



Release of New WTO Text Means Gains for Exporters

February 8, 2008 – Canada’s agriculture and agri-food exporters are welcoming the release of the Revised Draft Modalities for Agriculture.

“The text has essentially captured the consensus that has been reached in Geneva over the past several months,” said Darcy Davis, CAFTA President. “We’re pleased that the progress in all three pillars – domestic support, export competition and market access – has been incorporated into this working document”

“We had commissioned an analysis of the previous text; it showed a potential gain of up to \$3 billion for a group of primary export commodities,” said Davis. “From our assessment, this text maintains – or even builds – on that gain.”

“Canadian industry produces some of the finest commodities and value added products in the world,” said Keith Lancaster, CAFTA Executive Director. “For the over 90% of Canadian farmers that are export dependent this text presents some exciting possibilities.”

“Our members are firmly behind efforts to reduce trade barriers,” said Lancaster. “They know they can more than hold their own in a global market – as long as they have the chance to compete on an equal footing.”

Davis stressed the need for a concerted effort to reach a timely agreement. “Every day we wait for an agreement represents almost \$10 Million in lost opportunity for Canadian exporters,” said Davis. “Export dependent farmers produce nearly 80% of Canada’s farm gate receipts - so a deal that is good for exporters is good for Canada.”

“CAFTA will be sending a delegation to Geneva when the negotiations resume,” said Davis. “We are encouraging the Government of Canada, and the missions of other WTO countries, to focus on concluding an ambitious agreement, as soon as possible.”

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The Canadian Agri-Food Trade Alliance represents producers, processors and exporters of agriculture and agri-food products, as well as suppliers of agricultural inputs. Accounting for over 80% of Canada’s agriculture and food exports, and more than 60% of farm cash receipts, CAFTA’s members are united in their dependence on trade, and in their need for a liberalized international trading environment.

For further information or to schedule an interview contact:

Keith Lancaster, CAFTA Executive Director – (613) 791-5352 – lancastle@cafta.org