



## WESTERN BARLEY GROWERS ASSOCIATION

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

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**For immediate Release -- News Release**

### **Canadian Wheat Board and Choice Marketing of Barley**

**February 14, 2007 – Airdrie, AB:** Today the Canadian Wheat Board operates along side an open market for feed barley. Barley producers have the option of pooling their feed barley through the CWB or sell it freely in the domestic market. As a risk management tool, some producers choose the CWB to market their feed barley and will continue to do so once the CWB's monopoly on barley is removed.

"The CWB does not need expensive and depreciating infrastructure in order to buy and market barley", says Jeff Nielsen, President of the Western Barley Growers Association (WBGA). "We have many grain companies, and producer owned inland terminals on the prairies that have the facilities that are eager to grow their business and handle barley, as they currently do now, for the CWB. Producers know that these companies are very competitive and the CWB will be able to use this leverage and its worldwide marketing connections to insure acceptable returns for those that continue to use it."

Expanding marketing choices from domestic feed barley to malt barley and export barley would simply mean issuing export licenses, this is done now in the feed milling industry. Feed mills that buy off board barley and export processed feed, do so with no CWB buy back requirements.

"Clear market signals for barley is what producers are asking for", continues Nielsen. "We would like to be able to readily access prices to our farm gate for feed barley, domestic and import as well as malt barley; whether it be posted in our local elevators or on the internet. Barley producers can achieve greater returns back to their farm gate with this information, along with the ability to continue to use the CWB as a marketing option. Choice will provide information required for crop plans, financial forecasting, and will make available contractual opportunities with end users such as the malting industry to provide consistence and quality."

The WBGA believes there is no problem for the CWB to operate with an open market as it would be consistent with the present system with the inclusion of malt and export barley; changes to the operations of the CWB would be insignificant.

WBGA calls upon barley producers to make sure their voice is heard and your ballot is cast in the barley plebiscite. For more information, please visit [www.barleyvote.ca](http://www.barleyvote.ca) Producers are also asked to contact their CWB director and ask how the CWB will continue to work on behalf of producers as a marketing option for barley.

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