



*For Immediate Release*

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## **CWB Continues to Spread False Information on Barley**

The Canadian Wheat Board continues to mislead farmers and the public when it comes to commenting on the impact of giving prairie farmers a free market in barley says the Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association.

“The Wheat Board is painting a false picture of the impact of the July 31 court decision that overturned the free market in barley,” says Cheryl Jolly-Nagel, President of the Wheat Growers. “Farmers were taking advantage of strong world prices before the court decision and would now have access to even stronger prices if the CWB monopoly wasn’t standing in the way.”

The Wheat Growers are responding to a CWB press release issued yesterday which tried to suggest that barley farmers were better off under the monopoly, and falsely accused the Prime Minister of providing inaccurate information in the House of Commons.

The attached price charts, which compare the difference in feed barley prices in the cash market between Montana and Alberta clearly show that Alberta prices rose relative to U.S. prices in the weeks following the March 28 announcement of a proposed free market in barley, and then fell dramatically in the wake of the July 31 court decision overturning the proposed free market. Leading up to the court decision, Alberta feed barley cash prices were trading as much as \$35 per tonne **above** Montana cash prices. As of last Friday, Alberta cash feed barley prices were \$73 per tonne **below** Montana values. In recent years, more than 70% of barley produced on the prairies has been sold into the off-Board feed market.

“The CWB is misleading farmers,” says Stephen Vandervalk, Alberta Vice-President of the Wheat Growers. “It doesn’t matter whether you look at spot prices or average prices, the returns the CWB is providing western farmers are far below the market returns that are being received by U.S. farmers, for either feed or malt barley.”

World barley prices have strengthened considerably in recent months. At Vancouver, the world price for two-row malt barley was \$324 per tonne yesterday, according to the Winnipeg Commodity Exchange. Backing this price off to an Alberta farm gives a return of \$5.81 per bushel, which is well above the CWB’s projected pooled return on Special Select malting barley of \$5.06 per bushel or its fixed price of \$4.51 per bushel, basis Alberta.

“We urge the Canadian Wheat Board to immediately stop its campaign of misinformation and partisan attacks,” says Jolly-Nagel. “The federal government should also move decisively to give us marketing freedom as quickly as possible. Many farmers want the ability to capture the strong prices now available on world markets, rather than rely on the phantom projections of the CWB.”

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For further comment, please contact:

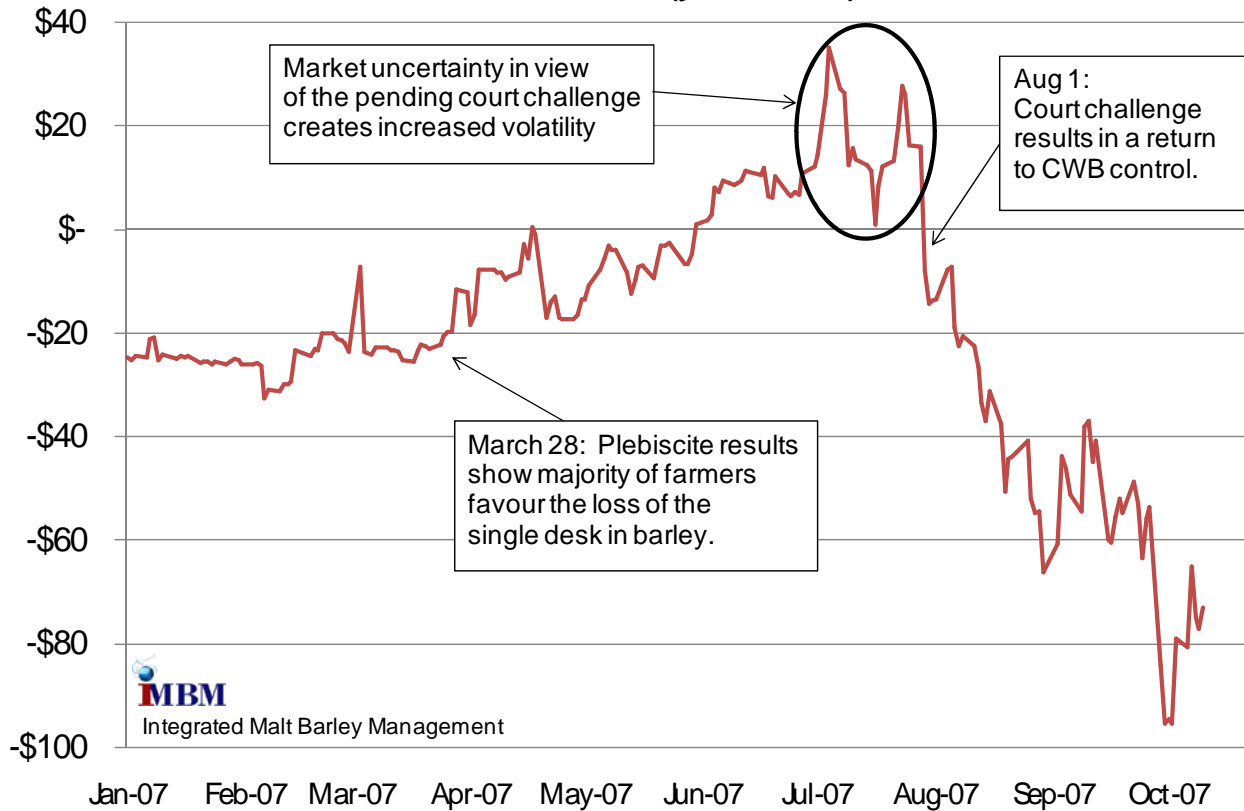
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### Feed Barley Farmgate Price Spread: Alberta vs Montana 2007/2008 (year to date)



### Feed Barley Farmgate Price Comparison: Alberta vs Montana 2007/2008 year to date

