

Do you trust the big grain companies and railways to regulate themselves?

Plan to attend a one-day symposium on the
Canadian Grain Commission

Sunday, March 14, 2010

8:30 AM to 5:00 PM

Heritage Inn, Saskatoon, SK

*Section 13 of the Canada Grain Act states, in reference to
the Canadian Grain Commission:*

Objects of the Commission:

13. Subject to this Act and any directions to the Commission issued from time to time under this Act by the Governor in Council or the Minister, the Commission shall, in the interests of grain producers, establish and maintain standards of quality for Canadian grain and regulate grain handling in Canada, to ensure a dependable commodity for domestic and export markets.

The Canadian Grain Commission (CGC) plays an important regulatory role in ensuring:

1. Farmers' interests are protected in their dealings with grain companies and railways;
2. Canadian grain exports are inspected to ensure they are of consistent high quality;
3. Farmers have access to producer cars – a right guaranteed under the Canada Grain Act;
4. Grain companies maintain accurate weights and measures in their elevators;
5. The Canadian grain handling system does not become contaminated with unregistered varieties.

The Canada Grain Act was passed by the Parliament of Canada in 1912, in response to demands by western farmers for regulation of the grain gathering and transportation system. Shortly afterwards, the Board of Grain Commissioners (later to become the CGC) was established to carry out the provisions of the Act. For nearly a century, the CGC has regulated the grain trade in Canada and safeguarded the interests of prairie farmers. It has cooperated with the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) to ensure that Canadian grain exports are of consistent high quality, and

that western Canadian farmers receive the maximum returns possible on the sale of their grain to export markets.

But farmers can no longer take the CGC, or its watchdog regulatory role, for granted.

For the past several years, the Harper government has introduced amendments to the *Canada Grain Act* which would fundamentally alter the mandate of the Canadian Grain Commission. Under these amendments, which so far have failed to pass in Parliament, the mandate of the CGC would no longer be to regulate the grain trade in the interests of grain producers. Instead, the CGC would become a service provider for the grain trade – providing weighing, grading and inspection services for a fee.

No farm organization has been as an effective and ardent supporter of the CGC as has the National Farmers Union. To ensure a robust CGC working in the interests of farmers we need to continue to strengthen the NFU with new membership. Please consider seeking out and bringing a non NFU member along with you to this very important meeting. Exposing farmers first hand to the crucial work of the NFU is the best recruitment tool we have.

Learn about:

1. The CGC and the farm movement: an historical perspective
2. The regulatory, inspection, advocacy roles of the CGC
3. Producer cars: How the CGC works with the CWB to put more money in farmers pockets
4. Legislative and regulatory threats to the CGC and the *Canada Grain Act*.

The symposium is open to all farmers and the general public.

There is no admission charge, but donations are appreciated to help cover costs.

Remember - Bring your neighbours!



For more information and to register for the event, please contact the NFU office at 306-652-9465.

Agenda for Canadian Grain Commission Symposium

Sunday, March 14, 2010
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- 8:30 AM Registration and Coffee
- 9:15 AM **Welcome and Introduction**
Terry Boehm, NFU President
- 9:30 AM **The CGC and the farm movement: an historical perspective**
Terry Pugh, NFU Executive-Secretary
- 10:30 AM **Regulatory role of the CGC:**
1. Assistant Commissioners: the CGC as farmers' advocate
2. Honest Weights and Measures: protecting the farmers' interests
3. Inward Inspection: Ensuring grain export quality
4. Market Harm: Avoiding contamination in bulk handling systems
5. Farmers, workers and the public interest
Donna Welke, former SK Assistant Commissioner
Howard Willems, 4th Vice-President, Agriculture Union, PSAC
- 12:00 PM Lunch Break
- 1:30 PM **Putting money in farmers' pockets: The CGC, the CWB, and producer cars**
Larry Hill, CWB Chair
Bill Woods, Robert Chapman & Logan Connor - Producer Car Shippers
- 3:00 PM **Legislative and regulatory threats: The future of the CGC**
Terry Boehm, NFU President
- 3:30 PM **Discussion on priorities and action plan**
- 4:45 PM Summary of discussion and resolution on action plan
- 5:00 PM Adjourn