



## WESTERN BARLEY GROWERS ASSOCIATION

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### News Release

#### DOES THE CWB APPLY A DOUBLE STANDARD WHEN IT COMES TO OPERATING FARMER'S POOLED ACCOUNTS?

**Airdrie, AB. – February 17, 2009:** “The Western Barley Growers Association (WBGA) does not dispute that closing the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) malt pooled account was a good business decision by the CWB”, says WBGA president Brian Otto. “Malt barley prices have declined significantly since harvest and we agree this closure should improve the net returns to those barley producers who are participated in the early malt pool. Our disagreement with what the CWB chose to do, and our question to them is, why didn't they then create a Malt Barley 'B' Pool for those who would still like to participate in pooling instead of leaving producers with the only other alternative, Cash Plus?” asks Otto. “Closing the pool early without any warning and not offering another pool as they would normally do seems very arbitrary.”

“With feed barley, the CWB created a Feed Barley A and B pooled account, even though the prices for feed barley have dropped too,” Brian points out. If you read the latest CWB annual report on page 37 one of the three pillars of the CWB, is 'price pooling'. The report states that price pooling “ensures that all farmers delivering the same grade of wheat or barley received the same returns at the end of the crop year, regardless of when their grain is sold during the crop year”. Otto wonders, “Has the CWB abandoned those producers who choose price pooling and who still hope to have their barley selected for malt later in the crop year?”

In agreeing with the decision by the CWB to close the malt pool to 'ensure better returns for malt barley producers in the pool', the WBGA suggests that it would therefore also be prudent to close the existing wheat pooled accounts. “All producers are aware of the decline of wheat prices since last fall. Doesn't the CWB's stated principle of protecting producer's bottom lines apply here also? It appears that all producers are not considered equal in the eyes of the CWB when it comes to marketing, and a double standard applies just for Malt Barley” says Otto.

Western Barley Growers Association is a strong voice for a vibrant, market responsive barley industry in western Canada.

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