



## WESTERN BARLEY GROWERS ASSOCIATION

A strong voice for a vibrant, market responsive barley industry in western Canada

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### For Immediate Release

### ONE OF THE HOTTEST TOPICS AROUND

**February 8, 2008, Airdrie, AB:** “Our Convention is less than a week away, and one of the hottest topics around – biofuels - and how barley can play a role, is garnering a lot of attention” says Jeff Nielsen, President of the Western Barley Growers Association (WBGA) when talking about *BARLEY GOING GLOBAL – Barley does it all !*

WBGA teamed up with several partners, in cooperation with the Alberta Barley Commission (ABC), to look at the feasibility of barley as a feedstock in ethanol production. “The Barley Bioproducts Opportunity Project or BBOP has progressed very well,” indicated Doug McBain, WBGA past President, and who’s original idea initiated this project. “The great thing about this research is this is not research for research’s sake -- its research for our member’s sake”.

“The project has opened our eyes and minds to think differently about barley and allowed us to attract some industry leading speakers on biofuels to our convention. We are really excited to have Dr. Kevin Hicks, Research Leader USDA-ARS Crop Conversion Science & Engineering Research to present *New Technical Breakthroughs in Fuel Ethanol Production from Hulled and Hull-less Barley*”, continues McBain. “This is leading edge research and something that will be of real interest to our members”.

Additionally Dr. David Bressler from the University of Alberta who has headed up the technical assessments on barley fermentation and distillers grains will be sharing the results of that very exciting research. Mr. David Shambrock of Shambrock consulting who in partnership with of Kelwin Management have been evaluating business feasibility will also share some of their work to date.

“This is an exciting time to be in the barley business. Change is coming and we are committed to making barley a big part of our members future, whether that future is food, feed or fuel. Join us for our exciting convention” concludes Nielsen.

For more information on WBGA’s 2008 convention please visit [www.wbga.org](http://www.wbga.org) or call our office at 403.912.3998

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