



For Immediate Release

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Wheat Growers Welcome Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Review

The Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association is pleased to see the Saskatchewan government will be undertaking a comprehensive review of the provincial crop insurance program.

“This is a much needed review,” says Geoff Hewson, Saskatchewan Vice President of the Wheat Growers. “Poor crop insurance coverage levels have contributed to low participation rates among Saskatchewan farmers.”

Compared to neighbouring provinces, crop insurance coverage levels in Saskatchewan are lower and premium levels are disproportionately higher. Unseeded acreage coverage due to excess moisture levels is also inadequate.

“With the high cost of farm inputs, it’s crucial that we have an adequate and bankable crop insurance program,” says Kenton Possberg, Director of the Wheat Growers. “The financial cost of a crop failure is now much higher than in previous years.”

The Wheat Growers want to ensure the crop insurance program takes into account changes in farming practices in recent years, including shifts to increased use of hybrid seed, direct seeding and variable rate fertilization.

As part of the review, the Wheat Growers will be looking to ensure coverage levels reflect higher input costs and stronger grain price levels. The Wheat Growers also want to see greater program flexibility so that individual farmers can tailor their insurance coverage to meet their specific risk management needs.

The Wheat Growers are pleased the review will include a review of the Wildlife Damage Compensation program, where price coverage levels are extremely low.

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