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A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Congratulations everyone for making it through another successful summer and fall. Late fall and winter is a busy time for all our Ag. Societies in Alberta. Although the summer fair season stresses the largest sector of volunteers, the fall and winter are certainly the busiest at the board level. AAAS crisscrossed Alberta for the fall round of regional meetings. It was great to get out and see everyone and hear how things are going.

The annual AAAS Convention and AGM will take place on February 2-4,2023 at the River Cree Casino. Both regions 1 and 6 will be our host.

"The 2023 ODYSSEY: The Rural Evolution" is our theme this year and we're certain the line up of speakers and information will provide a background for great success and renewal for all those who attend. Watch for more information as it becomes available on our website. We are thrilled to have the Alberta Young Farmers and Ranchers join us as they also host their "ROCK THE FARM" event. We urge our AG societies to contact us if you have any questions about sponsoring a member of your community to attend. From all of us here in the AAAS office we wish everyone a great year ahead. The possibilities are endless for both AAAS and the Ag Societies. As always our office is here to help our members to the best of our ability. Drop us an email or give us a call. We look forward to hearing from you. *Thank you*.

Tim Carson,Chief Executive Officer
Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies



AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION UPDATE

Upcoming Virtual Question & Answer Session

Monika Warring, Program Coordinator, will be offering an informal question and answer session for agricultural societies on January 12, 2023 from 6 – 7 p.m. This will be an opportunity for those that missed the previous "Tips and Tricks" sessions to attend and ask questions as they work through their annual returns and grant applications. Stay tuned for the link early in the New Year.

Annual Returns

Annual Returns are due to the Department by February 15, 2023 as required by the Agricultural Societies Regulation. This is necessary to remain in good standing under the Act, which is a prerequisite to maintain eligibility for grant funding. Forms have been distributed to each society, and are also available on the program area's webpage at

Alberta Agricultural Societies Program | Alberta.ca

Grant Applications

2023 grant applications are due at the same time as your annual returns (February 15, 2023) to help streamline your paperwork and program administration. As has previously been communicated, the grant is returning to the pre-pandemic formula based on reporting actual expenditures from the previous year (i.e. the five-year average approach has been discontinued). Grant forms are also available on the program area website.

Bylaw Amendments

As agricultural societies hold their annual general meetings (AGMs), those requiring bylaw amendments (if previously notified by the program area), should be taking care of them at their AGM so that the membership can approve any changes. The clean version should then be returned to the Department by February 15, 2023 for final review and approval.

AAAS Conference

The agricultural societies' team at Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation looks forward to participating in the upcoming AAAS convention. The team will provide a breakout session where agricultural societies can ask questions or discuss issues one-on-one with staff; and the Minister or designate will be presenting Agricultural Society Innovation Awards.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and a Happy New Year!



Colin Gosselin,Acting Director
Agriculture and Irrigation



The Alberta Farmers' Market app guides you to your nearest Alberta approved farmers' market. The application uses your present location to map all local Alberta approved farmers' markets with information on each market and links to websites and social media when available. The data is provided by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in Alberta, Canada.



EXPLORE THE MANY BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP!



Industry advocacy

Receive exclusive updates on actions AMTA takes to protect your interests at the Alberta Legislature, on Parliament Hill and in Washington.



Shaping industry policy

Members help create progressive industry policies and directives and play a key part in strengthening our collective voice.



Networking & events

Conferences, special and regular events, and other functions provide opportunities to network with and learn from other industry professionals.



Education & training

Online and in-person courses for all your industry training needs.

AND MORE....



AMTA IS A PROUD SPONSOR OF THE 2023 AAAS CONFERENCE









AAAS NEWS

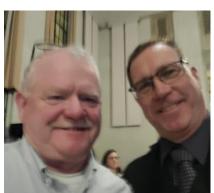


Tim and Suzanne spent some time in in Ottawa representing AAAS at the Canadian Association of Fairs and Exhibitions (CAFÉ) Annual Convention. They took in a number of sessions and connected with some old and new friends













Suzanne and our AAAS Vice President, Brett Warder spent some time in Indianapolis representing AAAS at the 2022 IAFE Convention & Trade Show . We are over the moon to have been presented with (4) Communications Awards.

- Social Media—FB, Twitter , Instagram
- Website—AAAS Website
- Membership Directory—Virtual Tradeshow
- Unique Program—Open Farm Days



TO ADD YOUR EVENTS—SEE OUR WEBSITE

https://www.albertaagsocieties.ca/events/

DECEMBER

December 17, 2022—Cherry Grove Ag—Breakfast with Santa

December 18, 2022—ARAS Winter Market

December 26, 2022—Darwell & District Ag—Boxing Day Dance

December 31, 2022—Highridge & District Ag —New Years Family Dance

December 31, 2022—MTM & District Ag —New Years's Eve Celebration

December 31, 2022—Spruce View Ag —New Years Cabaret with Jamie Woodfin

JANUARY

January 14, 2023 — Silver Sage Ag Society, Team Roping

January 25-27, 2023—Barrhead Ag Society—North 49 Farriers 2023 Clinic

FEBRUARY

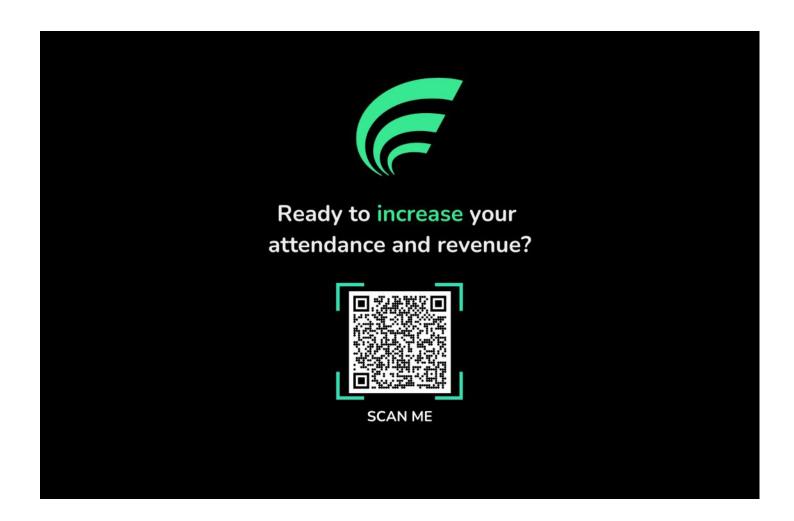
February 2-5, 2023 - AAAS Annual Convention and Tradeshow

February 3-5, 2023—Rock The Farm 2023

February 10-12, 2023 — Castor Ag Society—WinterFest

February 11, 2023 - Spruce Grove & District Agricultural Society-First-Annual Winter Blooms Gala

February 11, 2023 —Silver Sage Ag Society—Team Roping





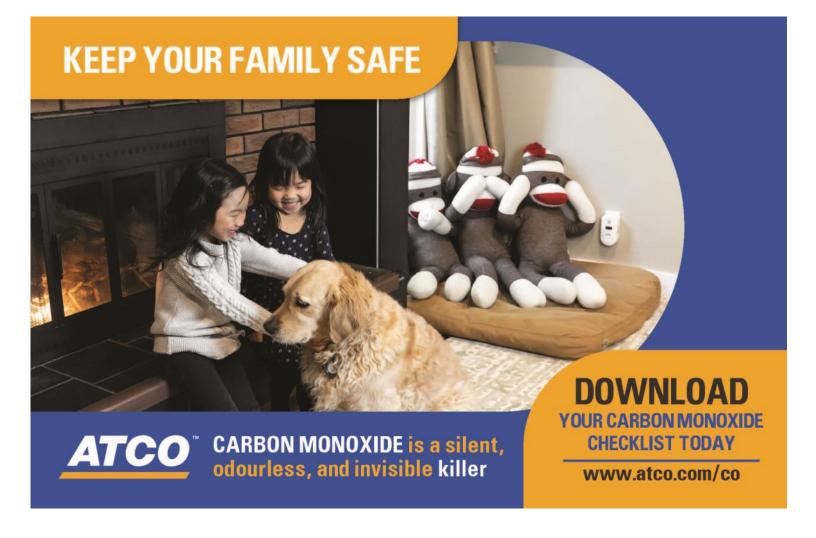
I'm OK, a Mixed reality Show—mixes live acting, choreographed visuals and interactive gaming to highlight the negative impact every day injuries have on farms.

I'm OK reinforces the positive impact of safety training, and concludes the whole experience with accredited safety resources and training programs, creating a seamless transition from awareness to action.

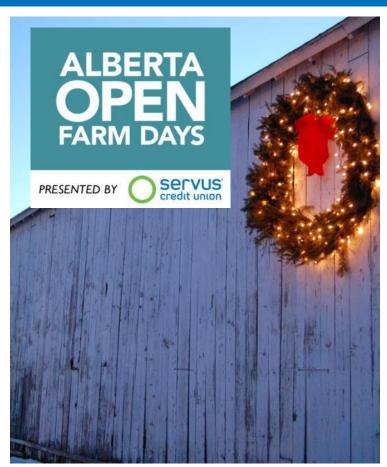


It was shown at the CANADIAN FINALS RODEO as well as FARM FAIR INTERNATIONAL 2022. Here is what Patty From Farm Fair International had to say about the show: YOUTUBE LINK: https://youtu.be/U4CW8Z6CAQg

For more info or show booking contact AAAS at info@albertaagsocieties.ca



OPEN FARM DAYS HIGHLIGHTS



GET READY FOR OPEN FARM DAYS 2023 FREE TRAINING SESSIONS

Open Farm Days FREE training sessions are back! These sessions are hosted online (via Zoom) and are free to attend.

The sessions are designed to help your Open Farm Days experience in 2023 or any agriculture tourism/events that you will be hosting in the future.

- December 12 Financing your side Hustle presented by Servus Credit Union
- January 16 Navigating Open Farm Days Resources
- March 6 Booking Your Farm Event
- March 13—Exploring Emerging Social Media Trends

https://albertaopenfarmdays.ca/open-farm-days-2023/open-farm-days-2023-training-for-host-farms/



We are deeply rooted in our farming communities.

We work with Alberta Agricultural Societies to enhance the quality of life for communities where we all work and live.

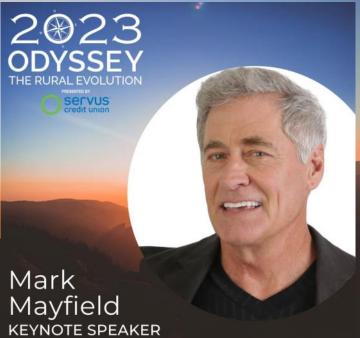




2023 CONVENTION SESSION TOPICS

Bylaw Review Workshop
Board Financial Literacy
Treasurer Training
Farmers Market Training
Catalyst for the Renaissance
Volunteer Recruitment
and more...





MORE INFO AVAILABLE ONLINE



BOOK YOUR ACCOMMODATIONS NOW

Deadline to book rooms is **Thursday, January 19th, 2023**Guests can book hotel rooms
Call 1-844-425-2733 (24/7)
Book Online

https://reservations.travelclick.com/104191?groupID=3520986

ALTERNATIVE ACCOMODATIONS:

For delegates wishing to bring their families to enjoy the Convention Weekend we have the Fantasy Land Hotel in West Edmonton Mall. Enjoy the major attractions like the World Water-

Enjoy the major attractions like the World Waterpark , Galaxyland, Marine Life, Ice Palace and more – while you are at our Convention Workshops!

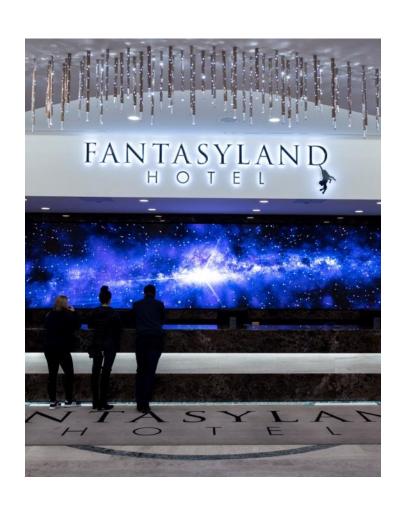
Hotel Reservations at Fantasyland Hotel are due no later than January 10, 2023.

Reservations can be made by contacting the hotel Reservations Department directly at 780)444-3000 or toll-free 1-800-737-3783

Fantasyland Rooms \$162 + Tax & Fees

Callers MUST mention they are attending the Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies (AAAS)

or provide the group code# 5232562 to receive the negotiated ratee



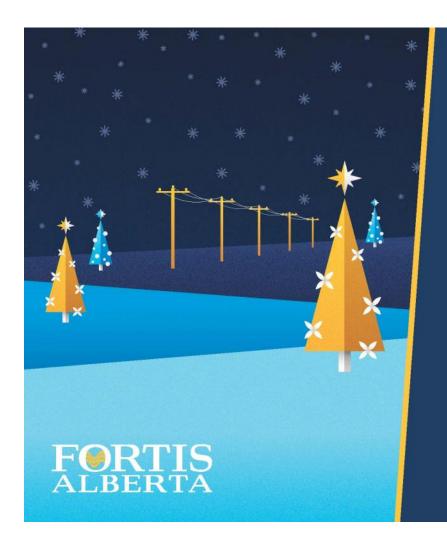
WORKSHOPS



THURSDAY FEBRUARY 2, 2023 \$150 /Person

* Includes Lunch Buffet

One of the workshops we will be having at our convention is with Jon Schallert, the only professional speaker in the world specializing in teaching businesses and communities how to turn themselves into Consumer Destinations. In this workshop created for Alberta Open Farm Day participants, business owners, and entrepreneurs, Jon will show how most farms and businesses today can attract more visitors and customers while increasing their sales and profits, while lowering their marketing costs at the same time. Attendees will also learn how any business can apply his Destination strategy to attract more local visitors and customers, while at the same time pulling faraway customers from outside the area, sometimes from hundreds of miles away! Jon will provide every attendee with a specific, simple, step-by-step strategy to maximize attendance during this hugely important weekend.



WISHING YOU A BRIGHT HOLIDAY SEASON

As your local electricity distribution provider, we feel privileged to play a small role in helping to power more than half a million Albertans. This holiday season, as you come together and enjoy the light and joy the season brings, we hope you and those closest to you have the opportunity to celebrate your relationships, your traditions, your successes and your hopes for the future.

From our FortisAlberta family to yours, may your holiday season shine bright.

Follow us on:

facebook.com/fortisab 🕑 youtube.com/fortisab

@ @fortisalberta



The "ROCK THE FARM Conference" will take place February 3-5, 2023 at the Fantasyland Hotel in West Edmonton Mall - in conjunction with our 2023 AAAS Conference.

AG Societies are encouraged to sponsor a member of their community to attend the AYFR Conference. The cost associated with sponsorship is eligible for funding under leadership and development within the Ag Society Grant Program. (\$350 + GST and Hotel Costs)

In recent years, young farmers and ranchers from across Alberta discussed crop production, pasture management, farm business management and the importance of networking. There is always so much to learn. Managing your farm is a multi-faceted endeavour, there's a lot of information to absorb. When

you're sitting on the tractor it's easy to forget how to structure your business. Stay tuned to our website for more information on this year's Convention topics

Individual Hotel Reservations at **Fantasyland Hotel** are due no later than **January 10, 2023**.

Reservations can be made by contacting the hotel Reservations Department directly at (780)444-3000 or toll-free 1-800-737-3783.

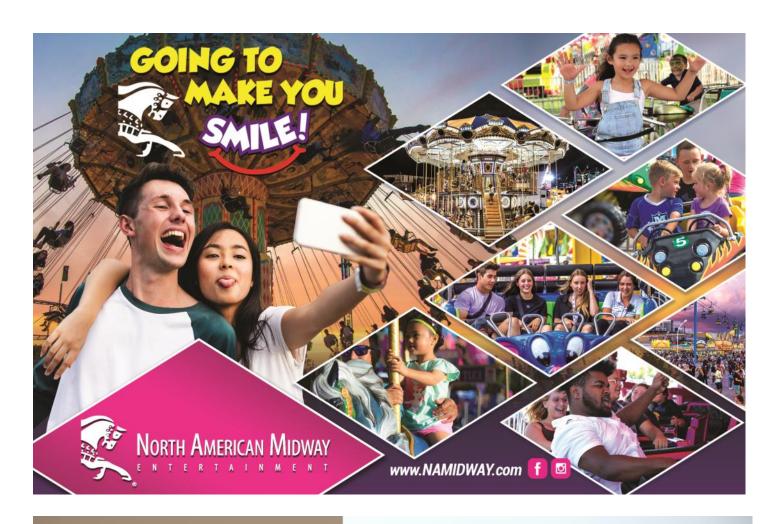
Callers **MUST** mention they are attending the <u>Alberta</u> <u>Association of Agricultural Societies (AAAS)/Alberta</u> <u>Young Farmers and Ranchers (AYFR)</u> or provide the group <u>code# 5232562</u> to receive the negotiated rate.

Please contact us at the AAAS Office if you have any questions, or would like more information.

Phone: 780.427.2174

Email: info@albertaagsocieties.ca





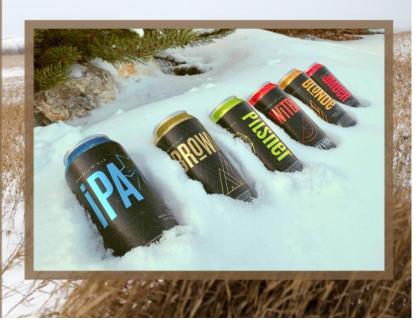




Reach out to us to discuss fundraising opportunities and for all your Craft Beer needs!

> 403, 498.8918 sales@rockyviewbrewing.com www.rockyviewbrewing.com





GRANTS & FUNDING

The Green and Inclusive Community Buildings (GICB) Program is a national merit-based Program with the objective of improving the availability and condition of community buildings in Canadian communities experiencing higher needs and who are currently underserved. At the same time, the Program helps to stimulate the economy while creating good job opportunities and aligning to the goals of Canada's strengthened climate plan.

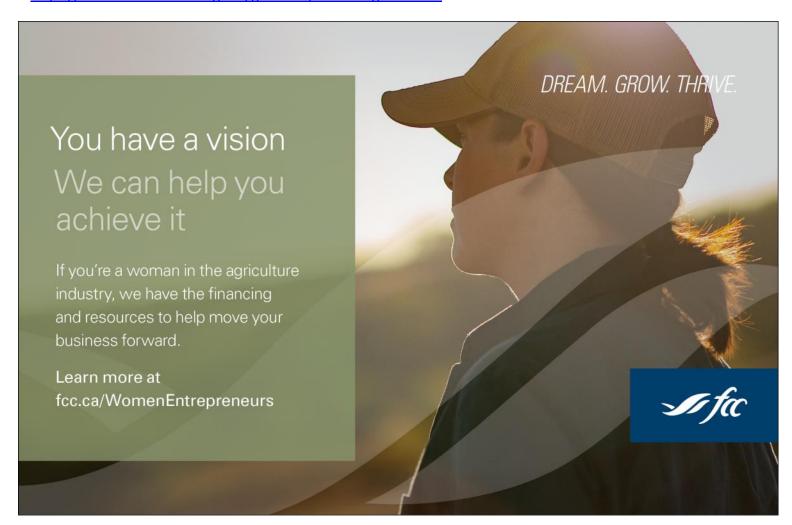


The Program advances the Government's climate priorities by improving energy efficiency, reducing GHG emissions, and enhancing the climate resilience of community buildings. See link below for more info:

https://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/gicb-bcvi/applicant-guide-demandeur-eng.html

The Green and Inclusive Community Buildings (GICB) Program is launching its second scheduled intake and is now accepting applications. Eligible applicants include Federally or Provincially incorporated not-for-profit and registered charities. Deadline: February 28, 2023.

https://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/gicb-bcvi/index-eng.html#3.1





MAKE YOUR ORGANIZATION MORE COST COMPETITIVE

Emissions Reduction Alberta's (ERA) Energy Savings for Business (ESB) program will help eligible Alberta businesses decrease operating costs, grow operations, become more competitive, and reduce emissions.

The program offers incentives to eligible Alberta businesses and non-profits to choose commercially available high-efficiency products and onsite energy generation technologies that meet their needs.

- Incentives of up to \$250,000 are available per project
- Up to \$1 million per parent company
- Minimum project incentive amount of \$500
- Funding will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis
- This is a short-term economic stimulus program.

Recognizing that time is money to Alberta's businesses, the ESB program will give businesses fast access to cost-effective incentives. The readymade menu of incentives will save companies time and money in developing their projects. A detailed listing of incentive amounts can be found on eralberta.ca/esb.

"The Electrical Contractors Association of Alberta, a member of the Alberta Trade Contractors Coalition, supports initiatives that reduce emissions. ERA's Energy Savings for Business program will achieve this through fiscally responsible retrofit projects that rely on locally-skilled trades, contractors, and suppliers. This is a benefit to all Albertans."

— Tim Brundage, President, Electrical Contractors
Association of Alberta

PRODUCTS ELIGIBLE FOR INCENTIVES

A wide range of cost-effective, high-efficiency products and onsite energy generation technology are eligible for incentives through the program.

The list includes:

- Compressed air
- Process heating
- Refrigeration
- Food service
- HVAC
- Motors and drives
- Water heating

- Agricultural lighting
- Waste energy recovery
- Geothermal
- Combined heat and power (CHP)
- Lighting systems
- Building envelope and windows.

BUSINESSES ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE

The program is designed to support the more than 160,000 small- and medium-sized enterprises in Alberta. All businesses and non-profits serviced by an Alberta electric utility are eligible, except for residences; municipally, federally, and provincially owned buildings; publicly funded institutions; and large emitters—as defined under Alberta's Technology Innovation and Emissions Reduction (TIER) regulation. Some measures are eligible for new construction projects.

Eligible organizations include, but are not limited to:

- Individual businesses
- Non-profit organizations
- Co-operatives
- Private schools not eligible for government funding
- Common spaces and equipment in multi-unit residential buildings
- Farms registered as a business.

For projects to be eligible, they must occur at facilities located within Alberta, meet project timeline requirements, and follow the criteria outlined in the Participant Terms and Conditions located on eralberta.ca/esb.



APPLICATION PROCESS

- REGISTER
- Review Program Guidebook and available resources on eralberta.ca/esb
- Participants and contractors register in program portal
 - ► ERA will review and provide approval for eligible contractors
- **APPLY FOR PRE-APPROVAL**
- Participants initiate application
 - Provide basic project information
 - Assign an eligible contractor
- Contractors complete application
- Participants submit pre-approval
 - ► Review, confirm accuracy and submit pre-approval application
- **ERA PROVIDES PRE-APPROVAL NOTICE**
- Participants accept terms
 - ► Review application summary, pre-approval notice and accept Participant Terms & Conditions
- PROJECT INSTALLATION
- Participants and contractors initiate and complete project installation
 - Purchase and install all associated equipment
- POST-PROJECT SUBMISSION
- Participants initiate post-project submission
 - ► Notifies ERA project is complete and begins review process
- Contractors complete post-project application
- Participants submit post-project application
 - ► Review, confirm accuracy and submit post-project application
- ERA PROVIDES FINAL APPROVAL NOTICE
- **RECEIVE INCENTIVE**
- Participants provide banking information
- INCENTIVE PAYMENT ISSUED



HOW TO APPLY FOR INCENTIVES

Apply now with ESB's streamlined intake and fully virtual approach. Please review the Program Guidebook and all available resources to learn more about requirements, how to apply, and more.

WHERE TO GO FOR QUESTIONS OR SUPPORT

Our website has program information, including program requirements, training videos, application checklists, and more.

www.eralberta.ca/esb

support@esbprogram.ca | 1-844-407-0025

@ERAlberta_ in Emissions Reduction Alberta (ERA)

We're happy to help you with any questions about the program or how to apply. Our dedicated contact centre is open Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"The Alberta Trade Contractors Coalition members are united in their support of achieving emissions reductions through industrial and building retrofit projects. As a coalition representing all the primary trade associations, the ATCC membership has the expertise required to ensure the emissions reductions achieved through ERA's Energy Savings for Business program are fiscally responsible, realistic and quantifiable, maximizing benefits for all Albertans."

- Terry Milot, Chairman, Alberta Trade **Contractors Coalition**





The Rural Communities Foundation was created in 2014 as a way to distribute archived equity funds back into rural communities where UFA has a presence.

Foremost and District Agricultural Society Awarded \$28,980

Indoor Riding Arena and Agricultural Centre Foremost, Alta.

The RCF grant is committed for the installation of heat, sewer and water and allows the society to include those amenities in the construction tender. With heat and water, the indoor riding arena will be a safe and warm facility to allow youth and adults to practice various rodeo and equestrian events year round. It will also be home to the school's riding academy which draws students from around the region. The 130 foot by 260 ft. building will be able to host auction sales, farmers markets, livestock shows and other agricultural events.



Jon Hollingsworth, Stacey Barrows and Chet Dykshoorn each hold posters, during a prairie blizzard, of the new indoor riding facility which they hope will soon be built outside Foremost.



Chet Dykshoorn, Jon Hollingsworth, Michelle Cowie and Stacey Barrows look at the plans for the new indoor riding arena, which will allow area residents to ride year round.

Stettler District Agricultural Society—Awarded \$27,900

Washroom and Shower Renovation Stettler, Alta.

With so much activity in the arena and on the grounds outside, all the facilities get a lot of use, including the outside washroom and shower building. The renovated washroom is part of the ag society's Legacy Project of rebuilding, renovating and repainting their buildings to ensure their agricultural society continues to attract events and visitors to their central Alberta community.



The outdoor washroom and shower building will be renovated to ensure their agricultural society continues to attract events and visitors to their community.



Justin Weaver, a rodeo participant and ag society helper and Marj Savage, ag society administrator agree the outdoor washroom facilities need a facelift to ensure visitors want to return to their community.

AG SOCIETY NEWS





Westerner Park is preparing for its next era of leadership in 2023, with current CEO Mike Olesen stepping aside as of July 31st. Westerner Park Board Chair Deb Beck says Olesen, who has served since the fall of 2019, has accomplished many of his leadership goals, and he feels the time has come to hand over the reins. "Mike has led the organization well through a period of crisis, modernizing systems and

rebuilding operations, all while also adeptly managing the extreme challenge a pandemic posed to an events organization," says Beck. "His management skills were put to the test, and he delivered as promised." In addition to implementing a new events management system and creating a more efficient and effective financial management structure, Olesen helped the board negotiate a new partnership with the City of Red Deer, was instrumental in the establishment of the Westerner Foundation, and reinvigorated the volunteer base. "I'm proud of my time at Westerner Park," says Olesen. "Our journey over these years has taken us through some of

the most significant crises of the organization's history. But I feel confident we're now in a place of being ready for the next chapter, where this important community asset can thrive once again." "I'm thankful for the support of our staff, Board and the many volunteers that make Westerner Park such an important organization for Red Deer and central Alberta." Olesen will be busy with his ongoing mission in the New Year, and through the next Westerner Days, but wanted to give sufficient time to provide a strong transition between leadership. "That's the kind of thoughtful planning and transparency Mike has brought to us right from the start, and while we are sad to see him move on, we are grateful for the opportunity to seek our next leader while he provides us with a strong finish," adds Beck. Although Westerner Park may be nearing its most stable position in recent history, much work remains to have the non-profit organization operating at an expected capacity and poised for sustainable growth. The Westerner Park Board will begin its search immediately, with a goal of having the next CEO in place by early summer. "Through Mike's dedicated and business-like approach in rebuilding a solid footing, we are set up for success. As Westerners, we are ready to keep moving forward with a focus on being a source of pride for our community," adds Beck.

(WESTERNER PARK PRESS RELEASE)









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AG SOCIETY NEWS





The Calgary Stampede is incredibly excited to announce, along with their development partners Calgary Municipal Land Corporation, a joint partnership for the development of a new convention centre hotel that will complement the dramatic expansion of the BMO Centre.

The partnership with Matthews Southwest Hospitality will create the first hotel at Stampede Park and will connect an expected 220+ rooms directly to Western Canada's largest convention venue. A best-in-class venue like their expanded BMO Centre will be well supported by a high-caliber hotel, with premium amenities and unique product offerings directly aligned with their renowned Stampede hospitality.







EMBARK ON YOUR WESTERN ADVENTURE OF A LIFETIME AT THE GREATEST OUTDOOR SHOW ON EARTH!

RODEO AND EVENING SHOW TICKETS ON SALE NOW!



AAAS ELECTIONS



Regional Director Elections

Elections will be taking place at the 2023 Conference in the following Regional Meetings

Region 3

Current Director Linda Mason (N/E)

Region 4

Current Director Rebecca Green

Region 5

Current Director
Bruce Walker





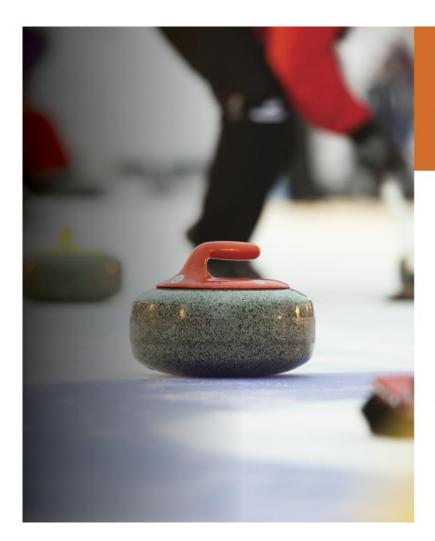








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E- NEWSLETTER

"Across The Fence" Is the official publication of the Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies (AAAS).

Our E-Newsletter is distributed to:









- 291 Agricultural Societies Across Alberta.
- Provincial Associations Across Canada
- Shared with Provincial and Municipal Governments
- Service Members in the Entertainment and Event Industries
- Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn

The Newsletter is Published Quarterly—Submission Deadlines for the 2023 Newsletters are as follows:

Spring Newsletter—March 10, 2023

Fall Newsletter - Sept 11,2023

Summer Newsletter – June 12, 2023

Winter Newsletter—December 11,2023

PLEASE CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION

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doug@albertaagsocieties.ca

www.albertaagsocieties.ca

AD SPECIFICATIONS &

AD SIZE Member Rate	Non-	
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3/4 Page	\$100	\$250
1/2 Page	\$80	\$230
1/4 Page	\$60	\$210
Business Card	\$40	\$190

^{*} All rates subject to GST *

ACCEPTED AD FILE FOR-MATS

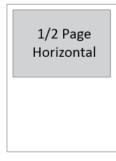
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VISION

AAAS inspires **Vibrany** in Alberta Communities

MISSION .

Education, Facilitation and collaboration creates opportunities that empower Agricultural Societies, Inspiring Rural Alberta to reach its highest potential

VALUES

Excellence in direction and execution. Success through collaboration.

Motivation through education and engagement. Advocacy through example.

Dedicated to strengthen Agricultural Societies and their communities

GOALS

RELEVANCE & GROWTH

- Membership Value & Services
- Leadership Development & Training
- Programs and Events

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

- Stakeholders Relations & Advocacy
- AG Society Support Programs
- Infrastructure Renewal Strategy





Region 6: Darlene Corriveau

Service Member Director: Rick McCarthy

Chief Executive Officer: Tim Carson



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Alberta is a province of contrasts – from soaring peaks to historic badlands and vast forests to rolling plains. No two places are quite alike. It's the same in agriculture. Our diversity in people, crops, practices and techniques gives us strength and ensures a bright future for farming in Alberta.

PROUDTO SUPPORT AGRICULTURE IN ALBERTA **AFSC.ca**

