



November, 2006

Fellow Ontario Producers of Corn, Soybeans and Wheat,

This memo will provide you with an update on the work to date of the Grains & Oilseeds Organizational Working Group. At the direction of producers, this group was formed "to work towards the formation of a grains and oilseed organization by a target date of September 2008."

To assist with this process, in April, 2006 a Grassroots Producer Advisory Committee was formed, consisting of fifteen grains and oilseed producers across Ontario, to provide further input on many of the issues involved in potentially bringing about one new organization in place of the three current ones.

With the benefit of their significant input into the development of a preferred model for one unified organization, and the review provided by delegates at their conferences in August and September, we are now in a position to share the outline of the preferred model with all producers. Our reason for sharing this outline of how the organizations might be brought together is to seek input from all producers before adopting any final recommendation.

In the *Ontario Farmer* issue of December 12, 2006 we are planning to publish an insert which will provide you with a summary of the preferred model as it has been currently developed. You will also be able to obtain copies from our Guelph offices or download them from any of our three websites after this date. As well, the websites will offer you the ability to download the draft regulations and by-law proposed for giving effect to the preferred model as an organizational structure.

This model for forming one organization will be discussed at county meetings in December and January. After making any further modifications based on your input received there, the model will be further considered at the annual meetings and delegates' conference in March. Should the three organizations then indicate their acceptance, it is our understanding that the Farm Products Marketing Commission will need to conduct a producer vote.

After you have carefully reviewed the information that will be inserted in the mid-December *Ontario Farmer*, we encourage you to attend your county meeting and provide your input firsthand in discussion with your fellow-producers. The county meeting will also give you an opportunity to make sure that you fully understand the proposed model for bringing the three organizations together.

Yours very truly,

The Ontario Grains & Oilseeds Organizational Working Group consisting of Larry Cowan, Greg Devries, Doug Eadie, Alan Kerkhof, Kevin Marriott, and David Whaley