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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE...

Provincial Ag Ministers Support Marketing Choice

Barley Commission Praises Joint Decision

Calgary, AB (July 8, 2011) – The federal government announced today it has received support from the Agriculture Ministers of British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan in eliminating the Canadian Wheat Board’s monopoly on selling and marketing grain.

“The Commission supports the ag ministers’ stance that farmers have the right to determine how to market their own grain,” said Mike Leslie, Commission CEO.

Commission Chair Matt Sawyer—a barley grower from Acme, AB—is pleased the ag ministers understand that farmers will benefit by being given more options.

“This open-market system will give farmers the option of continuing to market their grain through the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB), or the freedom to market outside of the CWB if they so choose,” said Sawyer. “There’s going to be new value-added processing on the prairies and new market opportunities—it’s a win-win for everyone.”

This is not to say that transitioning from a single-desk to a multi-desk system will be easy, added Leslie.

“The change will present some challenges,” said Leslie. “But the Commission is looking forward to working with the CWB, and other partners, to resolve any issues that may arise during the transition.”

For more information on the Alberta Barley Commission, visit www.albertabarley.com.

Canada’s only barley commission, the Alberta Barley Commission is a not-for-profit organization directed, funded and controlled by the province’s 17,000 barley producers. The Commission coordinates and sponsors research, market development, technology transfer and policy development on behalf of its producers.

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***For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact
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