

## NEWS RELEASE

**For immediate release**

### **Farmers growing Alberta economy**

**Sherwood Park (August 21, 2012)** – With the 2012 crop looking like it will be better than average, Wild Rose Agricultural Producers is reflecting on farmers' contributions to Alberta's economy.

"We're cautiously optimistic, because it's early in the harvest and weather could still wreak havoc," said Lynn Jacobson, WRAP President. "But yields and quality at this point are higher than normal. Similarly, grain prices are excellent, leading to anticipation that this could be a banner year for our industry."

"This is great news for Alberta, because our research shows that for every \$1 a grain farmer earns, almost \$14 is put back into the economy as the grain makes its way through the provincial value chain," continued Jacobson.

According to provincial calculations, Alberta farmers contributed a record \$10.5 billion to the economy in 2011, with the food-and-beverage-processing industry generating \$12.2 billion in economic activity in the same year. These two sectors combined created 73,200 jobs for Albertans.

Jacobson noted it would be remarkable if all areas in the agriculture industry were doing well at the same time; unfortunately, that's not the case. There are some grain producers who have been devastated by hail, and there are some sectors where farmers are not in the same situation as most grain producers. The pork industry, for example, has been beset by low prices and high feed costs, leading to concerns about the survival of some operations.

"Agriculture is Alberta's largest renewable industry," concluded Jacobson, "and when it's doing well, farmers' contributions to the growth of our economy are significant."

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**For additional information contact:**

Lynn Jacobson, WRAP President. Cell: 403-894-5208.

Humphrey Banack, WRAP Vice President. Cell: 780-679-4449.

*Wild Rose Agricultural Producers is Alberta's largest producer funded general farm organization. Whenever decisions are being made that affect the province's agricultural industry, we're there, providing an effective voice for Alberta's farmers. For more information on WRAP, please visit our website at: [www.wrap.ab.ca](http://www.wrap.ab.ca).*