



**The National Farmers Union in New Brunswick  
L'Union nationale des fermiers au Nouveau-Brunswick**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**AUGUST 3, 2010**

**NFU Warns New Trade Agreement with EU Could Crush Canadian Farmers**

While farmers throughout the Maritimes are spending long days cutting hay and harvesting their crops, the Canadian government and the European Union (EU) are negotiating a new “free trade” agreement, the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA).

National Farmers Union (NFU) President, Terry Boehm, warns this agreement will further intensify Canada’s farm income crisis. “The CETA would mean many changes, but none more negative than its effect to extinguish farmers’ rights to save and re-use seeds,” states Boehm. “With powers such as those proposed in the CETA, seed companies will gain significant power over who farms and how.”

Boehm also says farm support programs will be cut and the supply managed sectors, including dairy, poultry, and egg producers, will come under attack. Currently these are the only sectors in which some Canadian farmers are able to cover their cost of production and make a decent living.

Even food safety will suffer under the CETA, Boehm points out. “The CETA’s intent and effect is to erode food safety, end supports to farmers, and make sure intellectual property rights’ holders have powerful tools to control our food system . . .” Boehm states, “This agreement represents a massive transfer of power and wealth, and thus, it must not be allowed.”

The NFU President will present further details about the CETA and its potentially disastrous effects on agriculture and other business sectors at the **NFU Region 1 Annual Meeting at the Quality Inn Près du Lac, 10039 Route 144 (Exit 75), Grand Falls on Saturday, August 7**. Registration will take place at 8:30, with the meeting getting underway at 9 a.m. NB Minister of Agriculture and Aquaculture, Ronald Ouellette, will address the meeting at 9:30, followed by Boehm’s presentation. A report from Prince Edward Island on discussions about domestic fair trade will follow.

After dinner and reports from the districts, Jennifer Scott of GPI Atlantic will present recent economic research on agriculture in the Maritimes. Professor Darrell McLaughlin of the University of Saskatchewan will present his findings about causes of depressed prices in the Canadian beef industry, and the meeting will close with a tour of the nearby Laforge dairy farm methane production facility.

Interested farmers, and all those concerned about agriculture and food security, are most welcome to attend the meeting. A \$15 registration fee includes lunch, but no one will be turned away.

Seed potato producers will gather at the same location that evening at an NFU sponsored dinner to honour the PVYn Affected Growers Inc. Committee, with special speaker, The Honourable Wayne Easter, MP, Malpeque, PE.

For more information on the meeting or the dinner, please contact:

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