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Organic farmers ask Monsanto to end GE wheat now that Ag Canada is out

Exactly two years ago today, the certified organic farmers of Saskatchewan filed their class action lawsuit to stop genetically engineered wheat. Today we welcome Agriculture Canada's decision to halt further investment in Monsanto's commercialization of genetically engineered Roundup Ready Wheat.

The organic farmers of Saskatchewan have been on the front lines in the fight against GE wheat. We met twice with now federal agriculture minister Hon. Bob Speller to express our objection to GE wheat, when he chaired the Prime Minister's Caucus Task Force on Future Opportunities in Farming and when he was a member of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Agriculture. We hope that this decision is the first of a series that will ensure that Canadian farms and consumers will always be free from genetically engineered wheat.

We are now calling upon Monsanto to abandon its GE wheat project – to withdraw its application for regulatory approval, stop the test plots, and destroy all existing Roundup Ready wheat seed.

"Nobody wants GE wheat except for Monsanto, so put this ill-conceived project out of its misery and abandon it now," is the message from Arnold Taylor, chair of the Organic Agriculture Protection Fund committee. "If one cow can devastate the Canadian beef market, think about what would happen to our wheat markets if GE wheat or pollen were to escape from a test plot and seed be discovered in a shipment bound for Europe or Japan."

The organic farmers are suing for an injunction to stop Roundup Ready wheat, the Canadian Wheat Board has asked Monsanto to withdraw its application for regulatory approval, and now the Canadian government has backed out of its commitment to help commercialize this product – what will it take for Monsanto to listen?

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For more information please see attached **Media Backgrounder** and contact Arnold Taylor, Chair, OAPF Committee, phone: (306) 252-2783 or (306) 241-6125
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For details about the OAPF legal action see www.saskorganic.com