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MGGA Applauds Congressional Approval of Farm Bill

Great Falls – The Montana Grain Growers Association (MGGA) is pleased with Congressional approval of the Agricultural Act of 2014. MGGA President Matt Flikkema said, “It’s taken several years of hard work to get to this point and we’re happy to finally have a five-year farm bill within reach.”

“Throughout this process, our growers have told us their most important priority was to maintain crop insurance as a proven and effective safety net,” said Flikkema. “This bill not only does that, but it includes several improvements to crop insurance, some of which will reduce program cost and increase benefits for beginning farmers.”

The new bill eliminates familiar farm programs like direct payments, the counter-cyclical program, Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) and Supplemental Revenue Assurance (SURE), but continues the commodity loan program at current loan rates. It also creates a new shallow-loss revenue program that will address multi-year price and yield declines, providing farmers with a safety net when they need it in times of farm revenue loss.

Growers will have the opportunity to put together a package that works best for their operation. At program signup, they will be required to choose either a shallow-loss revenue program at a farm or county level or a price loss program that offers protection from steep commodity price declines.

MGGA Executive Vice President Lola Raska commented, “We would like to express our sincere thanks to Senator Baucus, along with his staff, for their tremendous amount of work in crafting this important piece of legislation while serving on the Senate Ag Committee and the Conference Committee, and also to Senator Tester and Congressman Daines for supporting final passage. We believe it will be a workable safety net for Montana producers developed in a very difficult budget situation.”

The Montana Grain Growers Association is the primary trade organization representing Montana wheat and barley producers who, by combining their strengths, voices, and ideas, are working to insure a better future for themselves, their industry and the consumer.

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