



WESTERN BARLEY GROWERS ASSOCIATION

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

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For Immediate Release

STREAMLINED VARIETY REGISTRATION SYSTEM WILL ALLOW NEW VARIETIES TO HIT THE MARKET SOONER

Saskatoon, SK. - April 15, 2015 - The Western Barley Growers (WBGA) was on hand at the Global Crops Symposium in Saskatoon Tuesday to hear Agriculture Minister Ritz's announcement of changes to Canada's Varietal Registration System. "After the consultations this past year, we were pleased to hear that a number of the recommendations producer groups made have been accepted by the Minister," said Doug Robertson, President of the WBGA. "We have to make the process simpler and less onerous for the developers of new varieties so breeders will want to invest in Canada's cereal industry. We are playing catch-up with our competitors with our cereal Research & Development."

Some of the changes announced by the Minister include reducing the number of Registration System tiers to two – Basic and Enhanced – from the previous 3 tiers, and streamlining procedures for the Recommending Committees to speed up varietal approvals.

"Changes like these will speed up the availability of newer and better varieties of cereals, which reduces scarce research dollar requirements. Further consultations will allow us to design a system that encourages innovation while maintaining the quality that our customers want from Canadian cereals," continued Robertson. "We need to continue modernizing our Varietal Registration system as soon as possible."

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

For further comment, please contact:

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