

AAAS HISTORY—HUMBLE BEGINNINGS IN 1905

AS WE CELEBRATE 75 YEARS OF OUR ASSOCIATION SINCE IT'S OFFICIAL INCORPORATION—We have been able to do more and more digging into our own archives and we have had the chance to reach out to other archivists in Alberta. Much of our early history was lost in the 1920-30s due to the wars and the great depression. In our research, we have found the actual date and circumstances in which our Association was actually FORMED !

This newspaper clipping from the May 18, 1905 Calgary Daily Herald shows an article written about how the Alberta Agricultural Fairs Association came to be.

“Delegates from the various agricultural societies in Alberta met yesterday with Geo Harcourt, Superintendent of fairs and institutes, to arrange the dates of fairs so that the Territorial department of agriculture could supply official judges with the least waste of time and money. The system of supplying official judges has worked well doing away with the bickerings so common when local judges were employed and the delegates were anxious that their respective societies be again supplied this year. After arranging dates for fairs the delegates expressed the opinion that it was desirable to form a fairs Association which would meet annually, and hold a convention at which addresses could be given on the work of the agricultural society.

*The suggestion was at once accepted and acted upon. The delegates resolved themselves into the **Alberta Agricultural Fairs Association**. (Formed Wednesday May 17, 1905)*

The following officers were chosen:

*Pres H.H. Jenkins—Pincher Creek
Vice Pres Geo Smith—Okotoks
Secretary E.J. Fream—Innisfail*

Directors:

*M.E. Herrick—Strathcona
A.M. Kay—Olds
J.J.—Gaetz—Red Deer
Arch Mitchell—Mcleod
Geo W. Green—Raymond
W.H. Fairfield—Lethbridge*

Gaetz, Kay & Fream were appointed a committee to draft a constitution to be submitted at the next annual meeting.

The following resolutions were then unanimously adopted by the association and the secretary instructed to forward copies of the same to the different governments, agricultural societies and the members of Parliament for Alberta.



- *“That the government of the province of Alberta be requested to take stringent measures to cope with the wee question”*
- *“That this association take steps to have the winter wheat graded on the same principle as carried on in Manitoba”*
- *“That the Dominion government be requested to take steps to establish cold storage stations for the handling of the beef trade in the west and in England”*
- *“That the Government be requested to assist in procuring water for the settlers in the newer and dryer districts of Alberta by the use of well bring machinery / boring machinery”*
- *“That all agricultural societies in Alberta be requested to become members of this association and to subscribe to the sum of one dollar as a membership fee”*

The meeting then adjourned to meet again at the call of the president.”

DATES OF THE FAIRS FOR THE TERRITORIES.

Organization Completed In Which Many Alberta Towns Par- ticipated.

Delegates from the various agricultural societies in Alberta met yesterday with Geo. Harcourt, superintendent of fairs and institutes, to arrange the dates of fairs so that the Territorial department of agriculture could supply official judges with the least waste of time and money. The system of supplying official judges has worked well, doing away with the bickerings so common when local judges were employed and all the delegates were anxious that their respective societies be again supplied this year. The following delegates were present:

M. E. Herrick, Strathcona; M. Marker, Wetaskiwin; H. F. Flewelling, Lacombe; John J. Gaetz, Red Deer; E. J. Fream, Innisfail; W. H. Hammer Oda; Geo. Smith, Okotoks; Arch. Mitchell, Macleod; H. H. Jenkins, Pincher Creek; W. H. Fairfield, Lethbridge; Geo. W. Green Raymond; Robert Needham, Maple Creek. After some discussion of the general work of the society, the following dates were arranged:

Edmonton	.....	June 29-30; July 1
Lacombe	.....	June 30; July 1
Wetaskiwin	.....	July 4
Calgary	.....	July 5-6-7
Innisfail	.....	July 7
Okotoks	.....	July 11
Lethbridge	.....	Aug. 15-16
Raymond	.....	Aug. 17-18
Red Deer	.....	Aug. 20-21
Oda	.....	Sept. 19-20
Strathcona	.....	Sept. 21-22
Maple Creek	.....	Sept. 26-27
Medicine Hat	.....	Sept. 28-29
Macleod	.....	Oct. 3-4
Pincher Creek	.....	Oct. 5

Dates from Fort Saskatchewan, Didsbury and Magrath were not set.

After arranging dates for fairs the delegates expressed the opinion that it was desirable to form a fair association which could meet annually

and hold a convention at which addresses could be given on the work of the agricultural society. The suggestion was at once accepted and acted upon. The delegates resolved themselves into the Alberta Agricultural Fairs association. The following officers were chosen:

Pres. H. H. Jenkins, Pincher Creek.
Vice Pres. Geo. Smith Okotoks.
Secretary, E. J. Fream, Innisfail.
Directors: M. E. Herrick, Strathcona.

A. M. Kay, Oda.
J. J. Gaetz, Red Deer.
Arch. Mitchell, Macleod.
Geo. W. Green Raymond.
W. H. Fairfield, Lethbridge.

Messrs. Gaetz, Kay and Fream were appointed a committee to draft a constitution to be submitted at the next annual meeting.

The following resolutions were then unanimously adopted by the association and the secretary instructed to forward copies of same to the different governments, agricultural societies and the members of Parliament for Alberta.

"That the government of the province of Alberta be requested to take stringent measures to cope with the weed question."

"That this association take steps to have the winter wheat graded on the same principle as carried on in Manitoba."

"That the Dominion government be requested to take steps to establish cold storage stations for the handling of the beef trade in the west and in England."

"That the government be requested to assist in procuring water for the settlers in the newer and dryer districts of Alberta by the use of well boring machinery."

"That all agricultural societies in Alberta be requested to become members of this association and to subscribe the sum of one dollar as a membership fee."

The meeting then adjourned to meet again at the call of the president.

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(Continued from Page 4.)

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The Bruce; J. L. Walters, Lacombe; J. E. Eckersley, Red Deer Lake; \$5.

Lochinvar; same owner; R. A. Rigby; \$10.

Lord Montrose; same owner; F. E. Watson, Lacombe; \$10.

Robin Gray; same owner; T. H. Colton, Springbank; \$5.

Clarhouse; same owner; John A. McPherson, Spruce Grove; \$10.

Lindsay's Pride; same owner; W. J. Andrew, De Winton; \$10.

Robin Adair; same owner; James Scarlett, Innisfail; \$5.

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