



## **I.D.E.A. Industry Update - November 9, 2001**

### **Crop Loss Coalition Addresses Drought Issues**

Ten different farm organizations are working together to address the ramifications of this year's dramatic drop in Canadian crop production. In many regions, drought cut into crop yields, while in some regions, other factors caused a disappointing harvest.

The "Crop Loss Coalition" includes prominent farm organizations from each of the three prairie provinces as well as representation from some national farm organizations. The coalition has been holding meetings and conducting research since August. The coalition notes the drop in production suffered by many farmers is also hurting businesses and communities and will have negative effects throughout the entire Canadian economy."

While the Crop Loss Coalition is grateful for programs such as Crop Insurance and NISA, the coalition says current safety nets are not adequate to address the problem. The terrible yields suffered in many regions of the country this year follow successive years of low grain prices.

Further information is available online at [www.croplosscoalition.ca](http://www.croplosscoalition.ca). Members of the Crop Loss Coalition include Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan, Alberta Soft Wheat Producers Commission, Canadian Wheat Board, Canadian Canola Growers Association, Keystone Agricultural Producers, National Farmers Union, Rye and Triticale Association, Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities, Saskatchewan Organic Directorate and Wild Rose Agricultural Producers.

### **Negotiations in Qatar Aimed At Launching New World Trade Talks**

Trade Ministers from around the world will gather for a meeting of the World Trade Organization November 9 to 13 in Doha, Qatar. Qatar is a tiny, oil rich desert nation on the Persian Gulf. The ministers hope to do what they failed to do in Seattle two years ago - launch a new round of trade negotiations. Ministers from 140 nations are expected to attend. The Canadian delegation will include trade minister Pierre Pettigrew and the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, Lyle Vanclief. Within agriculture, Canada will be pushing for a two year negotiation. Canadian objectives include a significant improvement in market access, the elimination of export subsidies and the elimination or substantial reduction of trade distorting domestic supports.

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