

Volume 9 Issue 1
Spring 16

ALBERTA ASSOCIATION OF
AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES

ACROSS THE FENCE

**AAAS ANNUAL CONVENTION
KICKED THE DUST OFF
FEB 5-7TH 2016 IN EDMONTON!**

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A Message From the Chief Executive Officer—Tim Carson



It has been some time since our last newsletter and a lot has happened, which explains why we've not been able to communicate through the newsletter. It's communication that I'd like to discuss in this article. We've seen significant changes over the past year which has accelerated our need for clear communication to our stakeholders. As a provincial association we've always kept up relations with our government partners at both the staff level and with the elected officials. Being located in the provincial agriculture building has allowed greater access to the department people who manage the agricultural societies programs, and we've had great relations which not only provide AAAS access but influence for change or stability. Senior staff takes pride in finding a balance and understanding when it comes to our discussions with department staff and we have been included in conversations that a few short years ago we would never have had the chance to be part of the conversation, or to help influence change. Creating this trusted relationship takes time, effort, and honesty. It's also been key to some of AAAS's emergence as a recognised leader for rural. With a new government in Alberta each of the Agricultural Societies needs to begin a new era of communication and in some cases its long overdue. Volunteer organizations in general have historically played a vital role in building community, serving people and shaping society. We are so ingrained into the day to day living for people that we now simply blend in to the background of what is normal and expected.

The problem is we seldom, if ever, announce to the greater public or our key stakeholders what we've accomplished and therefore much of our effort goes unnoticed. Not the facility that stands in our community, not the event everyone enjoyed, but the impact of the unsung people who contribute countless hours, abundant skills and a pouring out of passion to serve others. These people and their associations are the backbone of every community and it's time to tell your story. AAAS has created a starting point for the Agricultural Societies story. The new Agricultural Societies brochure, published summer of 2015, showcases our members from across the Province and in general describes the impact of your work. The opportunity now is for AAAS members to utilize this material in conversation with your stakeholders. Local government, other community leaders, MLAs and even your own membership need to hear and understand your story. Although AAAS has provided some context for these conversations, no one can tell the story better than you. The history of our Ag Societies accomplishments, challenges and triumphs is being lost through time and AAAS is recognizing the impacts of this disappearance. More and more the handshake arrangements of 50 years ago are coming to an end and the leaders of today have no relationship or understanding of why things are the way they are. So drastic change happens in a long term organizational relationship and we get blindsided and wonder what went wrong and how dare they. We've expected these leaders of the past to pass on the information that is important for our future as Ag Societies and community but unfortunately they have only passed on. In these challenging economic times where

finances are tight for our government partners as well as our corporate supporters it is imperative that Agricultural Societies have researched, analysed and documented their value for their communities. The existence of any Ag Society in any community has provided positive economic value to the region but has also had significant contributions to the social well being and overall health in their community. As our role in society becomes clearer we can then turn our attention to how our organizations will continue to serve in an ever changing future. So here's the challenge. In amongst all that your organization does, create some priority to celebrate your story. Recall the past and celebrate all those who brought you this far. Describe the impacts and positive changes your Ag Society has brought to your community and region, both economically and socially. Define where you are today, your greatest assets and the challenges you face. Then dream about the future, why are you doing the things you do, what's changed and how will you continue to play that vital role in building community, serving people and shaping society. Kick the dust off your story, revel in your history, define the day and write a bold new chapter. Together we will shout these stories from the roof tops of today. Talking in coffee shops, board rooms, council chambers and MLA offices, plus utilizing social media we have the opportunity to drive an awareness for Agricultural Societies like never before. The time is now, the future is eager to hear and see your story.

Tim Carson,
Chief Executive Officer



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Dates To Remember

Spring Regional Meetings:

Additional information can be found on the website at www.albertaagsocieties.ca

Region 1: April 14, 2016, Picture Butte

Region 2: April 23, 2016, Delia

Region 3: April 30, 2016, Winfield

Region 4: April 20, 2016, St Michael

Region 5: April 16, 2016, Edson

Region 6: May 7, 2016, Peace River

**For all of the Region Meetings and Workshops,
please RSVP to
aaas@gov.ab.ca or
by phone 780-427-2174**

Please choose the meeting date and time that is most convenient for your to attend regardless of what region you are located in.

Leadership Summit: May 14th & 15th, 2016, Olds

Traceability in Alberta: What does it mean to you?

Traceability presentations will be held in conjunction with each of the AAAS spring regional meetings. For times and locations of the presentations please go to the AAAS website at www.albertaagsocieties.ca and click on the "regional meetings" tab

For Additional Information Contact:

780-427-2174
aaas@gov.ab.ca

This is a free presentation and is open to all community members!

This is a joint presentation between government and industry identifying what you need to know about Traceability in Alberta. It will cover the importance of the three pillars of traceability (premises identification, animal identification and animal movement) AND your responsibilities as part of Alberta's agriculture industry. The free-of-charge support that is available, across the province, to help industry meet the traceability requirements will also be presented.

Premises Identification: What's Your Number?

Premises Identification (PID) in Alberta became mandatory in 2009 and is a requirement if you operate a commingling site with livestock. A commingling site is a location (other than a farm or ranch) where animals owned by different people are kept together either temporarily or permanently. **For Agricultural Societies, if you operate a commingling site where animals come together, like a fairground exhibition site or competition facility, you need a PID Number.** It is your responsibility to apply for a PID Account, obtain a PID Number for each separate commingling site that you operate and ensure that animal owners who use your site know your PID Number so they can complete transport documents such as manifests. If animals, which includes cattle, sheep, horses, peafowl, rabbits, etc., are kept, assembled or displayed at your site, that land location (or premises) needs to be registered.

Also, if livestock owners have animals (excluding household pets and wildlife) under their care and control at their farm, pasture or acreage, they must

apply for a PID Account and obtain a PID Number for at least one of the land locations where the animals are located.

Premises identification is an important tool for animal health and safety. In the event of an emergency, like a disease outbreak, premises identification is a critical step in protecting the animals that visited your site.

For more information on the PID Program or to determine if premises identification applies to your organization, call the Alberta Ag-Info Centre at 310 – FARM (3276) or visit Alberta Agriculture's website www.agriculture.alberta.ca/premises to apply online or download the application forms. Traceability in Alberta will be a presenter at the 2016 Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies Spring Regional Meetings and can answer any questions that you might have regarding premises identification.

Traceability Protects!
Your Animals – Your Livelihood – Our Future

Traceability in Alberta

Alberta Ag-Info Centre. Toll free in Alberta: 310-FARM (3276)
www.agriculture.alberta.ca/traceability



www.agriculture.alberta.ca/TraceabilityConnects

Traceability Connects is a map-based directory, connecting you to the nearest traceability services, at the click of a mouse.



Traceability Protects! Your Animals - Your Livelihood - Our Future

Growing Forward 2 

Alberta Government

Canada

Agricultural Societies Act Update (Bill 14)

As many of you are aware the Alberta Agricultural Society Act was under review and proposed revisions to the Act were put forward as Bill 14 in March of 2015 where it passed the three readings and then the Bill received Royal Assent on March 30, 2015. **It is important to note that that does not mean that the Revised Act has come into effect yet.** The Act is now waiting for the “Regulations” to be finished and attached to the “Act”, then together they will be proclaimed as law.

During the past two years AAAS has been working with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry in addition to consulting with the membership on “Modernizing of the Ag Society Act”. Most of the current Act had remained the same since the early 1920’s (or earlier), and there are many parts that pose challenges for our members or do not have relevance anymore. Almost 90 Ag Societies came out to the regional meetings and participated in the consultation so we were able to have a diverse range in size and operations of our members represented.

Currently the regulations are for the most part complete and are getting ready to be sent to the legislative writers. We will continue to provide updates to our membership at the regional meetings as we know more. AAAS hopes that the regulations will be presented sometime in the fall but at this time that is a tentative timeline and it could be moved into the next year.

Once the Act and Regulations are proclaimed, Agricultural Societies will have three (3) years from that date to transition to meet the new bylaw requirements. Once the regulations and Act have been proclaimed, AAAS will be hosting another series of Bylaw review workshops across the Province (in addition to the one held during the convention) to update the membership on the required changes.

Currently information provided to AAAS sees no detrimental impact to Alberta Agricultural Societies and the intent is to make things more functional for Ag Societies in our Province. In the definitions section of the revised Act it has been noted that under the term “special resolution” there is unclear and confusing intent on that item, and AAAS and Alberta Agriculture and Forestry are currently working together for ways within regulations to address the concerns.

For the most part the Act has been condensed and several of the items that were in the old Act have been removed and will instead be included in the Regulations (things like the number of Directors, Date of annual filing, Quorums, Signing Authorities). Once the regulations have been presented AAAS will provide the membership with updates on what the new changes/minimums are as we know the regulations will be the area that will have the most impact on our members.

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2016 Award of Merit

George Sewell—Spruce Grove and District Ag Society

In 1989 the Board of Directors of AAAS generated a new award called the George Hughes Award of Merit. This was to be considered the President's award to be given out at the President's discretion to an individual or organization that excelled in the encouragement of growth and promotion of Agricultural Societies in Alberta. In 1993 this award was renamed the AAAS Award of Merit.



George is an Honorary Lifetime Member and one of the Founding Fathers of the Spruce Grove and District Agricultural Society. Back in the early 70's, a small group of forward thinking young men, saw the need for a sports/ recreation facility for the residents of Spruce Grove and area. With the help of Government funding, the building of a facility, to be called "The Agrena" was secured with the promise that the loan would be repaid in full in twenty five years and that every year there would be an event hosted on site for the benefit of the Community. Hence the Spruce Grove and District Agricultural Society was born and for over 25 years, what was later to be fondly remembered as the "Corn Roast" became an eagerly anticipated event by young and old alike. After the 25 year commitment was fulfilled, several of the original membership retired, but not George! He continued to be a very active and committed member, holding the Presidency position for several years.

In 1995 the last standing wooden grain Elevator in Spruce Grove was closed. George saw this as an opportunity for the Ag. Society to buy the elevator and surrounding land and save it from demolition. He was instrumental, along with membership assistance, in securing the Elevator for \$1 (the land cost considerably more!) and making the Elevator Site the Ag Societies new home, turning it into a tourist attraction to showcase the heritage and the invaluable contribution farmers made in the area. After completion of this project, George did not sit on his laurels for long as another opportunity arose, this time to salvage the original Spruce Grove water tower that had long since been abandoned in a nearby farmer's field but now had to be moved to make way for future development. This project was a full time job and more. George relinquished his Presidency position to become the Chairman of the Building Committee. Using his excellent people and organizational skills, he worked on all aspects of the restoration, from pounding the pavement asking for help on the project (but being up front and saying there was no money to pay anyone!) to crawling inside to clean the water tank and finally to seeing the beautifully restored water tower unveiled at the Elevator Site in June 2012.

Today, George is still Chairman of the Building Committee, but now it is the vision of a new multi purpose facility on the Elevator Site that consumes many of his volunteer hours. There is also a beautiful heritage red barn on Highway 60 that should be wheeling it's way over to the Elevator site this Spring thanks again to George and his committee and some wonderful unexpected generous donations. Just another day's work for the Chairman of the Building Committee!

Needless to say, George Sewell is a truly valued member of the Spruce Grove and District Agricultural Society. The Society would not be where it is today were it not, in part, for his commitment, integrity and dedication to Community and volunteerism. It is something to which all of us members can only hope to aspire."

2016 Outstanding Supporter of Agriculture Charles R. Moore—Crossroads & District Ag Society

In 1994 the Board of Directors of AAAS designed an award for a person or organization that has been an Outstanding Supporter of Agriculture. Agriculture is a vital part of Alberta's history and future and the beginning roots of Agricultural Societies in the Province. These award recipients have had a significant impact and involvement into the promotion of the agriculture industry.



Charles Moore is a third generation farmer and rancher living on the Moore Ranch, a historic Central Alberta ranch homesteaded in 1892. Following the footsteps of his forefathers, Charles has always displayed a strong pioneering spirit and drive that has made him a dedicated farmer/rancher, strong community leader and builder, tireless volunteer, avid athlete and sports builder, and unwavering agricultural advocate in his community.

Charles has lived his life according to the motto: "If you plant your trees while you are young, you can enjoy them while you are older." He has certainly planted many trees within his community and throughout the province.

Charles' strong leadership and vision for the future was first evidenced in his passionate involvement with the Rural Gasification Movement in Alberta. In recognition of his volunteerism and dedication over the past 40 years, he was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Alberta Federation of Gas Coops.

Another of Charles' passions has been his involvement in Alberta Agricultural Society Associations, both locally and provincially. He was a founding member of the Crossroads Ag Society and has served on the Board of Directors in many capacities over the past 40 years, currently as President. He was the designer and project manager for the Crossroads Ag Park at Pine Lake. Charles served on the provincial board of AAAS for many years in many capacities, including President. One of his most memorable projects was the concept, design, and operation of the AAAS Parade Float. Charles greatly enjoyed bringing the float to hundreds of communities over the life span of the program, promoting agriculture and agricultural societies all across the province.

Charles' ability to perceive needs, analyze problems, and provide solutions, along with his "get it done" attitude, has resulted in extremely successful community ventures and agricultural initiatives in his area and around the province.

Where he has planted trees, there are now forests.

Biography provided by Judy D. Dreesen

2016 Honorary Life Membership Award Recipients



Above Left to Right: Doug Kryzanowzi—AAAS President, Sylvia Mathon—Innisfail and District Agricultural Society

Each year The Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies awards up to 2 recipients the Honorary Life Membership Award. Agricultural societies are encouraged to nominate members of their association for their outstanding contribution to the development and advancement of agricultural societies in Alberta.

Sylvia Mathon—Innisfail and District Agricultural Society

Sylvia has been a volunteer who has made outstanding contributions to her community and the agriculture industry over the years. She has been treasurer of the Ag Society since 2002, and is also heavily involved with the 4-H program and a variety of numerous other organizations. Sylvia is very active within the organizations she is part of and her accomplishments, initiatives, services, commitment, hard work ethic, and passion are impressive qualities that she brings to the table. Since the beginning of 2014 Sylvia battles with Sarcoma cancer, yet she still carries on her duties with various organizations as much as she can.



Above Larry Fells—Bezanson Agricultural Society

Larry Fells aka "Grandpa Larry"—Bezanson Agricultural Society

Larry has been involved with the Bezanson Ag Society for over 6 decades and was the first president of the newly formed Bezanson Agricultural Society in 1981 when 2 Societies amalgamated, the Curling Board and the Bezanson Community Memorial Hall. Larry has held every position possible on the Ag Society Board with the exception of the Secretary and Treasurer positions. Prior to the Ag Society Larry was a former chair of the Curling club and involved on the Hall Board as well before the amalgamation. Because of the amount of time that he has been involved, his knowledge of how the facilities were originally built, updates and renovations has been instrumental in the operations and maintenance of the facilities. Larry has been volunteering within the community since his teen years and is currently 78 years old. Like many volunteers he does not want the recognition but goes about his duties quietly and efficiently, contributing to the betterment of his community.



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- Directors & Officers Liability
- Special Event Liability
- Volunteer Accidents and Injuries
- Host Liquor Liability

2016 Scholarship Award Winners

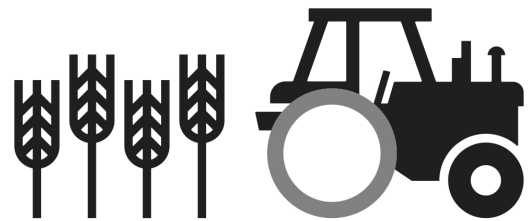
At the 2016 annual convention The Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies in partnership with Northlands Park and Calgary Stampede awarded two \$1500 scholarships to outstanding post-secondary students continuing their education.



Above Left to right: Doug Kryzanowski—AAAS President, Jim Laurendeau—Calgary Stampede, Cayley Peltzer (Rosemary Agricultural Society)—Agricultural Scholarship award winner, Arthur Lewandowski—Northlands



Above Left to right: Doug Kryzanowski—AAAS President, Jim Laurendeau—Calgary Stampede, Taylor Wood (Drayton Valley Agricultural Society)—General Scholarship award winner, Arthur Lewandowski—Northlands



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Get involved!!

- Assist with Farm recruitment
- Display posters to help promote Open Farm Days
- Host an Event

Grant or Funding Opportunities

Agricultural Societies are invited to become involved with Alberta's Open Farm Days by creating complementary programming that educates consumers and celebrates the region's agricultural products and producers.

To Get Involved:

We are accepting approximately 5 Agricultural Societies for this year with a grant of up to a maximum of \$3000 going to each successful Agricultural Society.

Deadline to apply is May 31, 2016 however spaces will be filled on a first come, first served basis (preference will be given to those Ag Societies that have not previously received funding for Open Farm Days)

Additional information and details on how to apply were emailed out early April to each member Agricultural Society that we have an email address for. **If you did not receive the information or have questions contact the AAAS office by email at aaas@gov.ab.ca or by phone at 780-427-2174.**

Grant or Funding Opportunities



The **Grassroutes Community Sport Innovation Challenge** is the second major funding initiative for Makadiff Sports. We are now accepting applications for 2016, the **Challenge** will award grants to deserving organizations with fresh ideas for taking community sport in positive new directions with the goal of enhancing access, active participation and positive experiences.

Open to Alberta's incorporated sport bodies, municipalities, First Nations, Métis settlements and agricultural societies, the **Challenge** is offering an initial \$200,000 to be shared among winning entries in 2016, plus a \$50,000 Prize Bonus in 2017. The window for submissions opens May 2 and closes June 1, 2016 at 5 p.m. MST. For more information, see www.makadiffsports.org and click on the "Funding Initiatives" Tab and then click on the "Sport Challenge"

The 2016-2017 MAKADIFF Sports Grant is now open for applications!



The Peavey Mart
Community Agricultural Grant



Peavey Mart – Community Agricultural Grant

Peavey Mart is proud to provide the Peavey Mart Community Agricultural Grant, a source of funding for innovative local agricultural projects that will help strengthen communities.

The Grant exists to nourish the entrepreneurial spirit, help incubate and develop good ideas, to give people a reason to come together, and ultimately help the communities where we live and work – all with a focus on Agriculture.

Each year the Grant will award up to a total of \$50,000 in funding. **Application Deadline is May 31, 2016**
Additional information including the link to the application form can be found at <http://www.peaveymart.com/aggrant.php>



FCC AgriSpirit Fund

Are you raising money for a capital project in a town with under 150,000 people? The FCC AgriSpirit Fund may be able to help.

If your Agricultural Society has a capital project in mind you may want to look at this funding opportunity being offered from Farm Credit Canada (FCC). The FCC AgriSpirit Fund is about enhancing rural communities.

Any non-profit in a rural community under 150,000 people may apply and may qualify for a donation between \$5000 and \$25,000 (preference may be given to organizations that focus on agriculture)

Deadline to apply is April 18, 2016 and additional information can be found on their website at www.fcc-fac.ca and then click on the "In your community" tab and click on the FCC AgriSpirit Fund

Additionally FCC offers a Ag Safety Fund to provide farm machinery-related safety training and additional information can also be found on their website. Programs or projects with a local or provincial scope are eligible to receive a maximum of \$5,000. Applications are currently closed and will re-open November 2016.

2016 Marketing Competition Award Recipients

PROMOTIONAL POSTERS

Attendance under 500 people

- 1st Place—Chipman Agricultural Society
- 2nd Place—Lloydminster Exhibition
- 3rd Place—Round Hill & District Agricultural Society

Attendance 500—5000

- 1st Place—Lloydminster Exhibition
- 2nd Place—Cold Lake Agricultural Society
- 3rd Place—Whitcourt & District Agricultural Society

Attendance over 5000

- 1st Place—Strathmore & District Agricultural Society
- 2nd Place—Medicine Hat Exhibition & Stampede
- 3rd Place—Lloydminster Exhibition

DELEGATES CHOICE - PROMOTIONAL POSTERS

- 1st Place—Strathmore & District Agricultural Society

FAIR BOOK/EVENT PROGRAM COVERS

Attendance under 500 people

- 1st Place—Round Hill & District Agricultural Society
- 2nd Place—Innisfree & District Agricultural Society
- 3rd Place—Lakedell Agricultural Society

Attendance 500—5000

- 1st Place—Barrhead Agricultural Society
- 2nd Place—Bentley & District Agricultural Society
- 3rd Place—Cold Lake Agricultural Society

Attendance over 5000

- 1st Place—Lloydminster Exhibition
- 2nd Place—Vegreville Agricultural Society
- 3rd Place—Whitcourt & District Agricultural Society

NEWSLETTERS

Distribution of 250 or less per issue

- 1st Place—Eaglesham & District Agricultural Society

Distribution of 250—500

- 1st Place—Lakedell Agricultural Society

WEBSITE

Website Development Budget under \$1000

- 1st Place—Lloydminster Exhibition
- 2nd Place—Two Hills & District Agricultural Society
- 3rd Place—Taber Exhibition

Website Development Budget \$1000-\$5000

- 1st Place—Josephburg Agricultural Society
- 2nd Place—St Paul Agricultural Society
- 3rd Place—Drayton Valley Agricultural Society

Website Development Budget \$5000

- 1st Place—Millarville Racing and Agricultural Society
- 2nd Place—Vegreville Agricultural Society

SOCIAL MEDIA

Following of less than 500

- 1st Place—Lamont & District Agricultural Society
- 2nd Place—Cold Lake Agricultural Society
- 3rd Place—Valleyview & District Agricultural Society

Following of more than 500 and less than 2500

- 1st Place—Josephburg Agricultural Society
- 2nd Place—Millarville Racing & Agricultural Society
- 3rd Place—Taber Exhibition

NEW PROGRAM OR EVENT

Attendance/Participants under 100 people

- 1st Place—Lamont & District Agricultural Society
- 2nd Place—Lakedell Agricultural Society

Attendance/Participants over 100 people and under 350 people

- 1st Place—Josephburg Agricultural Society
- 2nd Place—Lamont & District Agricultural Society
- 3rd Place—Lakedell Agricultural Society

Attendance/Participants over 350

- 1st Place—Cold Lake Agricultural Society

EVENT/ORGANIZATION PHOTO COLLAGE

- 1st Place—Lamont & District Agricultural Society
- 2nd Place—Vegreville Agricultural Society
- 3rd Place—Westlock Agricultural Society





**CONGRATULATIONS
TO ALL OF THE
2016 MARKETING
COMPETITION
AWARD RECIPIENTS!!!**



KICK THE DUST OFF 2016 ANNUAL CONVENTION

Well another year is in the books for the annual convention and tradeshow at the Ramada Conference Center in Edmonton and we really "Kicked the Dust Off" this year!

The weekend started with a Bylaw Review Workshop on the Thursday night with close to 40 participants taking part in the workshop. Friday morning things started early with a choice of 7 pre-conference workshops on a wide range of topics. After lunch delegates had the opportunity to take in some of the small stage showcase Acts, in addition to perusing thru the tradeshow that had almost 40 exhibitors this year ranging from insurance providers, farm safety programs, to livestock equipment handling, entertainment options, and grant information. Throughout the day delegates were also dropping their items off for the newly revised Marketing Competition and some amazing items for the silent auction!!

We "Kicked Off" the opening ceremonies with a welcome from our President and Region 1 Director, Doug Kryzanowski, our presenting sponsors Atco Gas/Atco Electric, Foster Park Brokers, Peavey Mart and Servus Credit Union. We were then honored and fortunate to have Premier Rachel Notley welcome and speak to the delegation. Once the opening ceremonies were complete we did a quick turnaround and jumped into the MLA/Minister Forum where there was great participation from the members of government and our delegates.

The evening continued with dinner followed by our special awards and scholarships and then into our keynote speaker Chris Fields from 13 Ways Inc. encouraging the delegates to "Aim Higher" The evening rounded out with 4 showcase performances and then it was off to the hospitality room where we were treated to "A Seat at Our Table" with Three Boars Eatery and Bearhill Brewing providing the delegates with a taste of the amazing local products we have in Alberta!

Saturday morning it was back at it with an "AAAS Year in Review" after breakfast and right into the regional meetings. Then delegates were off to choose between one of the nine "Select a Sessions" being offered. After a break for lunch and some additional small stage showcase performances and another opportunity to go thru the tradeshow and then we were off to the next set of nine "Select a Sessions". Delegates then made their way to the AAAS Annual General Meeting where we had well over 200 people in attendance for the AGM—we're so pleased to see how engaged, interested and supportive our members are of the organization! After the AGM, delegates were given a bit of a breather to relax or head to their rooms to get ready for our Gala Awards Banquet on Saturday night with the theme this year being "Rags to Riches". We're pretty sure it was the largest group of delegates participating in "dressing up" that we've seen so far—makes for a fun night to celebrate and allow everyone to relax and have a great time! The awards Gala is where we have the chance to recognize the winners of the Marketing Competition. Once we were done the awards we had another great line-up of showcase performers providing entertainment for the evening.

Sunday finished off with our closing keynote speaker Hugh Culver, Author of "Give me a Break" where he inspired delegates to "THINK creatively, PLAN better, and take ACTION now on what really matters. After the keynote it was a quick goodbye and lots of hugs, handshakes and we'll see you next year amongst new and old friends. On behalf of the Board and Staff we hope everyone had safe travels home and we look forward to seeing you all again next year!!

On behalf of the AAAS Board and staff a big thank you goes to Region 1 for being the host region for the 2016 annual convention and tradeshow!!

Highlights at this years convention:

Special Guests: Premier Rachel Notley and
Miss Rodeo Canada Samantha Stokes

8 Pre-conference workshops

Minister/MLA Forum—5 Ministers & 10 MLA's

2 Keynote Presentations

18 concurrent sessions

27 speakers

Tradeshow—37 exhibitors

Showcase Performers—18 live performances and
6 video showcases

AAAS Annual General Meeting

Regional Meetings

New & Revised Marketing Competition

Special Awards and Presentations

Over 420 Registered Delegates

Approximately 110 Agricultural Societies represented





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**Northlands
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Willow Prairie Ag Society**

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Colchester & District Ag Society
Fairview Ag Society
Grande Prairie Exhibition
Lamont Ag Society
Lethbridge Exhibition
Lloydminster Exhibition**

**Medicine Hat Exhibition
Olds Regional Exhibition
Two Hills Ag Society
Vauxhall Ag Society
Vegreville Ag Society
Westerner Exposition**

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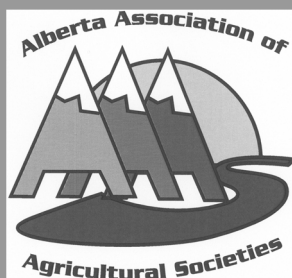
LET'S JOIN TOGETHER AND SHOWCASE OUR INDUSTRY!

We're inviting our fellow agricultural societies to collaborate with us as we work towards hosting the 28th Commonwealth Agriculture Conference in November 2018.

Opportunities include:

- Next Gen Delegate Scholarships
(Singapore 2016 and Canada 2018)
- Participation in the 27th Commonwealth
Agriculture Conference in Singapore
(October 31 – November 4, 2016)
- Planning assistance:
 - Suggesting topics & speakers, special events etc.
 - Hosting or sponsoring during the conference
 - Participation in conference in 2018

For more information, please contact Stacy Felkar
at agriculture@northlands.com or call 780.491.3431



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

Ads must carry the endorsement of AAAS. AAAS reserves the right to refuse any ads.

Our Mission: Through education, facilitation and collaboration, AAAS empowers people to be leaders in high quality communities

Our Vision: AAAS (Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies) inspires vibrancy in Alberta communities

Our 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

Our Goals: Shape an evolutionary business model for Agricultural Societies; Actively support members; Live and promote excellence and accountability; Inspire pride in our members to as strong community builders; Promote Action

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive:

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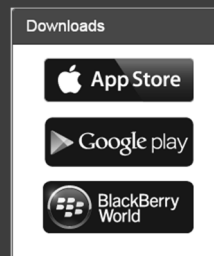


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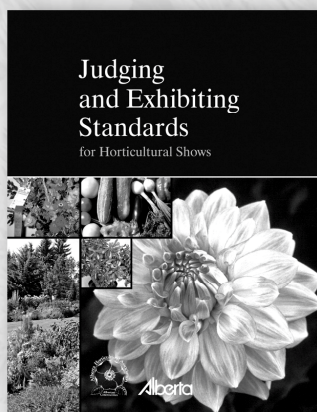
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