

Spiritwood Herald (Shellbrook,SK)			Order/Commande
			150162
Date 08.10.2010	Circ. 2686	Page 7	1 / 1

Safety nets will be needed

The Grain Growers of Canada are calling on the Federal Agriculture Minister, the Hon. Gerry Ritz; as well as Provincial Agriculture Ministers, the Hon. Stan Struthers (MB), the Hon. Bob Bjonerud (SK), the Hon. Jack Hayden (AB) and the Hon. Steve Thomson (BC) to immediately begin preparing for what will likely be widespread claims across much of the west.

“Production estimates today show decreases of between 10% and 40% in most crops,” said Doug Robertson, President of the Grain Growers of Canada. “The wet summer, delayed planting and flooding across much of the west, and a multiple year drought in the Peace, are showing up in widespread yield losses.”

“Farmers need to be able to trust that when they apply for crop insurance, agri-invest, agri-stability, or provincial programs, that there will be staff trained in claims management who can actually explain the programs,” said Robertson. “Nothing is more frustrating when a farmer has poor crops or a financial crunch, then having to deal with people who either don’t know the answers or give conflicting answers.”

The Grain Growers of Canada are asking Federal and Provincial Governments to:

- ensure adequate numbers of people are available for post-harvest claims
- ensure that staff are knowledgeable on program details
- ensure infrastructure is in place; claim forms, websites updated, information pieces

Prairie farmers typically have large operating loans and outstanding cash advances in the fall, in addition to regular machinery and mortgage payments.

“We are not calling for additional disaster assistance at this time, but let’s make sure the existing programs deliver results in a timely basis,” said Robertson. “We all know there is a shortfall now and the least we can do is ensure that the money flows to farmers when they need it most.”

The Grain Growers of Canada represent the interests of the 80,000 successful Canadian grain, pulse and oil-seed producers who are members of the Alberta Barley Commission, Alberta Grain Commission, Alberta Oat Rye and Triticale Association, Alberta Winter Wheat Producers Commission, Atlantic Grains Council, Alberta Pulse Growers, British Columbia Grain Producers Association, Canadian Canola Growers Association, Manitoba Corn Growers Association, Prairie Oat Growers Association, Western Barley Growers Association, and Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association.

For more information on the Grain Growers of Canada, please visit www.ggc-pgc.ca.

