



WESTERN BARLEY GROWERS ASSOCIATION

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

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For Immediate Release

WBGA COMMENDS FORMATION OF NEW SASKATCHEWAN CROP COMMISSIONS

Airdrie, Alberta, June 21, 2013 - The Western Barley Growers Association (WBGA) congratulates the farmers of Saskatchewan following the Saskatchewan government announcement yesterday of the formation of two new crop commissions in the province: the Saskatchewan Barley Development Commission and the Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission. "Back in 1991 the WBGA established the Alberta Barley Commission (ABC), and since then the ABC has leveraged farmer check-off dollars in many ways to the benefit of farmers in both Alberta and across the Prairies," said Doug Robertson, WBGA President. "This Commission has led the way in funding not just research on crops and agronomics, especially through the Lacombe and Lethbridge Research Stations, collaborated very successfully with other commodity groups on many initiatives, but also greatly expanded work in the food use of barley, and secured a Health Canada heart-health claim for barley. As well, they have helped fund policy work that among other things aided the fight for a voluntary CWB, and that has led to the freedom that farmers now enjoy in marketing their grain. In short, they have successfully leveraged farmer's money for the benefit of farmers."

Robertson continued, "We have been working with farmers across the Prairies for years to encourage the establishment of other provincial commissions, and it is gratifying to see the establishment of not just these two commissions, but the new Alberta Wheat Commission this year as well. Farmers are taking control of their industry in a big way, and will be able to direct it much more effectively than in the past with these organizations. As well, with the recent establishment of the Barley Council of Canada (BCC), the Saskatchewan Barley Development Commission will be able to represent Saskatchewan farmers on this farmer/industry Council which has been designed to coordinate the Barley Industry as a whole."

"Last year on August 1, 2012 we celebrated the beginning of the voluntary CWB, and this year on August 1, 2013 we will see these two commissions come into effect, and it again is a cause for celebration by farmers. We hope Manitoba will be able to get their Barley and Wheat Commission established in the near future."

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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