



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release: Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies Convention Attracts 101 Agriculture Societies

Lloydminster hosted the 58th annual convention of the Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies (AAAS). Over 520 delegates and industry members discussed issues and honoured their peers.

Agriculture Societies are non-profit volunteer run organizations mandated to support Agriculture and the improvement in the quality of life of Albertans by developing programs, facilities and services based on the changing needs of the community.

The prestigious Award of Merit given to individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to agriculture societies by their encouragement of the growth and promotion of agriculture societies was awarded to Mr. Andy McPhee of Edmonton. A retired manager with Alberta Agriculture Food and Rural Development, Mr. McPhee dedicated over twenty years of service to agriculture societies.

Two other Albertans were honoured for service to their communities. Mr. Walter Pickles of the Castor Ag Society has been involved as a dedicated leader and contributor to community events of Castor – including the Fair, Horse Show, Variety Night, Cutter Parade, youth programs and the Farmer's Market. Mrs. Jo Toker of the Willow Prairie Ag Society also received the Honourary Life Membership in the Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies. Mrs. Toker served her community for the past 20 years through agriculture society as President, Secretary and Treasurer. She has volunteered in the many family events and is a 4-H leader and previous recipient of the Northlands Farm Family Award.

Newly elected executive board members represent all regions of Alberta: President Grace Duff from Lethbridge, 1st Vice President Lorne Gustafson from Innisfail, 2nd Vice President Mike Sidoryk from Lloydminster, Treasurer Jack McDonald, Calgary and Past President Stan Marshall from Delia.

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