marketing choice for barley on August 1, 2007, despite pleas from one maltster to delay implementation for a year.

The Wheat Growers are responding to a Reuters news story on Tuesday in which Prairie Malt asks the federal government to delay implementation of marketing choice to August 1, 2008 so as to allow the company to continue to source cheap barley through the CWB. Minister Strahl has reassured farmers there will be no going back on the government's commitment to give barley growers marketing freedom on August 1, 2007.

"Farmers are greatly anticipating the new marketing environment," says Jolly-Nagel. "We certainly shouldn't be forced to accept another year of low returns under the CWB barley monopoly, simply to allow certain players more time to adjust."

The Wheat Growers note that many companies are in fact adjusting quickly to the new era and are ready for Barley Freedom Day on August 1, 2007. "Several companies are now contracting for new crop barley at good prices to farmers," says Jolly-Nagel. "We encourage all companies, including the CWB, to accept the new reality and to manage their business accordingly."

The Wheat Growers note that ample supplies of barley should be available this year. Yesterday's Statscan seeding intentions report indicates prairie barley acreage is expected to increase 15.5% over last year.

"I wouldn't be surprised to see barley acreage climb even higher as more and more farmers get excited about the opportunity to grow barley under a free market," says Jolly-Nagel. "We invite all companies to share in that excitement."

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For further comment, please contact

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