



*For Immediate Release*

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## **Wheat Growers Support Federal Trade Action on U.S. Farm Subsidies**

The Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association is pleased to see the federal government take action to address U.S. farm subsidies which contribute to lower international grain prices. Yesterday, the federal government announced it was seeking consultations with the United States under WTO rules regarding its production and trade-distorting farm subsidies.

“We’re glad to see this initiative,” says Cheryl Jolly-Nagel, President of the Wheat Growers. “It helps shine a spotlight on how U.S. farm subsidies artificially create excess U.S. grain production and depress world grain prices.”

The Wheat Growers hope this action will help U.S. legislators recognize the international price and trade impact of their subsidies as the 2007 U.S. farm bill is debated.

“Recent statements by U.S. legislators suggest they are not in any hurry to reduce domestic subsidies,” says Jolly-Nagel. “We hope this action will help them focus on the broader implications of U.S. farm policy and how it can negatively affect global trade interests, including their own.”

The Wheat Growers hope the Canadian action will also help spur global trade talks. WTO negotiations under the Doha round were suspended in July, 2006, however WTO members agreed to re-start technical negotiations in November.

“About 90% of Canadian farmers are dependent on international markets, so we have a lot to gain from efforts to reduce production and price distorting subsidies,” says Jolly-Nagel. “We can’t let the recent run-up in grain prices allow us to become complacent in pursuing trade policies that will help make our farms more profitable over the longer term.”

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