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For Immediate Release:

Grain Growers support move to harmonize regulations with US

(Thursday, December 8, 2011, Ottawa, ON) – The Grain Growers of Canada supports the Federal Government’s move to increase regulatory cooperation with the United States. “We welcome the news that Canada and the US want to work together on regulations that affect the agriculture industry,” says Stephen Vandervalk, President of the Grain Growers of Canada.

Within the Border Action Plan announced by Prime Minister Stephen Harper and President Barack Obama, plans include the creation of a Regulatory Cooperation Council focussing on regulatory harmonization in areas that include the agriculture and food sectors.

“Strategically aligning our regulations with the United States will only help improve our trade relations with our largest trading partner and our most valuable market,” says Vandervalk. “Working proactively to iron out regulations that affect farmers on both sides of the border is simply good common sense for everyone involved - farmers, agri-industry and consumers.”

Over 60% of Canada’s agriculture and agri-food products are exported to the United States. And, Across Canada, 92% of farms are directly dependent on export markets - they either export their products or sell them domestically at prices set by international marketplaces. This represents 210,000 farms and includes the majority of farms in every province.

Representing tens of thousands of successful wheat, durum, barley, canola, oat, corn, pea, lentil, rye and triticale farmers, the Grain Growers of Canada is well known as the national voice of Canadian grain farmers. Please visit www.ggc-pgc.ca.

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