

The Prairie Voice

Winter 2006

From the President

Cherilyn Jolly-Nagel

For two years now, in my role as President and spokesperson for our Association, I've tried to talk positively about the bright future we have in Agriculture. My job has been to represent the policy positions put forward on behalf of our ever-increasing membership. I'm a farmer, a farmer's wife, a farmer's daughter, sister, niece, granddaughter and neighbour. I've been employed as a Rural Economic Development Officer with emphasis on finding value-added industry to create employment and encourage diversification. I serve as a volunteer for several agriculture-related causes. I subscribe to farm publications and admittedly watch farm programs and Desperate Housewives on TV. I like to think I'm dedicating most of my daily schedule to the progression of this industry. I'm proud to be a farmer and I'm motivated by all the great potential yet to be realized on the prairies.

I recognize the financial stresses many farmers face, yet it troubles me to think some farmers see increased farm subsidies as the only solution. Is that the solution the Wheat Grower membership wants? How much of a difference did the recent federal government GOPP payment (amounting to \$755 million) make on your farm? I see the need for payments to compensate for the effects of trade injury, but there's so much more the government could and should be doing to restore profitability to our farms. We need to put pressure on our new Conservative government to make policy changes that offer real solutions.

I for one, see *marketing choice* as a way for me to add value to the commodities I grow. I want to cut my freight bill in half by hauling to a pasta plant 50 miles down the road (in which I could be a shareholder) instead of shipping it to the coast. I'd like to haul my mustard to a bio-diesel facility and fill up the truck on my way back home. I want to move myself up the value chain and grow crops for the pharmaceutical industry instead of raw, bulk commodities. We wouldn't be so over supplied if we had facilities to process. I'd like to see a cut in fuel and education taxes, and other taxes embedded in our inputs.

These are solutions I can sink my teeth into. These are solutions that an innovative, farmer-driven Association such as ours is proud to advocate. What are your solutions? This is the time for you to engage and let your elected directors know what would help your farm succeed. Join us at our Convention in Saskatoon and share your thoughts and solutions with us. We have an exciting agenda planned, and I'm sure you'll come away from the Convention with your batteries recharged and a renewed sense of optimism. □

Convention 2006

"Solutions for Profitable Agriculture," takes place March 15-17, 2006 at the Delta Bessborough in Saskatoon, SK. A registration form is included with this newsletter, and the draft agenda follows:

Wednesday March 15, 2006

- 11:00 am Registration
- 1:00 pm *Welcome*, Geoffrey Hewson, Director, WCWGA and Conference Chair
- 1:10 pm *Greetings from the Province*
- 1:30 pm *Canadian and Global Trends in Agriculture*, Brian Hayward, CEO, Agricore United
- 2:15 pm *Resolutions and Nominations: The Process*, Joseph Janzen, Director, WCWGA
- 2:30 pm Refreshment Break
- 3:00 pm *Are We Going to get a Good Trade Deal?* Todd Hunter, Acting Deputy Director, Export Competition, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and Patty Townsend, Executive Director, Canadian Agri-Food Trade Alliance
- 4:30 pm *Resolutions*, Joseph Janzen, Director, WCWGA
- 5:00 pm Adjournment
- 6:30 pm President's Reception, sponsored by John Deere Ltd., Entertainment by Doug Arden

Thursday March 16, 2006

- 7:00 am Continental Breakfast (Thursday A.M. Session sponsored by BMO Financial Group)
- 8:00 am *Market Outlook*, Mike Jubinville, ProFarmer Canada
- 8:45 am *Getting Our Grain to Market*, Mark Hemmes, President, Quorum Corporation, and Lorne Keller, VP, Marketing and Development, Prince Rupert Port Authority
- 10:15 am Refreshment Break
- 10:45 am *Grain Grading and Quality Assurance*, Terry Harasym, Assistant Chief Commissioner, Canadian Grain Commission and Chris Van Natto, Business Development Manager, DuPont Acurum
- Noon Buffet Lunch, sponsored by Saskatchewan Wheat Pool
- 1:30 pm *Creating Value with Science and Technology*, Dr. Colin Carter, Professor, University of California, Davis
- 2:15 pm *Resolutions*, Joseph Janzen, Director, WCWGA
- 2:30 pm Refreshment Break
- 3:00 pm *The Future Role and Structure of the Canadian Wheat Board*, Hartley Furtan, Professor, College of Agriculture, University of Saskatchewan and Cherilyn Jolly-Nagel, President, WCWGA
- 4:00 pm *Resolutions*, Joseph Janzen, Director, WCWGA
- 4:45 pm Adjournment
- 6:00 pm Evening Banquet, sponsored by Agricore United with Entertainment by Don't Mind Us, sponsored by Syngenta

Friday March 17, 2006

- 7:30 am Continental Breakfast, sponsored by James Richardson International
- 8:30 am *Creating Opportunities on the Prairies*, Speaker to be Announced
- 9:15 am *Resolutions*, Joseph Janzen, Director, WCWGA
- 9:30 am Refreshment Break
- 10:00 am *Bio-Energy Opportunities*, Lionel LaBelle, President, Saskatchewan Ethanol Development Commission
- 11:15 am *Resolutions*, Joseph Janzen, Director, WCWGA
- 11:30 am Introducing the 2006-2007 WCWGA Board of Directors
- Noon Buffet Lunch, sponsored by CN Rail
- 1:00 pm *The Australian Outlook*, Neil Wandel, Deputy Chairman, Co-operative Bulk Handling Ltd., sponsored by Monsanto Canada Inc.
- 2:15 pm Concluding Remarks, Cherilyn Jolly-Nagel, President, WCWGA
- 2:45 pm WCWGA 36th Annual General Meeting

Wheat Growers in Action . . .

- Bill Rusk, Director, attended the Western Grain Standards Committee meeting in Winnipeg on November 1. In response to concerns raised by the Wheat Growers and others, the Committee set up a Falling Number Working Group to consider the introduction of falling number grading for sprout-damaged grain.
- The Wheat Growers participated in the Agri-Trade farm show in Red Deer, November 9 to 12. We held a successful member dinner during the show, with Chris Moran, new Executive Director of Grain Growers of Canada, as guest speaker. We extend our thanks to dinner sponsors Bayer CropScience, Agrico United and Newco Commodities.
- Cherilyn Jolly-Nagel, President, and Geoff Hewson, Director, gave presentations on farm policy to students at Olds College on November 10. Both are Olds College graduates.
- On November 17, Cherilyn Jolly-Nagel spoke about the role of the Wheat Growers at a producer group meeting hosted by the rural municipality in Lampman, SK. Dean Klippenstine, Saskatchewan VP, spoke earlier in the day to a group of municipalities on CAIS.
- Blair Rutter, Executive Director, gave the wrap-up presentation at the 10th annual Fields on Wheels conference in Winnipeg on November 22.
- On November 24, the Wheat Growers issued a media release welcoming the federal announcement of \$755 million in farm income support directed at the grains and oilseeds sector.
- Curtis Hiebert, Manitoba VP, and Blair Rutter attended a falling number seminar hosted by the Canadian Grain Commission in Winnipeg on November 28. The Wheat Growers are pushing for falling number grading to be introduced on a voluntary basis.
- On November 28 and 29, Bill Rusk, Director, participated in the On-Farm Food Safety Committee Working Group meeting in Ottawa.
- WCWGA directors Cherilyn Jolly-Nagel, Randy Hoback, Mike Bast and Bill Rusk participated in Grain Growers of Canada and the Canada Grains Council meetings held November 30 and December 1 in Ottawa.
- Art Enns, former President of the Wheat Growers, participated in a National Forum on Seed (NFS) meeting in Winnipeg on December 7. The NFS is looking at the policies and regulations surrounding the introduction of new seed varieties produced using modern technologies. Blair Rutter also attended the meeting.
- Cherilyn Jolly-Nagel, President, and Randy Hoback, Chair, attended the WTO Ministerial meeting in Hong Kong, from December 13 to 18. While the outcome was not as good as we had hoped, we believe it was important for the Wheat Growers to be among those voices promoting the interests of Canadian farmers dependent on trade.
- On December 16, the Wheat Growers issued a media release commenting on the report of the CWB Election Review Panel. The Panel adopted many of the Wheat Growers' key recommendations. We will seek the implementation of these and other recommendations to improve the CWB director election process.
- The Wheat Growers participated in the Crop Production Show in Saskatoon from January 10 to 12. It was good to see many Wheat Grower members stop by our booth.
- The Wheat Growers also were at Manitoba Ag Days in Brandon from January 17 to 19. Thanks to Nestibo Agra for allowing us to share their booth. While in Brandon the Wheat Growers also held a member dinner, with Brenda Tjaden Lepp of FarmLink as the guest speaker. Thanks to Cargill, Enns Bros. and Agri-Tel Grain for sponsoring the event.
- On January 24 in Nisku, WCWGA trade committee members Randy Hoback and Joe Janzen participated in a WTO strategy session hosted by Alberta Ministers Doug Horner and Ed Stelmach.
- On January 25, Cherilyn Jolly-Nagel made a presentation to a local Marketing Club on her trip to Hong Kong and the outcome of this round of WTO negotiations.
- Randy Hoback and Dean Klippenstine were in Ottawa on February 6 and 7 to meet with several members of the new Conservative government as well as department officials in trade, agriculture and industry.
- The Wheat Growers held a Board meeting in Winnipeg on February 9 and 10. While there, Cherilyn Jolly-Nagel, Randy Hoback and Blair Rutter met with several grain and seed companies. The trade is gearing up for marketing choice and will be ready as soon as the Conservative government moves forward on its campaign commitment.
- Blair Rutter, Executive Director, participated in a farm stewardship meeting, hosted by the Canadian Association of Agri-Retailers in Saskatoon on February 14.
- Randy Hoback and Blair Rutter participated in a GrainVision meeting in Calgary on February 15. GrainVision is a group of farm organizations, industry players and Chambers of Commerce who are working jointly to improve prosperity in western agriculture. □

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Call for Resolutions & Nominations:

Anyone wishing to (1) submit a resolution for discussion at Convention 2006 or (2) nominate someone to the WCWGA Board of Directors, are asked to do so prior to March 8, 2006. Questions? Call 306-586-5866.

