

July 10, 2007

For Immediate Release

Northern Crops Institute Boards Elect New Officers

Laird Larson, SD Wheat Commission, Elected NCC Chair
John McLean, Cargill Inc., Elected IAB Chair

Fargo, N.D., USA – **Laird Larson** is the newly elected chair of the Northern Crops Council (NCC), the 17-member governing board of Northern Crops Institute, Fargo, N.D., USA. The NCC elected Larson by unanimous vote at their reorganization meeting on June 20.

Larson, a producer from Clark, S.D., represents the South Dakota Wheat Commission. He has been an active member of the Northern Crops Council since 2004.

Larson replaces **Jennifer Tesch**, marketing director for SK Food International, an **import/export trading company and domestic bulk ingredient supplier in Fargo, N.D.** Tesch served six years representing processors on the Council. Tesch will continue to serve the NCC as past chair.

Dan Wiltse, a producer from Lisbon, N.D., is the NCC's new vice chair. He has occupied the N.D. Oilseed Council's permanent seat on the NCC since 2005.

Doyle Lentz, a producer from Rolla, N.D., represents the North Dakota Barley Council for a three-year term in their permanent NCC seat.

Additional new members on the NCC include:

Ryan Brooks, a producer from Bowman, N.D., for the Northern Pulse Growers Association.

Ernie Hoffert, a producer from Carrington, N.D., representing AmeriFlax.

Mark Jossund, a producer from Moorhead, Minn., for the Minnesota Wheat Research and Promotion Council.

Robert Majkrzak, president and CEO of Red River Commodities, Fargo, N.D.

Robert Sinner, president of SB&B Foods, Casselton, N.D.

René Steiner, president of Buhler North America, Plymouth, Minn.

The Northern Crops Council is currently composed of seventeen members who may serve up to two three-year terms. Due to legislation passed during North Dakota's 2007 Legislative session, the number of producers and processing representatives on the NCC increased July 1.

The NCC has six permanent seats that are occupied by the NDSU President, N.D. Commissioner of Agriculture, and representatives of the N.D. Wheat Commission, N.D.

Oilseed Council, N.D. Barley Council, and N.D. Soybean Council. In addition, producers and processors from Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota gain seats on the Council through nomination or appointment.

NCI's Industry Advisory Board (IAB) elected **John McLean**, Cargill Inc., West Fargo, N.D., to his first term as IAB chair. The IAB held its annual meeting on June 21.

Eight new members joined the thirty-member Industry Advisory Board. They are: **Eric Bartsch**, United Pulse Trading; **Tim Egeland**, Dahlgren & Company, Inc.; **Nancy Krull**, Minneapolis Grain Exchange; **Jon Long**, BNSF Railway Inc.; **Dave Polries**, Northern Pulse Growers Association; **Travis Sitter**, Hesco Inc.; **Mike Stevens**, Busch Agricultural Resources; and **Tom Streifel**, Blue Flint Ethanol.

The Industry Advisory Board provides advice to NCI on educational programming and technical services. IAB draws its members from the agricultural supply and processing industry and the grain trade in Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota.

Northern Crops Institute supports regional agriculture and value-added processing by conducting educational and technical programs that expand and maintain domestic and international markets for northern-grown crops.

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