



WESTERN BARLEY GROWERS ASSOCIATION

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

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For immediate Release -- News Release

Minister Strahl follows through with the removal of CWB President

December 19, 2006, Airdrie, AB.- The Honourable Chuck Strahl, Minister for Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and Minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board today confirmed he has followed through with the removal of CWB President and CEO, Adrian Measner, and replaced him with former CWB President and CEO Greg Arason.

“The Western Barley Growers Association (WBGA) welcomes the appointment of Greg Arason as interim President and CEO to the Canadian Wheat Board’s board of directors.” says Jeff Nielsen, President of the WBGA from the press conference near Winnipeg. “In today’s announcement, Mr. Arason has pledged to support the policies of the Federal Government for more choice for western farmers, while maintaining a strong and viable CWB. Mr. Arason’s history with the CWB and international reputation is well known. International and domestic customers will be satisfied with the continuity of the operations at the CWB.” continued Nielsen.

“Minister Strahl has reinforced the government’s position to allow marketing choice for western farmers,” states Nielsen, “We look forward to working with Mr. Arason and the board of directors of the CWB and the federal government on the implementation of choice. The recent announcement by the board to exempt small processors from buyback requirements is a huge step in that direction, next is the barley plebiscite that the Minister has called for early in the new year to consult with barley producers on marketing choice.” concludes Nielsen.

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