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national farmers union

In Union Is Strength

December 21, 2009

Mr. Greg Marshall
President
Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan
100 – 2400 College Avenue
Regina, SK S4P 1C8

Dear Greg,

Thank you for your letter regarding my recent election as President of the NFU. I appreciate your observations on the necessity of farm organizations working together to achieve solutions on issues of common concern. The NFU shares this philosophy. We have a long tradition of cooperation with like-minded organizations, and will continue to work for the interests of family farmers.

We welcome the invitation to strengthen communication between our organizations, and to work together on specific initiatives.

In fact, the timing of your letter, and the invitation to work together is indeed fortunate. The NFU is planning an event, to take place in March, 2010, that we would like to invite APAS to be involved in, and for APAS members to participate in. The event is a day-long public symposium on the Canadian Grain Commission (CGC). As you know the CGC is a vital regulatory component of the western Canadian grain quality control system, and its work over the decades has helped forge western Canada's strong reputation for high-quality wheat and other grains in both domestic and export markets. The CGC has also served to ensure farmers receive fair and equitable treatment in the marketplace.

The organization of the symposium on the CGC comes as a result of a resolution adopted at our recent national convention in Ottawa. Delegates from Manitoba put forward a resolution mandating the NFU to "jointly sponsor" – with other farm organizations - a symposium on the CGC. The symposium is designed to be an educational forum that will provide farmers and the general public with information on the history of the CGC, the proposed legislative and regulatory changes to the mandate of the CGC; and a discussion on what farmers require from the CGC in the present and future.

At the present time, we are looking to hold this symposium either in Regina or Saskatoon in mid-March. The exact location and date are not yet finalized, and we would certainly welcome your input on both those counts. In addition, your suggestions on speakers would be appreciated.

I am scheduled to make a presentation at this event, as is former NFU President Stewart Wells. We have also received confirmation from two other speakers: Donna Welke, former Assistant Commissioner for the CGC in Saskatchewan, and Ken Larsen, an Alberta farmer who has written extensively on the history of western Canadian agriculture.

We also welcome your suggestions with regard to the agenda.

Thank you again for your letter, and I look forward to your positive response with regard to our invitation to participate in the planning and sponsorship of the CGC symposium.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Terry Boehm". The signature is written in black ink and has a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Terry Boehm
President
National Farmers Union