

ACROSS THE FENCE



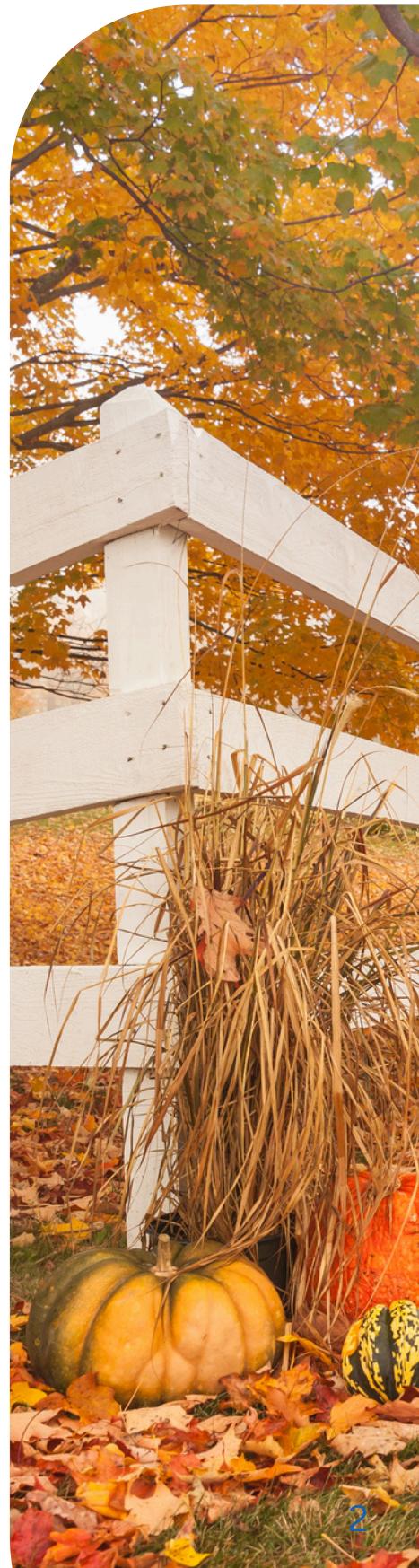
**FALL 2025
NEWSLETTER**

ALBERTAAGSOCIETIES.CA 

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MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



Tim Carson

CEO of Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies

Welcome to fall! It always seems summer goes by so fast. It is great to see the dust of harvest in the fields and the coming bounty from all the hard working farms across our province.

The end of summer also marks the end of summer fair season. To all the thousands of volunteers who invest so much into making their communities vibrant and connected THANK YOU! Although Mother Nature is not always on our side the people who show up, buy the tickets, enjoy the food and the entertainment sure are. Indications are attendance was great across the province and there were few disruptions. The fairs, rodeos, festivals, demo derby's, tractor pulls, dances and bench shows and so many more activities create, lasting memories for families and individuals. These activities build our communities and are at the heart of agricultural societies across Alberta, Canada and North America.

Earlier this year we had concerns over certain policies with in Alberta Gaming liquor and Cannabis (AGLC). Particularly the use of gaming proceeds. AAAS was able to provide feedback and support to the AGLC board on impacts of the policies and suggested positive changes. AGLC has made positive changes to these policies and we believe our members and all not for profits accessing gaming funds will benefit from. We will continue to monitor these important programs and provide input when needed.

As many are aware the Regional Agricultural Societies have had some success in gaining some much needed support from the Alberta Government. Much of this support is focussed on improving governance systems and infrastructure assessments. AAAS will continue to support our Regional Ag Societies were ever possible as they work through their individual pathways forward. It has also been indicated that there may be some focus being placed on the Primary Agricultural Societies in the near future. We are confident that the ground work laid out through the Regional Ag Societies review will translate into greater awareness of the vital impact of agricultural societies across the province and further supportive programs.

Alberta's Agricultural Society Infrastructure grant has once again been distributed to over 30 Ag Societies. This \$2.5 million dollar fund was fully subscribed in only a few minutes of opening the application submissions. We are aware that there were many of you who were very disappointed to have not received support for this year. Unfortunately, \$2.5 million does not go very far when there is over a billion dollars worth of infrastructure to be maintained. The department has been utilizing the best possible means to distribute these limited funds. Please reapply as those who have already received funds are not eligible to apply again. You will at some point be approved, as long as the program continues.

2025 marked the 13th year for Alberta's Open Farm Days. This year we had the largest participation from our agricultural societies. The theme this year was "Water, the life blood of every farm" allowed every host to provide some focus on where and how they managed their water systems and how water impacted their operations. This made for great information for the general public and created some amazing experiences. The Open Farm Days team has presented another exceptional campaign and Albertan swarmed across our rural landscapes in search of knowledge and adventure. We are excited for what 2026 has to offer and have already begun the planning. Your Ag Society should consider adding this event to your community.

The fall meetings are scheduled and the locations have been set. The information is available on our website. Attending these meeting has been described by others as impactful, informative and inspirational. We certainly encourage your Ag Society to attend a meeting wherever it is most convenient for you. This year we will be seeking your feedback on important topics like funding, volunteers and infrastructure. We will also be looking to you for important feedback on how we are doing. Don't miss out on this opportunity to have your voice heard.

We are extremely excited to be part of the "You Make the Difference" initiative. This incredible program lead by Ian Hill and fully sponsored by Fairs.com is intended to give every Agricultural society volunteer, staff member or board member tools and strategies to address the complex challenges of today and propel you and your organization into the future. Dates and locations for this free training are being solidified and will be announced as soon as possible. Don't miss out on your chance to Make the Difference.

The annual AAAS Conference and Annual General Meeting will take place February 6 – 8, 2026 at the River Cree Resort & Casino. The team is extremely excited about this year's speakers and session topics. Remember this event is open to all agricultural society members not just board members. If you are looking to inspire the next generation of volunteer board members, there is no better place to send them than the AAAS conference.

That is all for now. I do have to say that there are more announcements of special programs on the horizon. So stay tuned to our website and social media channels. As always none of this would be possible without the amazing team at AAAS and the AAAS board that guide us, our incredible partners and the folks in the department. We are here to support you in your continued success in making Alberta the amazing province it is to live, work and play.

I'll see you at the Fall Meetings!

Tim Carson
CEO Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies



Regional Meetings are Just Around the Corner

Our annual Regional Meetings kick off this fall across Alberta. Open to all, no matter your region—everyone is welcome to join the conversation and connect.

Mark your calendar for the following dates:

- October 6 — Fort Macleod
- October 15 — Indus
- October 16 — Berry Creek (Pollockville)
- October 20 — Hay Lakes
- October 21 — Elnora
- October 28 — Vilna
- October 29 — Hardisty
- November 3 — Lakedell
- November 4 — Whitecourt
- November 7 — Wembley
- November 8 — Peace River

[Click here to register for regional meetings](#) 



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AGRICULTURAL UPDATES

AGRICULTURE NEWS

Latest Ag updates in Alberta in September 2025



Funding fuels innovation at Big Marble Farms

Big Marble Farms—Alberta's largest greenhouse—has secured a \$2.2 million grant from Emissions Reduction Alberta to install over 5,000 advanced grow lights. The upgrades will cut utility costs, reduce emissions, and boost yields by 45%. Minister RJ Sigurdson noted that Alberta's farmers are leaders in growing more with less, and that this investment will help greenhouse operators cut energy costs, stay competitive, create jobs, and deliver fresh, local produce to families year-round.



Avian influenza detected in Alberta poultry flocks

The Office of the Chief Provincial Veterinarian (OCPV) reports four cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) have been confirmed to date in 2025. One case was in a small flock in May, and three cases (one commercial flock and two small flocks) were recently confirmed between September 8 and 10.

Considering these recent detections, the possibility of a resurgence of domestic poultry cases in conjunction with the upcoming fall migration is a concern.

If you suspect your flock may have HPAI contact your flock veterinarian or the OCPV at 780-427-3448.

Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation also has an ongoing [Non-Quota, Non-Commercial Disease Investigation Poultry Program](#) to help small-flock poultry owners and their veterinarians (for flocks with symptoms that meet specific criteria).

[Status of ongoing influenza cases in Alberta](#)

[Avian influenza in wild birds](#)

Strengthening Canada's Agri-Food Sector

The annual conference of federal, provincial and territorial (FPT) Ministers of Agriculture was recently held in Winnipeg. Ministers recognized the impacts of dry conditions and wildfire activity affecting regions across

Canada, and the significant uncertainty caused by tariffs. FPT Ministers met to advance collaborative efforts in support of a resilient, sustainable and competitive agriculture sector and affirmed their commitment to working together to support hard-working producers and processors to address a variety of existing and emerging challenges.

[More information](#)

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AAAS Earns "You Make THE Difference" Grant

AAAS is proud to announce we've been awarded the You Make THE Difference Grant from Fairs.com—making Alberta only the second province in Canada to receive this honour.

This recognition highlights the vital role Agricultural Societies, volunteers, and community leaders play across Alberta. With this support, AAAS will deliver new training, tools, and resources to help members continue making a difference in their communities.

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Watch out for overhead lines when working with large vehicles or equipment, especially at dusk, dawn or when vision may be obstructed.

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AAAS-OAAS CONVENTION EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Connecting Young Ag Leaders Across Provinces



AAAS and the Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies (OAAS) have partnered to offer a unique convention exchange program for young professionals aged 18–40. Selected participants will have their meals, accommodations, and convention registration fully covered.

What is the Exchange?

The Young Professionals Exchange Program offers up to ten (10) young professionals involved with agricultural societies in Alberta the opportunity to attend Ontario's annual agricultural convention. This initiative is designed to foster learning, share best practices, build networks, and strengthen collaboration between agricultural communities in Alberta and Ontario.

2026 OAAS Convention Details

- When: February 19–21, 2026
- Where: Sheraton Parkway Hotel, Toronto North, Ontario
- What's Included:
 - Registration to the OAAS convention
 - Four nights' accommodation (shared with another delegate)
 - All convention meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner) on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday

Note: Transportation to the event and any meals outside the scheduled convention meals are not included. Selected participants are responsible for those costs. Alcohol not included. Transportation costs may be eligible under the leadership portion of the AAAS annual grant if covered by your home Ag Society.

Who Can Apply?

To be eligible, applicants must:

1. Be a member in good standing of an Alberta Agricultural Society.
2. Be actively involved in an agricultural society in Alberta (e.g. leadership role, committee work, events).
3. Be between 18 and 40 years old.
4. Be available for the full duration of the OAAS convention.
5. Commit to also attend the AAAS convention in the same year.
6. Applicants may participate in this exchange for up to two years.

This initiative gives emerging Ag leaders the chance to attend each other's annual conventions, share ideas, and bring fresh perspectives back to their home communities.

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2026 AAAS CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW

Now Friday - Sunday

Building on the momentum of a highly successful 2025 Convention—where over 500 attendees joined Alberta Ag Societies, industry leaders, and community champions to celebrate, share insights, and strengthen connections—we can't wait to bring our community together again for an even more impactful event.

Mark your calendars for **February 6–8, 2026**, as the AAAS Convention returns with fresh opportunities to learn, collaborate, and be inspired. This year, we're introducing a Friday-to-Sunday format designed to fit more easily into busy schedules, without losing the depth and quality of sessions, networking, and celebrations that make Convention so valuable.

Expect thought-provoking keynotes, practical workshops, and plenty of chances to connect with peers and partners who share your passion for strengthening agriculture and rural communities. Whether it's your first Convention or your fifteenth, 2026 is shaping up to be an event you won't want to miss.

Save the date!

Friday, February 6 – Sunday, February 8, 2026

River Cree Resort & Casino, Edmonton, AB



[Click here for
General Info](#)

[Click here for
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8:30am – 3:00pm

River Cree Resort Edmonton, AB

Booth applications open October 6th

TRADE SHOW SCHEDULE

THURSDAY FEB 5TH

NOON – 5 PM (SET-UP)

FRIDAY FEB 6TH

7 - 8AM (FINAL SET UP)
8:30AM - 3PM (TRADE SHOW)
3PM - 4PM (TAKE DOWN)

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2026 AAAS CONVENTION SHOWCASE

FEBRUARY 6TH – 8TH

Performances throughout the Convention

River Cree Resort Edmonton, AB

Showcase your talent in front of hundreds of Agricultural Society leaders and event organizers. It's your chance to gain exposure, build connections, and get booked for future events.

Click here to check out
Showcase Application Details

AAAS CONVENTION SHOWCASE PRICING

ACOUSTIC/ROVING PERFORMANCE (MEMBER)	\$100
ACOUSTIC/ROVING PERFORMANCE (NON MEMBER)	\$400
MAINSTAGE (MEMBER)	\$150
MAINSTAGE (NONMEMBER)	\$450
VIDEO SHOWCASE	\$75

Contact

Doug Kryzanowski

Industry Partnerships & Services

doug@albertaagsocieties.ca

Contact

Kryssie Thomson

Showcase Coordinator

showcase@albertaagsocieties.ca

Awards & Scholarships



AFSC is excited to support the next generation of Ag Society leaders with a special discount program for delegates under 40!

- Eligibility: Delegates must be under 40 years old at the time of registration.
- Discount: Registration is reduced to \$100 per delegate.
- Rebate Details: Your Ag Society will receive a \$100 rebate per delegate (up to 2 delegates) after convention.
- Limited Availability: Only 60 rebates are available, awarded on a first-come, first-served basis—register early to secure yours!

Important: When registering, please carefully select the correct age range for each delegate. Incorrect entries cause delays in verifying eligibility and processing rebates.

Take advantage of this opportunity to get younger voices at the table and save on registration costs!

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, 2025.

[**LEARN MORE**](#)



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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, 2025.

[**LEARN MORE & APPLY HERE**](#)



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Founding Partner **MCS** 

AAAS is proud to launch Empowering Minds, a province-wide initiative focused on building stronger mental health support in rural Alberta. Agricultural Societies have always been central to community life, and this program will provide them with practical training, resources, and guidance to create supportive environments, spark open conversations, and help reduce stigma around mental health.

The initiative is made possible thanks to the support of MCSnet, our Founding Partner, whose commitment to rural Alberta extends beyond connectivity to investing in the well-being of communities. With their support, Empowering Minds will reach more regions, ensuring local voices and local leadership are at the core of this important work.

By working together, we can build healthier, more resilient rural communities—where mental health is recognized as a shared responsibility and every individual feels supported.

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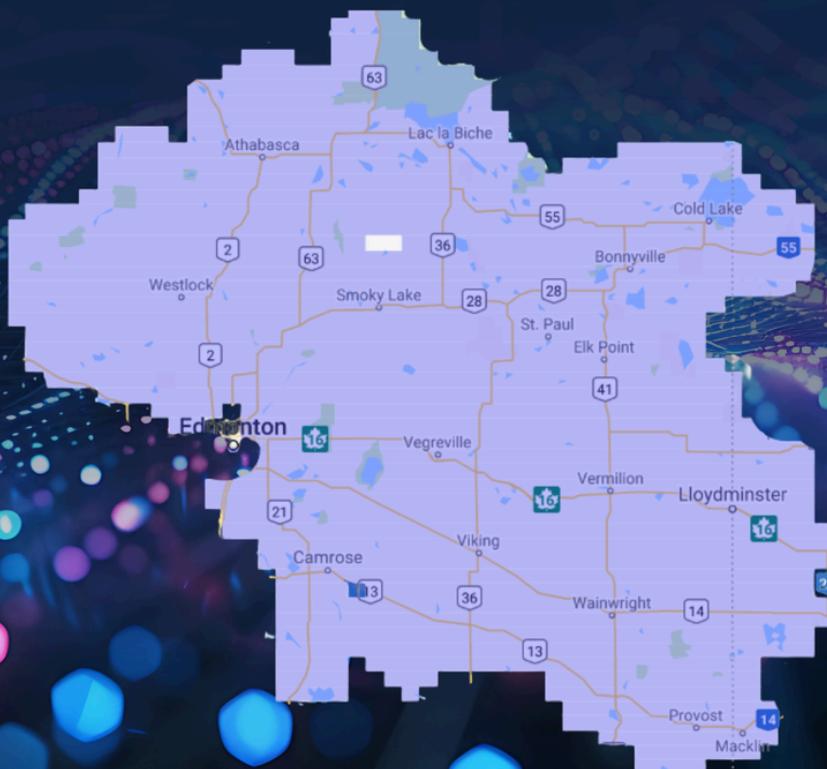


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NORTHERN ALBERTA FARM FAMILY AWARDS

Celebrating Northern Alberta's Farm Families: Awards Program Honours Excellence, Leadership, & Legacy

The Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies (AAAS) is proud to announce the return of the Northern Alberta Farm Family Awards, a program dedicated to recognizing and celebrating the outstanding farm families who form the backbone of Northern Alberta's agricultural communities.

This initiative honours families who demonstrate excellence in agricultural production, community leadership, and innovation. Many of these families have stewarded their land and contributed to their communities for generations, with some farms boasting histories of 75 to 100 years or more.

"Farm families are the heart of our rural communities," said Tim Carson, AAAS CEO. "Through these awards, we want to shine a light on the incredible contributions Northern Alberta families make, not just to agriculture, but to community life, rural leadership, and the future of our province."

For many years, programs like the BMO Farm Family Awards have highlighted farm families in Southern and Central Alberta. After a short hiatus, it is once again time to shine the spotlight on the incredible families of Northern Alberta, fostering stronger community pride and awareness of the region's vital role in Alberta agriculture.



Event Press Release:

Northern Alberta
Farm Family Awards

Date Release:
September 15, 2025

The objectives of the program include:

- Celebrating farming excellence and stewardship.
- Strengthening rural identity and community pride.
- Encouraging youth and new farmers to invest in Northern Alberta's agricultural future.
- Highlighting sustainable practices, innovation, and leadership in farming communities.



Agricultural societies across Northern Alberta in conjunction with local municipalities, will play a central role in coordinating the nomination process, promoting the awards, and engaging local families and communities. Their longstanding presence and trusted leadership make them ideally positioned to identify and honour deserving farm families.

The impact of these awards reaches far beyond recognition. They strengthen the social fabric of rural communities, inspire youth to step into leadership roles, and bring visibility to the families who sustain Alberta's food systems, land stewardship, and rural institutions. By bridging the urban-rural divide, the program also creates opportunities for deeper relationships between rural communities and the provincial government, paving the way for more inclusive policy development.

Sponsorship opportunities are available for organizations wishing to align with this important initiative and demonstrate their commitment to supporting Northern Alberta's agricultural legacy. The Northern Alberta Farm Family Awards will serve as a catalyst for celebrating heritage, encouraging innovation, and investing in the future of agriculture across the province.

For more information, please contact Tim Carson, CEO of the Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies, at tim@albertaagsocieties.ca.

About the Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies (AAAS)

The Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies (AAAS) supports and connects over 292 agricultural societies across the province, fostering community growth, leadership, and innovation in rural Alberta.



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Have questions? Talk to the team to learn more or get started. We will help you explore the benefits, walk you through our transparent approach, and discuss the right strategy for you.

Connect with us at AAASenergy@abmunis.ca.

Crop Report Snapshot: July 2025

StatsCan just released the first look at this year's crop production, and here are some highlights:

- Canola is the winner → production is up 3.6% nationally thanks to stronger yields.
- Wheat is mixed → overall down slightly (-1.1%), with Alberta seeing gains while Saskatchewan and Manitoba slip.
- Soybeans are struggling → down 7.3% across the board.
- Corn holds steady → a slight bump (+1.4%).
- Barley & oats → barley dipped a bit, oats nudged higher.
- 🌦 Weather was uneven this season. Alberta crops look solid, Saskatchewan results depend on rainfall, and Manitoba faced one of the driest years on record.

*These are early model-based estimates. Final numbers arrive December 4, 2025.



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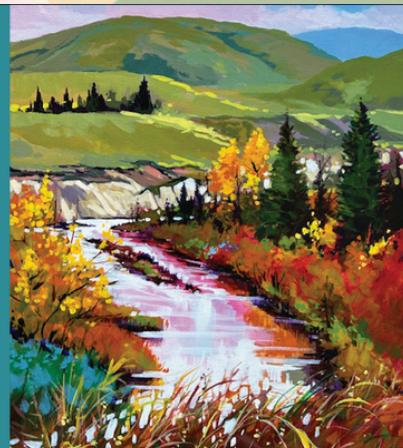
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Supporting the Next Generation of Farmers

AFSC's Next Generation Loan helps new, young and returning producers establish their own farming operations with consistent, fixed-rate financing. Eligible applicants can access terms up to 20 years, flexible repayment options, and may qualify for a 1% interest rate reduction for up to five years. With a lifetime maximum of \$1.5 million under the incentive, this program is designed to make starting and growing a farm more accessible.

[LEARN MORE](#)



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and sustain the agriculture
industry in Alberta.

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Funding provided by Natural Resources Canada.



Ag Society Event Listings

Is your Ag Society hosting an upcoming event?
Promote it on the AAAS website!

Help us showcase the great work happening across Alberta by submitting your event to be featured on our [Events Map](#).

It's a great way to boost visibility, connect with new audiences, and highlight the vibrancy of your local community.

Submit your event today and let's celebrate what makes your Ag Society shine!

[CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT AN EVENT](#)



Insurance Built for Your Community

We're proud to support Alberta's agricultural societies with coverage that fits the way you serve. From rodeos to rec centres, our local experts understand what it takes to protect the spaces and events that bring your community together.

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WE'LL STRENGTHEN COMMUNITIES TOGETHER.

Farming can be challenging, but like a true community, we pull together, supporting one another and growing stronger together. The path forward becomes easier to navigate when you have someone walking with you.

PROUD TO SUPPORT AGRICULTURE IN ALBERTA
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AAAS INSPIRES VIBRANCY IN ALBERTA COMMUNITIES

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

Excellence in direction and execution. Success through collaboration. Motivation through education and engagement. Advocacy through example. Dedicated to strengthen Agricultural Societies and their communities.

ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE

Effective, Consistent Improvement, Innovative, Continual Leadership, & Legacy-Longevity.

- Board Governance – Succession Planning
- Board – New Membership Recruitment
- Staff – Capacity Building
- Foundation – MOU & Operational Alignments

RURAL ADVANCEMENT

Community, Stability, Growth, Diversification, Attractant, Renewal, Vision, & Engagement

- Leadership Training – Expand Online Training Modules
- Diversification – New Programming
- Volunteering – Provincial-Wide Campaign
- Funding Model – Preserve & Grow



ALBERTA ASSOCIATION OF
AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES



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