

Manitoba Vote on the CWB

Frequently Asked Questions

1. *Who is eligible to vote?*

A. All producers with a direct economic stake in the Canadian Wheat Board are eligible to cast one vote. Specifically the following individuals are eligible to vote:

1. Producers who grew wheat or barley in 2005 or 2006; and
2. Landlords entitled to a share of a wheat or barley crop grown in 2005 or 2006.

Only residents of Manitoba will be eligible to vote. Depending on a farm's legal structure, there may be more than one eligible voter per farm; however, any one individual can only cast one ballot. Depending of the legal structure, the following individuals are eligible to vote, subject to a maximum of one vote per person:

Type of Farming Enterprise	Eligible Voter
Sole Proprietorship	Owner
Partnership	Each Legal Partner
Corporations / Colonies	Each Legal Shareholder

2. *Will I automatically receive a ballot if I meet the eligibility criteria?*

A. If you are named in a Production Insurance contract for a farming enterprise that grew wheat or barley in either 2005 or 2006, you will automatically receive a ballot.

If you meet the eligibility criteria, but are not named in a Production Insurance contract, you must fill out a Declaration by December 18, 2006 to receive a ballot.

If you meet the eligibility criteria, but have not purchased a Production Insurance contract in both of 2005 and 2006, you must fill out a Declaration by December 18, 2006 to receive a ballot.

3. *I have a CWB Permit Book. Am I automatically on the voters' list?*

A. No. Only those producers who are named in a Production Insurance contract as having produced wheat or barley in 2005 or 2006 are automatically on the voters' list. All other wheat or barley producers must fill out a Declaration by December 18, 2006 to receive a ballot.

4. *My spouse and I farm together in a partnership. How many votes are we able to cast?*

A. If you and your spouse are the legal partners in your farming enterprise, each of you can cast one vote.

5. *I grow wheat on my own farm, but also own shares in a farm corporation that grows barley. How many votes can I cast?*

A. You can cast one vote.

6. *I am one of ten shareholders in a corporate farm. How many ballots will we receive?*

A. Each of the legal shareholders of the corporate farm is eligible to cast one vote. However, only those shareholders that are named in the farm's Production Insurance contract will automatically receive a ballot. All other legal shareholders must fill out a Declaration by December 18, 2006 to receive a ballot.

7. *I farm 10,000 acres of cropland. Will my vote receive the same weight as a farmer who farms 300 acres?*

A. Yes. All producers can cast one vote and all votes will receive equal weight, regardless of the size of their farm operation.

8. *I am a resident of Saskatchewan, but my farm is located in Manitoba. Am I eligible to vote?*

A. No. Only Manitoba residents are eligible to vote.

9. *I am a landlord who shared in a wheat/barley crop with my tenant. Am I eligible to vote?*

A. Yes. Crop-share landlords who shared in a wheat or barley crop in 2005 or 2006 are eligible to cast one vote.

10. *I am a landlord that receives cash rent from my wheat/barley producer tenant. Can I vote?*

A. No. Only crop-share landlords are eligible to vote.

11. *I grow only wheat, why am I being asked to answer a question on barley?*

A. This is a vote about the CWB's single desk. Manitoba wants grain producers who use the CWB to have a voice in its future. This vote allows that.

12. *I only grow feed barley for my cattle. Am I eligible to vote?*

A. Yes. Feed-only growers are eligible to vote.

13. *I'm not sure if I'm named in our farm's Production Insurance contract. How do I find out if I'm on the voters' list?*

A. To find out if you are named in a Production Insurance contract, contact your local Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation (MASC) office.

14. I meet all the eligibility criteria and I'm named in a Production Insurance contract, but I have not yet received a ballot. What should I do?

A. Eligible producers should receive their ballots on or around December 13, 2006. If you have not received a ballot, contact your local MASC office to confirm you are named in a Production Insurance contract. You can also fill out a Declaration by December 18, 2006 to be placed on the voters' list.

15. Where can I get a Declaration form?

A. You can pick-up Declaration forms from any MAFRI GO Centre or Office around the province. You can also download this form at www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture.

16. Where can I find a Commissioner for Oaths or a Notary Public?

A. All MAFRI GO Centres and Offices will be staffed with a Commissioner for Oaths for your use, free of charge, for Declarations related to the Manitoba CWB Vote.

17. Who is running the vote?

A. Meyers, Norris, Penny has been contracted to administer and audit the entire voting process. This will ensure that the vote is conducted with confidentiality and integrity.

18. What are the important dates to be aware of?

A. The deadline to complete and submit a Declaration, which will put you on the voters' list, is DECEMBER 18, 2006.

The deadline to return your completed ballot is JANUARY 5, 2007. All ballots must be postmarked no later than January 5, 2007.

19. Why are you asking for my Social Insurance Number on the Declarations?

A. Your Social Insurance Number is only being collected to identify you and to ensure that nobody gets more than one vote. We will not share your SIN with anyone. This information will only be used for this vote.

20. What do you intend to do with the information on the Declaration you collect from me?

A. We will only use the information you provide to us to determine your eligibility to cast a vote.

21. What are you going to do with the personal information that you collect from me?

A. All personal information that was collected for the purposes of this vote is being used solely to generate the voters' list. After the vote, this information will be destroyed in a confidential manner.

22. I am part of a Colony. Am I eligible to vote? Which members of my Colony are eligible to cast a ballot?

A. For the purposes of this vote, all legal shareholders of the Colony's corporate farming entities that have a stake in wheat and barley production will be eligible to cast a ballot.

Questions related to the Ballot Questions:

23. Who developed the Ballot Questions?

A. The Ballot Question was developed by a coalition of Prairie farm groups consisting of Keystone Agricultural Producers, Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan, Wild Rose Agricultural Producers of Alberta and the National Farmers' Union. This producer coalition feels very strongly that their ballot question avoids misleading phrases and asks producers to choose between realistic choices. On October 17, 2006, the producer coalition presented these questions to Minister Chuck Strahl requesting that any future plebiscite on the CWB ask these questions of farmers.

24. What do the Ballot Questions mean?

A. Manitoba feels that the ballot questions avoid misleading phrases and asks producers to choose between realistic choices. Meaning, producers can either choose a single desk marketing system, or not. By definition, in the absence of a single desk marketing system, an open market system would prevail. An open market system does not preclude the existence of a voluntary marketing entity operating within an open market.

25. I would prefer a dual marketing system. Why can't I choose a dual marketing system instead of a single desk system or the open market?

A. The term "dual market" implies that two marketing systems can co-exist, which is misleading. If the single desk marketing system is removed, then, by definition, an open market will be the result. The federal government's own Task Force on the CWB recognizes in their report that "dual marketing" is not a possible outcome. According to the Task Force, without a single desk, Prairie farmers will have "an open market in which a CWB II (voluntary marketing entity) is an entity operating in that open market".