

**WESTERN BARLEY GROWERS ASSOCIATION**

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**For immediate release -- News Release**

**Support “all the way” for the Canadian grain group at the 10th Anniversary WTO Symposium**

**April 25, 2005, Airdrie, AB.:** “We are very pleased with our meetings held at the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary WTO Symposium” stated Western Barley Growers Association (WBGA) President Doug McBain and Vice President Jeff Nielsen who attended this years WTO Symposium held in Geneva, Switzerland. “This trip was extremely informative”. Included in the delegation of western Canadian farm leaders were Doug Robertson, Alberta Barley Commission; Eugene Dextrase, Alberta Grain Commission; as well as Randy Hoback and Doug Campbell, Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association. “In all, the focus of our trip was to support our team of Canadian Negotiators in the removal of tariffs and trade distorting subsidies affecting grain and oil seed producers, resulting in improved market access for Canadian agricultural products” continued Nielsen.

The grain group (Delegation) had encouraging dialog with many of the 1500 delegates attending and met individually with a number of different country’s representatives on agriculture including the United States, China, Australia, India and the European Union.

They also met with fellow Canadians, Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) Chair Ken Ritter, CWB director Larry Hill and Policy Advisor Carl Potts. In that meeting the group were disappointed that the CWB were still focused on maintaining the “status quo”. “We as farmers have a vision of where we would like to see our livelihood go” stated Doug McBain. “The CWB apparently has no plan to work within a free-trade environment and encourage growth in grains and oilseeds in Canada”

In a release available to all the delegates attending the CWB raised many concerns of the group.

it exists to serve the needs of 75,000 Western Canadian farmers  
it is the preferred marketing system of western Canadian farmers  
75% of W Canada farmers support the CWB  
The CWB is a transparent and accountable marketing organization

“It seems inappropriate for the CWB to mislead our respected trading partners” Jeff Nielsen adds “This is a forum for promoting change and gaining market access that will benefit all of Canada’s grain and oilseed producers”.

According to Stats Canada, grains, oilseeds, beef and pork total 91% of Canada’s farm income. With that international trade is key! Market access, trade distorting subsidies and tariffs are important issues that this round of trade negotiations needs to correct. The attending farmers felt a strong idea of significant changes coming out of this round of negotiations and support the Canadian team all the way.

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**Western Barley Growers Association**

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