



For Immediate Release

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Wheat Growers Welcome New Approach to Federal Farm Support

The Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association welcomes the new direction in farm income stabilization announced by the federal government on Friday.

“Moving to a farm savings account approach gives each of us greater flexibility to manage our own financial risk,” says Cherilyn Jolly-Nagel, President of the Wheat Growers. “It respects the fact that cashflow needs and financial circumstances are different for every farmer.”

Moving to an individual savings account approach will give farmers and their financial institutions a more predictable backstop. The uncertainty of support under the existing CAIS program makes financial planning more difficult and undermines the ability of farmers to access credit.

“The return to an account-based approach gives each farmer and his lender a better handle on his financial situation,” says Jolly-Nagel. “It’s a good step toward providing more effective risk management for prairie grain farmers.”

The Wheat Growers also appreciate the financial support relating to high farm input costs, although we note much greater improvements in farm income will be realized once the federal government moves forward on several policy changes, including:

- The implementation of marketing choice for wheat and barley;
- Creation of a regulatory and tax environment that promotes innovation and investment in agriculture;
- Measures to improve railway service and accountability;
- A sound national strategy for biofuels and bioproducts;
- Greater efforts to secure international trade agreements that improve market access and reduce trade-distorting subsidies.

“Prairie farmers want to earn a greater share of their income from the marketplace,” says Jolly-Nagel. “The federal government needs to aggressively pursue these policy changes so we each have a greater opportunity to improve the profitability on our farms.”

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