



WESTERN BARLEY GROWERS ASSOCIATION

Agriculture Centre – 909 Irricana Road
Airdrie, AB T4A 2G6

Phone: (403) 912-3998

Fax: (403) 948-2069 (Airdrie office)

www.wbga.org Email: wbga@wbga.org

For immediate release -- News Release

Canadian Wheat Board Shipping Fiasco Costly for Farmers

January 31, 2005, Airdrie, AB.; "This backhauling of grain by the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) is turning top quality wheat into \$80 per tonne wheat" said Douglas McBain, President, Western Barley Growers Association (WBGA), when commenting on the fact that wheat in store in Churchill, Manitoba is now being reloaded and railed west to Vancouver.

In November, 2004, after shipping was closed for the season, the CWB moved wheat to Churchill. The farmers paid all costs of transportation and handling. That wheat is now being reloaded and shipped west to Vancouver to meet a sale commitment. The cost of extra elevations and handling and the additional rail freight charges could cost farmers another \$100 per tonne.

"Why was this wheat shipped to Churchill in the first place, especially when the shipping season would be closed until some time in June 2005?" asked McBain.

"What we have here is the CWB calling contracts on wheat and putting it into commercial storage when they have no sale for it. This kind of action costs farmers some \$80 million each year in storage costs with no one being held to account" said McBain.

Wheat and barley exported by the CWB is in the grain handling system some 40 days longer than canola which is handled outside the CWB (59 days versus 19 days).

"In western Canada we have a world class grain handling and transportation system which is capable of responding to market demands. If the system were allowed to function without CWB interference, farmers would save \$80 million annually. This fiasco demonstrates that the CWB must be removed from any involvement in the gathering and shipping of grain" commented McBain.

For more information contact:

Douglas McBain, President
Cremona, AB Phone/Fax: (403) 637-3880
dmcbain@therockies.ca

Jeff Nielsen, Vice President
Olds, AB
Phone: (403) 556-3035 Fax: (403) 556-5978
jeffniel@telusplanet.net

Albert Wagner, Past President
Stony Plain, AB
Phone: (780) 963-7753 Fax: (780) 963-8753
ajwccr@telusplanet.net

Western Barley Growers Association

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