

ACROSS THE FENCE

WINTER 2024 NEWSLETTER

ALBERTAAGSOCIETIES.CA

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MESSAGE FROM THE CEO





Tim Carson

CEO of Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies

Holy cow! It's December. Another year in the books. As we approach the holiday season, we get the opportunity to reflect on the past year. Friends, family, events, and community have all been a part of a year filled with successes and challenges.

The 2024 wildfire season tested the resiliency of people from across North America. Watching the incredible stories unfold in Jasper saddened our hearts. Once again, our Ag Societies stepped up to assist in an incredible display of passion for their neighbour and ingenuity and creativity, creating solutions with the help of the community. We will now watch the transition from disaster to delight as the rebuilding starts. I for one will be heading to Jasper to buy a pizza, stay a night, and support their local economy. I tip my hat to all the emergency service personnel and volunteers who worked tirelessly to support Albertans in their most vulnerable times.

By most accounts, the summer event season was a success. Blue skies and sunshine supported the attendance as the Ag Societies brought the communities together. I have heard stories of near-record-breaking events from across Alberta. The volunteer spirit is alive and well, perhaps a little tired, in our communities. As leaders, our Ag Societies will need to continue developing volunteers and demonstrating how we enhance the quality of life for those we serve as well as ourselves. The fall series of meetings has been very well attended. We executed 9 meetings across the province. With the assistance of our members who hosted the meetings, we were able to welcome nearly 100 Ag Societies to share information and gather feedback. Thank you to all who took the time to attend and share your insight and expertise as we tackled key issues. You can find the meeting PowerPoint on our website.

For those of you who were not at the fall meetings, we announced the departure of Maria Flores. Maria has been with AAAS for 7 years and has been instrumental in our association's growth. Maria's creativity and imagination, along with her warm smile and passion for people made her an incredible part of our team. We certainly wish her great success in her new role. I'm certain we will see her somewhere in the cloud.

With Maria's departure, we have the fabulous opportunity to welcome Cameo Hanlon to the AAAS family.

Cameo and her company, Best Marketing Co, will be responsible for the Marketing and communications role within AAAS as well as Alberta's Open Farm Days. We are excited to see her influence on how AAAS moves forward into the future. When you see her at the upcoming conference, please extend her a warm welcome. The conference will be taking place February 6th through 8th at the River Cree Resort and Casino. Hotel rooms in both our host and auxiliary hotel are going fast, and registration has exceeded 300 delegates so far. Suzanne Kelly, our Programming and Events Coordinator has brought together an amazing group of speakers and information. You need to bring several folks from your Ag Society just to take it all in. I look forward to seeing everyone there.

From the Board and Staff, we wish every one of you an amazing holiday season.

Tim Carson

CEO of Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies



CRISP | CLEAN | CRUSHABLE



ROCKYVIEW

BERTA

OUR BEER 'ROUND HERE BREWED FROM THE LAND FOR FOLKS WHO WORK THE LAND FOR FOLKS WHO LOVE THE LAND Rocky View Brewing Company is proud to be the official AAAS craft beer sponsor! Reach out to us to discuss fundraising opportunities and for all your craft beer needs.

> 403.498.8918 sales@rockyviewbrewing.com rockyviewbrewing.com



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

JOIN US IN JULY 2025!

Calgary Stampede IULY 4 - 13, 2025



Congratulations, Tim!



IAFE Convention, Phoenix, Arizona

Congratulations Tim on being honoured with the State and Provincial Executive of the Year Award at this year's IAFE Conference!

IAFE Press Release:

Phoenix, AZ – The International Association of Fairs and Expositions (IAFE) proudly honors Tim Carson, IFMG, Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies, with the 2024 State and Provincial Executive of the Year award. This distinguished recognition was announced on Tuesday, December 3, 2024, at the IAFE Convention and Trade Show held in Phoenix, AZ.

"Tim has been involved with the Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies for more than 20 years. Within that time, he has been actively involved in both CAFE and IAFE. Tim is very deserving of this industry recognition," said Marla Calico, CFE, IAFE President and CEO.

Sponsored by Saffire, this award recognizes state or provincial executives that have provided outstanding service to the fair industry.

The International Association of Fairs and Expositions (IAFE), based in Springfield, MO, is a voluntary, nonprofit corporation serving state, provincial, regional, and county agricultural fairs, shows, exhibitions, and expositions. Its associate members include state and provincial associations of fairs, non-agricultural expositions and festivals, associations, corporations, and individuals engaged in providing products and services to its members, all interested in improving fairs, shows, expositions, and allied fields. For more information, visit www.fairsandexpos.com, follow the IAFE on Facebook or Instagram, or call 800.516.0313.

More AAAS Recognition:

AAAS was also honoured for a number of other awards while at the IAFE Convention in Phoenix!



1st Place, Best Marketing Campaign, Open Farm Days

2nd Place - Unique Convention Program





WE'LL CELEBRATE WONEN IN AG TOGETHER.

NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN FOR AFSC'S **WOMEN IN AG** AWARD.

Alberta is home to many amazing farming women, and we want to celebrate the energy and innovation those women bring to the table. AFSC's Women in Ag Award recognizes the passion, dedication, and commitment of Alberta women within agriculture and agribusiness in Alberta.

Up to eight phenomenal individuals from across Alberta will be chosen to receive a unique AFSC-branded award and a full attendance package for Advancing Women in Agriculture Conference (AWC West), including hotel accommodation.

If you know someone who has made a noteworthy contribution to the development and advancement of women in agriculture and agri-food, visit **afsc.ca/WomenInAgAward** to nominate them today.

NOMINATIONS CLOSE JANUARY 6, 2025 AFSC.ca/WomenInAgAward



official media partner



VISIT PAL INSURANCE AT THE 2025 AAAS CONFERENCE TRADE SHOW IN BOOTH 313!

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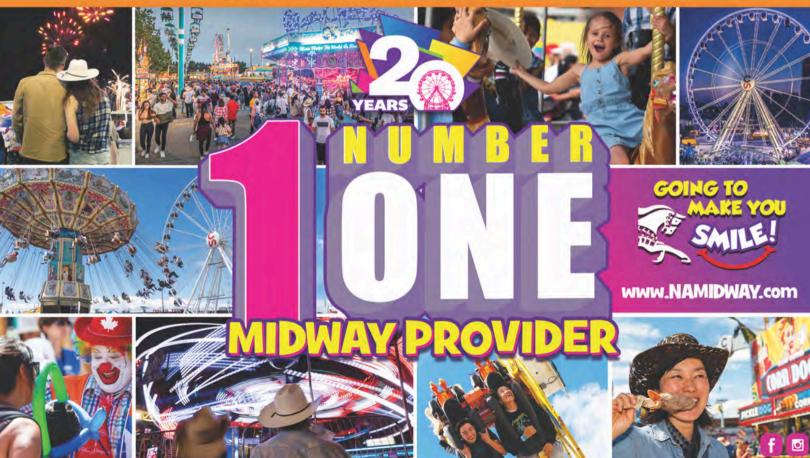


Ready to consolidate the gate? Drop by **BOOTH 311** @ the convention



frontdoor.plus hello@frontdoorplus.com

NORTH AMERICA'S



BUILDING STRONGER VOLUNTEERS

As winter approaches, it's time to gear up for Regional Meetings and Annual General Meetings. To help you prepare, be sure to visit our Stronger Volunteers website at: www.albertaagsocieties.ca/strongervolun teers/

The site is packed with resources designed to support both new and seasoned volunteers, as well as board members.

We offer:

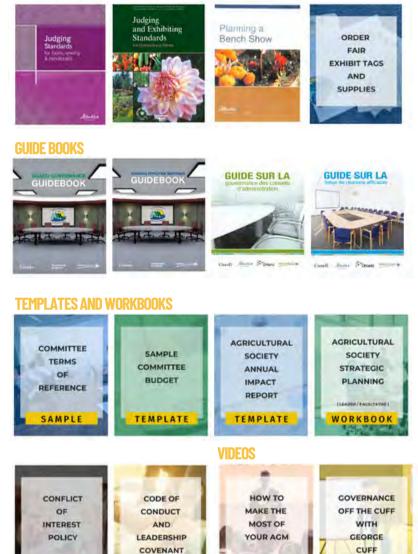
- Certified Board Volunteer Training
- Bylaw Review Workshop
- Free Resources

Explore A range of templates and workbooks to guide you through essential tasks. Additionally, check out our video series: How to Make the Most of Your AGM, which offers tips and strategies to help your meeting run smoothly.

Whether you're a new volunteer or a longstanding board member, there's plenty of valuable information to ensure your success!

We provide a wealth of resources to promote leadership development and knowledge for personal growth, ensuring individuals have the tools they need to succeed.

BENCH SHOW JUDGING STANDARDS



DDITIONAL RESOURCES

SAMPLE



12

SAMPLE

Agriculture and Recreation with Reliable Propane Solutions

Propane for Alberta's Agriculture Sector

Our tailored fuel plans help Alberta farmers maintain high productivity, especially during busy harvest and winter seasons.

Propane solutions for grain drying to livestock heating & Heat barns, and fuel greenhouses.

Propane in Community Facilities

Heating solutions for community halls, sports facilities, and recreation centers, ensuring affordable warmth for large spaces.

Rural outdoor amenities like picnic shelters and barbecue areas, propane is a flexible solution, ready to support local events and recreational facilities.

Propane in your Community

Our local branches offer creative, knowledgeable solutions tailored to each unique facility and location, ensuring you receive safe, reliable service.

Whether you're running a farm, managing a recreational facility, or planning an event, CanGas is here to meet your energy needs with efficient propane solutions you can trust.



At CanGas Propane, we're proud to fuel the operations that power agricultural and recreational communities. From grain farms and greenhouses to community halls and sports facilities, our propane services provide the energy you need to keep things running smoothly and efficiently.

Laura Lunt, President, CanGas Propane







We're excited to announce that registration is now open for the 78th Annual Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies (AAAS) Convention, taking place at the River Cree Resort and Casino from February 6-8, 2025.

KEY DETAILS:

- Early Bird Member Rate: \$567 (incl. tax) Register by November 30th
- Regular Member Rate: \$630 (incl. tax) Register by January 24th
- Daily Rate: \$385 (incl. tax) Includes 3 meals per day
- Non-Member Rates: \$730 Full convention, \$485 Daily Rate (incl. tax)

Note: You must be an Ag Society member in good standing to receive the member rate. Full convention registration includes 3 meals on both Friday and Saturday.

WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT TO SEE AT OUR CONVENTION:

WORKSHOPS

We have several workshops during the convention as well as a few Pre- convention workshops which are open to the public to register for.

MINISTER / MLA FORUM

Since 2005, Our Convention also holds an MLA & Minister forum, in which our members have a chance to speak with our Provincial leaders, ask questions and have their voices heard. This type of forum is not found often in Alberta. AG Service Boards have a similar forum.

SHOWCASE ENTERTAINMENT

We have various Showcase acts throughout the weekend where entertainers could be on our large or small stage for the Ag Societies to see them perform. Showcasing at the AAAS convention is an opportunity to help artists build a grassroots following by helping them get into towns and festivals within the local communities.

NETWORKING

Our convention also hosts a hospitality suite in the evenings to give the delegates a chance to network.

TRADESHOW

There are various Tradeshow Exhibitors to showcase their product and services to our Delegates. Over 500 people from all over Alberta attend our convention and tradeshow over 3 days.

AWARDS NIGHT / THEME NIGHT

Marketing awards. Scholarships. Honour Roll. Outstanding supporter of Agriculture. Award of Merit. Our Saturday Night Awards Gala is a themed night for our delegates to have some fun with the theme we have for the night, making it an energetic evening full of laughter and some creative costumes to celebrate our winners in the Marketing Awards Competition. Many of our delegates participate by wearing creative outfits and we always look forward to seeing everyone's interpretation of that year's theme

2025 AAAS CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW

EXHIBITORS CONFIRMED TO ATTEND:

- Agroforestry & Woodlot Extension Society AWES
- Alberta Assn. of Recreation Facility Personnel AARFP
- Alberta Horticultural Association
- Alberta Municipalities Alberta
- Open Farm Days AAAS
- Alberta SPCA
- All Insurance Ltd.
- Allen B. Olson Auction Service Ltd.
- ATCO
- **Ballad Consulting Group**
- Billi J. Miller Author
- **Bouncin Around Entertainment**
- Canadian Cattle Identification Agency CCIA
- Canadian Mental Health / Buddy Up
- **CIMCO** Refrigeration
- Doane Grant Thornton LLP
- EOUS REA Ltd.
- Farm Credit Canada FCC
- Front Door+ Event Ticketing Solutions
- **Fusion Talent Group**
- Get Communal
- Government of Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation
- Great Canadian Solar GCS
- Goodon Industries Ltd.
- Habit Communications Inc. Habit HO
- Heartland Training and Support Hub
- Hi-Hog Farm & Ranch Equipment Ltd
- In the Zone Party Rentals Ltd.
- Indoff Furniture Canada
- Industrial Machine Inc. IMI
- Kubota Canada Ltd.
- Landview Drones Inc.
- Longbow Sales Inc.
- MCSNet
- NFP, an AON Company
- PAL Insurance Brokers Canada
- Party King Inc.
- QUASEP
- **Redd Swing Productions & Entertainment**
- **RMA** Insurance
- Ron Pearson's Mystery Wonder Magic Show
- Select Entertainment Agency
- Servus Credit Union
- SilverChar Environmental Inc.
- The Little Donut Bakery Food Truck Concession
- Travis Dolter Music
- TUDI Wrap the Ultimate Drink Insulator
- Utility Safety Partners
- VBP+ / Verified Beef Production Plus
- VueTronic, LED Digital Display Experts



River Cree Resort & Casino Venue

Annual Trade Show Hours:

- Thursday, February 6: 5 pm to 9 pm
 Friday, February 7: 9 am to Noon

Exhibitors are subject to change. Wait List is in effect.

DELEGATE INFORMATION

Here are a few things you need to know for the AAAS Convention:

AG SOCIETY GRANT FUNDING

Unlock Exclusive Benefits: Agricultural Society members registering for our Convention can leverage their Grant Funding for leadership training. By including registration fees, accommodation expenses, and travel costs (reimbursed Mileage Rate) in your grant submission to the Government, you can reclaim a percentage of these expenses. Don't miss out on this opportunity to maximize your investment in professional development! LEARN MORE

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

The Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies have 7 Scholarship awards that will be given to outstanding post-secondary students continuing their education, who have volunteered their time and energy to their communities and agricultural societies. ** TWO FORMS (Student application & Ag Society Nomination Form) Application Deadline October 31 APPLY NOW

HONOUR ROLL NOMINATIONS

The Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies invites agricultural societies to nominate a member of their association for their outstanding contribution to the development and advancement of agricultural societies in Alberta. Two members will be awarded the Honorary Life Memberships. This prestigious award recognizes outstanding volunteers for their dedication to local, regional and provincial levels of agriculture. Application Deadline October 31 NOMINATE SOMEONE TODAY

MARKETING AWARD SUBMISSIONS

The Marketing Awards Contest has six categories. It is held annually during the AAAS Convention. Attendance during the convention is not a requirement to enter the contest; however, winners will be announced and presented with their awards during the Saturday Night-themed gala at the Convention. Deadline for Submissions October 31st, 2024 LEARN MORE

THEMED GALA NIGHT

Saturday Night Awards Gala is a themed costume night for our delegates to have some fun making it an energetic evening full of laughter and some creative costumes. Many of our delegates participate by wearing creative outfits and we always look forward to seeing everyone's interpretation of that year's theme!

SHOWCASE ENTERTAINMENT

CALL OUT FOR PERFORMERS

We have various Showcase acts throughout the weekend where entertainers could be on our stage for the Ag Societies to see them perform. Showcasing at the AAAS Convention is an opportunity to help artists build a grassroots following by helping them get into towns and festivals within the local communities. We're excited to announce a NEW opportunity for talented musicians to perform at the Acoustic Stage! This event is designed to highlight the raw, unplugged talent of emerging and established artists alike.

MAIN STAGE SHOWCASE OPPORTUNITY

- \$150 Member Price
- \$450 Non-Member Price

ACOUSTIC SHOWCASE OPPORTUNITY

- \$100 Member Price
- \$400 Non-Member Price

ROVING SHOWCASE

• \$100 Service Members Only

VIDEO SHOWCASE

• \$75 Service Members Only

HOW TO APPLY

- Fill out the application form.
- Submit a video of a recent live performance, a brief bio, description of your performance.
- Our selection committee will review applications, and successful applicants will be notified.
- Once you have been selected you will receive an invoice that will need to be paid upon receipt to confirm your admission into the Showcase.

Deadline: October 31, 2024



CONTACT

Kryssie Thomson Showcase Coordinator showcase@albertaagsocieties.ca

ACCOMODATIONS

AAAS has the entire hotel booked at the River Cree for our Convention. To ensure we can fit everyone in the hotel it would help if you could buddy up with someone to share a room. This way we can hopefully accommodate everyone at the River Cree.



River Cree Resort & Casino 300 East Lapotac Blvd Enoch, AB T7X 3Y3

\$162 +TAXES BOOK TODAY

Cut off Date for booking at this rate is 5:00 pm January 22, 2025 ** MINIMUM 2 NIGHT STAY **



Four Points by Sheraton Edmonton West ALTERNATE HOTEL 18540 100 Ave NW, Edmonton, AB

\$165 + TAXES BOOK TODAY

Cut off Date for booking at this rate is 5:00 pm January 10th, 2025 Reservations:+1 780-244-8355

AFTER THESE DATES THE HOTELS GO BACK TO THEIR REGULAR RATE.

We are pleased to announce, minors will be permitted in all non-gaming areas at the River Cree Resort. Effective July 29, 2024, this will allow indoor access for minors to the hockey rinks, restaurants and community events in The Venue. As well as increase accessibility and guest experience as a fully integrated Resort!

> MINORS PERMITTED ZONES INDICATED IN GREEN MINORS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT
> MINORS PROHIBITED ZONES INDICATED IN RED



- Minors (under 18) must be always accompanied by an adult (over 18).
- Minors are prohibited on the gaming floor or in any gaming area.
- Minors are prohibited to loiter in areas surrounding gaming areas, as this permittance is only to access the rinks, restaurants, and The Venue.
- River Cree shows will remain 18+ events.
- Please reference the map for minor permitted zones and minor prohibited zones.

Previously, minors had to walk outdoors, in all weather conditions to access the hockey rinks or community events in The Venue. We would like to thank The Government of Alberta and Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis for this solution to provide a better overall integrated resort experience.



ARE YOU EXPERIENCING THESE CHALLENGES?

- O High energy costs
- O Electricity grid reliability in rural areas
- O Seasonal & variable needs
- O Natural gas price volatility & dependency

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- www.dneresources.com

WELCOME to the AAAS Team I'm OK CAST & CREW

JAY STOLLERY

Jay Stollery 29 years old from Edmonton Alberta. Attended Vancouver Film school's Acting Essentials and Acting for Film and Television programs. I work doing party performing as Marvel superheros and other beloved children's character like Mario and Blippi! I spend my free time woodworking building different types of game boards and other like projects. I love the outdoors, camping and fishing and spending time in nature when I can!



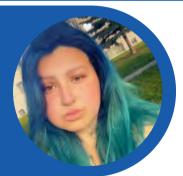


JOEY LUCIUS

Joey Lucius is an educator and performer based in Edmonton, AB. He's a Canadian Comedy Award winner, a contributor to the online Beaverton, and Academy Director at Rapid Fire Theatre. "Safety" is Joey's middle name.

JADEON MYKITUK DIGITAL TECHNICIAN

My name is Jadeon, and I work as a digital Tech and Video Wall Operator. I've been working in entertainment for several years. I'm very excited to bring my experience and knowledge to this team. My goal for the show I'm OK, is to help provide important information on farm safety in a new and innovative way so all people can connect.



BOOK YOUR SHOW TODAY WWW.ABFARMSAFETY.CA20



PAUL BEZAIRE DIGITAL TECHNICIAN

IMOK THE HIDDEN COSTS OF INDURIES

Born and raised in Edmonton, Paul Bezaire has been active in the arts and live events sector for the better part of 30 years. With experience across most technical disciplines as well as touring productions Paul brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the team.



SAFETY STARTS WITH YOU

Utility Safety Partners offers free resources to help you spread awareness about working safely around utilities!

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Contact us at info@utilitysafety.ca to learn more!

Visit us at booth 214 at the AAAS Convention on Feb 6 - 7, 2025



Join us at the AAAS 2025 Convention!

Doane Grant Thornton is excited to participate in the Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies 78th Annual Convention happening at River Cree Resort & Casino February 6-8, 2025!

Visit us at booth #406 and join us for the following presentations led by Chartered Professional Accountants experienced in agriculture, accounting and tax:

Farm Transition Planning Friday, February 7 – 9:30am - 10:30am

Board Financial Literacy Saturday, February 8 – 10:15am - 11:15am

Let's grow together. See you February 2025! DoaneGrantThornton.ca

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New Location

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2024 BY THE NUMBERS ALBERTA OPEN FARM DAYS





Alberta Open Farm Days Started in 2013 with the goal of offering farmers and ranchers an opportunity to tell their story and help Albertans understand where their food comes from. This has been accomplished through the creation of a two-day event that encourages all Albertans to take a day or overnight trip within the province and experience farm life, or take in a culinary event that celebrates local food and products. Since its humble beginnings, Open Farm Days has grown and many of the hosts have grown along with it. We are confident the future will continue to provide new and fun ways to discover and experience the Alberta agriculture story.

NEXT YEAR

Join us for the 13th Annual Alberta Open Farm Days on **August** 16th and 17th, 2025 at participating locations across the Province. For more information, please visit albertaopenfarmdays.ca or contact info@albertaopenfarm days.ca

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



ASSOCIATED PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Over the years, Alberta Open Farm Days has expanded to include unique professional development opportunities for our hosts to help them grow into successful AG-Tourism Programs.

Associated Programs Include:

- North American Farm Direct Marketing Association (NAFDMA) Scholarship
- Open Farm Days Coaching Program

QUOTES

The important factor was having people learn first hand about bison and having a First Nations representative to speak to the importance of the bison to their culture.

- Glengary Bison Ltd.

Visitors were genuinely interested and engaged with what was being shared. Many visitors had never heard of flower farming or alpaca raising in Alberta so it was a new experience for many.

- Blooms on 7 Flower Farm

Anytime a family can see where their food comes from is a good thing. Anytime a city family can see and experience rural Alberta is huge. When I was a kid many families were still on the family farm. I am one of three kids and the only one actively involved in ag, and it is not on our family farm. As people move out of the country into urban centres there is a disconnect with agriculture. People were thrilled to visit the country, and ask us questions about things we take for granted.

-The Cherry Farm

WHAT POSITIVE IMPACTS DID YOU SEE FROM THE EVENT?

Many people were exposed to animals and the rural way of life. They were able to interact with producers and find that they were educated, responsible, articulate and caring people with regard to the welfare of their animals and the environment.

- Big Country Agricultural Society

We feel that recognizing 'Open Farm Days' and the importance agriculture is to everyone right across the country, it is important to educate and bring attention to the ever growing concern of Food Insecurity. Alberta ranked as having one of the highest percentages of its population concerned about food security. That is not always evident to rural communities as we have populations of small acreages, farming families and in particular we have the Hutterite Colonies that are playing an increasing role in growing, producing and processing both meat, vegetables and fruit.

THE NUMBERS

Farms enjoyed by the public Total Farms 1217



Sales spent directly supporting Alberta food and products Total sales \$1,748,836



Visits to participating farms and culinary events across Alberta Total visits 235,643



02

2024

HABIT

MAKE YOUR EVENT THE MAIN ATTRACTION

Come visit us at Booth #506 at the 2025 AAAS Trade Show

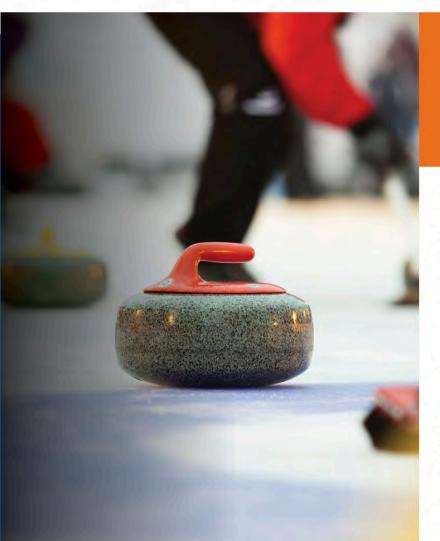
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FARMING THE SUN

The increase of Alberta residents and businesses incorporating solar systems (photovoltaics) into their homes and facilities to offset their electricity consumption is at an all-time high. In June of 2020 there were approximately 5,900 systems in operation capable of producing ~82MW, now in June of 2024 there are just under 24,000 systems capable of producing ~270MW of clean, green power (Source: Alberta Electric Systems Small Distribution-Connected Generation Operator's Resources in Alberta report). A couple of factors are responsible for the large increase over this time, the now cancelled Canada Greener Homes Grant which offset costs by a maximum of \$5,000 per residential home, cheap financing through the currently available Canada Greener Homes Loan (10-year interest free) and Clean Energy Improvement Program (available through some municipalities in Alberta with varving terms and interest rates), and the continued rise of electricity pricing.

What farms should be strongly considering is the Clean Technology Investment Tax Credit (CTITC) which will provide a 30% tax rebate to any businesses (including agri-businesses) that are a taxable entity, that invest in solar for their operations. For example, an agri-business invests in a solar system that costs \$100,000.00, they will receive a \$30,000.00 rebate. Further to that, they can also claim the Accelerated Capital Cost Allowance (ACCA - Class 43.1 and 43.2) on the remaining 70% of the project cost (\$70,000.00 in this example). The exact amount of tax savings from the ACCA, depends on the tax rate you pay so get your accountants involved. The federal government has stated that solar systems that have been installed since March 2023 will be able to apply for the CTITC when it officially launches sometime this year.

Estimated economic payback on a sizable solar system is around 5-7 years when taking advantage of the CTITC. Which means once the system has paid itself off, it'll be producing free power for your operation and these systems will easily last beyond 40-50 years. You should expect to replace an inverter a couple times over those years, but it is a relatively small cost to the overall project. Solar modules (panels) come with manufacturers production warranty for 25-30 years, which guarantees that they'll still be producing electricity at an ~85% rate of when they were installed, so they degrade very slowly. But how does it all work once the system is operating:

 Your electricity meter which normally only records the amount of electricity the farm is consuming will be replaced with one that will record the amount of electricity you send back onto the grid also (export)

areat

- Your farm will first use the electricity produced from the solar system, saving you money on your bill because you aren't bringing in electricity from the grid
- If the farm isn't using all the energy the solar system is creating (over producing) then the electricity will flow back through your utility meter and back onto the grid, creating a credit on your bill. For example, you are buying electricity from an energy retailer at \$0.10/kwh, when you export electricity back onto the grid you will be credited at \$0.10/kwh on your bill
- At night or during cloud heavy days, when the solar system isn't producing enough electricity for the farm, the grid will make up the difference and provide what is needed

Recommendations from a person who has been working in Alberta's solar industry for over 15-years:

- 1. Get 3 quotes We have seen high pressure sales forces knocking on doors giving outlandish and incorrect information on solar just in hopes of landing sales that can be 60% higher than fair market rate. Don't be in a rush to sign a contract
- 2. Consider whether the company you are choosing is active in the Alberta market and has history here. There are "solar contractors" out there that have no physical presence in the province, they operate remotely with a heavy social media presence, sub-contract all the installation labour to the lowest cost provider
- Read Google reviews on potential contractors and ask for references for similar sized projects
- 4. Start your project in the late summer or fall, do not wait for spring – It'll take time to properly engineer and permit your system with your municipality and wire service provider. Ideally if your system can be energized in late winter or early spring, you will be set up to start producing large amounts of electricity during the prime spring, summer and fall months. Wait til spring to sign a contract and you won't likely be producing electricity until late summer or fall at best, which are lower production months

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UPCOMING FUNDING DEADLINES

Travel Alberta Grants will re-open in October, giving grant applicants a jumpstart on the spring construction season. As usual, 3 streams are available:

PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT FUND

Open to tourism operators (including startups), Indigenous businesses, notfor-profits, and municipalities. The minimum ask is \$75k with 25% matching required.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT & PROMOTION FUND

Open to municipalities, destination marketing/management organizations, not-for-profit organizations, chambers of commerce, and industry associations. Minimum ask is \$50k.

EVENTS & FESTIVALS FUND

Open to communities, associations, and businesses for events that have been running a minimum of 3 years and meet the following eligibility requirements: Events lasting two or more days that charge admission and target overnight visitation. Minimum ask is \$25k with 25% matching required.

For more details or to begin work on your Expression of Interest and/or application, please contact Klay: k.dyer@albertacounsel.com | 780.652.2309

GAME BASED BOARD MEMBER TRAINING

Our Certified Volunteer Board Member Program is designed to guide you through the key areas of a successful organization, covering topics such as:

- Governance
- **Board Structure**
- Roles and Responsibilities
- Risk Management
- Board Development Planning and Strategic Direction
- Communications
- **Board Meetings**

By the end of this interactive journey, you'll gain valuable insight into what it takes to be an effective board member. This program is ideal for those involved in nonprofits and community-based organizations with volunteer boards.

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- > Campgrounds
- > Stables & Barns
- > Concessions & Kitchens
- > Beer Gardens
- > Food Trailers

WANT TO EARN SOME EXTRA MONEY FOR YOUR AG SOCIETY?

Simply email us photos of your events and if we use them in future newsletter ads we will send your Ag Society \$500!

>>> Email photos to: eric@allinsure.ca

Eric Moland C 780-915-0035

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- Infrastructure Renewal Strategy



CONTACT US

Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies J.G. O'Donoghue Bldg., 7000 – 113 Street, Edmonton, AB T6H 5T6 T: 780.427.2174 E-mail: <u>:info@albertaagsocieties.ca</u>

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