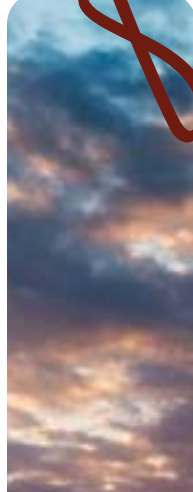
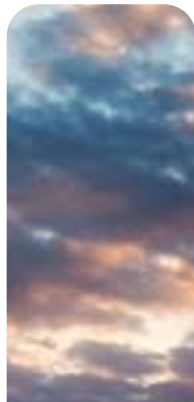
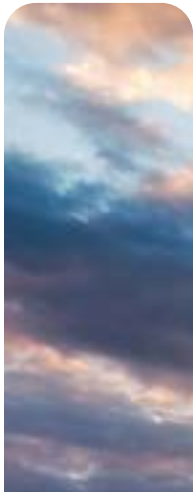


ACROSS

The fence



SUMMER 2026

newsletter

albertaagsocieties.ca





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CEO MESSAGE

Summer is a special season across Alberta. From fairgrounds coming alive with activity to community halls hosting celebrations, markets, exhibitions, rodeos, and family events, Agricultural Societies are once again demonstrating why they remain among Alberta's most valuable community organizations.

**THIS ROLE
HAS NEVER
BEEN MORE
IMPORTANT.**

As I travel across the province and connect with our members, I am continually inspired by the dedication

of volunteers, board members, staff, and community partners who make these activities possible. Their commitment reflects a tradition that stretches back generations—a tradition built on bringing people together, supporting agriculture, and strengthening communities.

At the heart of every Agricultural Society is something increasingly important in today's world: connection. While many people recognize Agricultural Societies for the events they host, the true value extends far beyond the event itself. Every fair, farmers market, ro-

deo, agricultural exhibition, 4-H achievement day, community celebration, or educational program creates opportunities for people to come together. These events build relationships between neighbours, connect urban and rural Albertans, introduce young people to agriculture, and foster a sense of belonging that strengthens entire communities.

In an era where many interactions take place online, Agricultural Societies continue to create meaningful face-to-face experiences. They provide

CEO MESSAGE

TIM CARSON

spaces where families gather, volunteers work side-by-side, local businesses engage with residents, and communities celebrate their shared successes. These moments of connection help reduce isolation, strengthen community pride, and create the social networks that contribute to resilient and thriving communities.

Across Alberta, communities are experiencing growth, demographic change, and evolving social needs. Agricultural Societies serve as trusted local organizations that bring people together across generations, backgrounds, and interests. Whether someone attends an event to learn about agriculture, volunteer, support local youth, or simply spend time with family and friends, they leave having strengthened their connection to their community.

Agricultural Societies also play a unique role in connecting Albertans to agriculture. As fewer people have direct ties to farming and ranching, the opportunities created through fairs, exhibitions, educational programs, and community events help bridge that gap. These experiences foster a greater understanding of where food comes from, the importance of agriculture to our economy, and the people who work every day to feed our province and the world. At AAAS, we continue to advocate for the important work our members do. Recent conversations with government, municipalities, industry partners, and community organizations

have reinforced a message we hear repeatedly: Agricultural Societies are not simply event organizers. They are community builders. They create opportunities for engagement, learning, leadership development, volunteerism, and connection that strengthen the social fabric of Alberta.

Looking ahead, AAAS remains committed to supporting our members through advocacy, leadership development, governance support, resource sharing, and innovative programming. While many Agricultural Societies continue to face challenges—including volunteer recruitment, aging infrastructure, and increasing operating costs—the value they provide to their communities has never been greater. The ability to bring people together, foster relationships, and build stronger communities is one of the most important contributions any organization can make.

As you enjoy the summer season, I encourage you to take pride in the impact your organization has on your community. Every event hosted, every volunteer engaged, every young person inspired, and every connection made contributes to a stronger Alberta.

On behalf of the AAAS Board of Directors and staff, thank you for your dedication, leadership, and commitment to your communities. The work you do matters, and the connections you create leave a lasting impact far beyond any single event. While the events may last a day, a weekend, or a season, the relationships, memories, and community connections they create can last a lifetime.



AGRICULTURAL NEWS

CATCH UP ON
ALL THINGS
AGRICULTURE
SINCE OUR LAST
NEWSLETTER IN
APRIL!

***FIND NEWS ON
LIVESTOCK, CROPS
AND MARKETS,
RESEARCH, FOOD
AND BEVERAGE
PRODUCTION, AND
PROGRAMS AND
EVENTS.***



FEDERAL FUNDING BOOSTS ALBERTA-BASED AGRICULTURE INNOVATION

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada has announced a \$30-million investment in six not-for-profit organizations across Canada to accelerate clean technology development across the agriculture sector.

WATER WELL MONITORING MADE SIMPLE

A Water Well Monitoring Parameters Technical Guideline was developed recently by the Technical Advisory Group (TAG), a collaboration among the Government of Alberta, the Natural Resources Conservation Board (NRCB) and the agricultural industry.

ALBERTA IS GEARED UP AND READY FOR WILDFIRE SEASON

Alberta is set for the 2026 wildfire season with trained crews and prepared equipment in place. Crews are prepared to respond to wildfires anywhere in the province. They are trained for both quick response and long-term firefighting.



LEADING THE WAY ON AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

Invasive mussels destroy ecosystems, threaten shorelines and can cause hundreds of millions in damage that can affect Alberta's economy. By defending water bodies, ecosystems and infrastructure, Alberta's government is protecting jobs, agriculture, wildlife etc.



IMPROVE PROFITABILITY WITH A SHORTER CALVING SEASON

As the calving season ends and Canadian beef cattle producers switch gears toward breeding season, there is an opportunity to evaluate calving distribution and its impact on herd performance and profitability.





UPCOMING EVENTS

***CHECK OUT ALL OUR UPCOMING EVENTS
FOR THIS YEAR!***

OPEN FARM DAYS

Alberta Open Farm Days is a unique opportunity to explore Alberta's farms, ranches, and local food producers while learning where your food comes from. Held across the province, this exciting event invites families and communities to meet local farmers, experience life on the farm and enjoy fresh Alberta products.



WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING

Was my first time so it was very memorable. What a wild experience! Never seen behind the scenes of a farm so it was very educational.

Seeing the equipment used to get potatoes into storage, the feed rations at the feedlot, tasting raw sugar beet, and seeing that we grow cantaloupe in Southern Alberta!

I loved the tours and the information! The tractor/wagon tour with audio recording of what the farmer grows and the family history (Edgar Farm). Shirley's Greenhouse tour was done by the owner himself which clearly reflected his passion for organic farming.



LOTS OF EXCITING AGRICULTURE EVENTS ARE COMING UP ACROSS ALBERTA

YOUTH SPEAKING

The Alberta Young Speakers for Agriculture Championships are an exciting opportunity for youth to build confidence, strengthen their public speaking skills, and share their ideas about agriculture. Participants will compete for chance to advance to the Canadian Young Speakers for Agriculture Finals in Toronto.



AG SOCIETY DAYS

Ag Society Days is coming up on **September 21st** — a special day to celebrate the agricultural societies, volunteers, and communities that help bring people together across Alberta. From fairs and rodeos to local events and community traditions, ag societies play an important role in keeping rural communities strong. If your ag society is planning an event or celebration, let us know — we'd love to help share it!

EMPOWERING MINDS

Empowering Minds is a rural mental health initiative supporting Alberta communities through connection, education, and early intervention. The program helps train local leaders to recognize when someone may be struggling and guide them toward support.





BRANCHING
80 YEAR LEGACY *Out*

WHAT TO EXPECT

- Inspiring keynote speakers
- Interactive discussions and workshops
- Practical tools and innovative ideas
- Opportunities to share challenges and successes
- Networking with Agricultural Society leaders from across Alberta
- Special celebrations recognizing AAAS's 80th Anniversary

Whether you're a long-serving volunteer, a first-time board member, or a community builder looking for new ideas, the Summit will challenge, inspire, and equip you for the future.

SAVE THE DATE

February 5–7, 2027

The future isn't something we wait for—it's something we build together.

BRANCHING INTO TOMORROW

BRANCHING INTO
TOMORROW

JOIN US FOR OUR AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES SUMMIT

For generations, Alberta's Agricultural Societies have been deeply rooted in their communities—bringing people together, creating opportunities, and strengthening rural Alberta.

As we celebrate our association's remarkable milestone, we're also looking ahead. That's why the AAAS Annual Conference is evolving into something more.

WELCOME TO THE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES SUMMIT

Today's Agricultural Societies are navigating a rapidly changing landscape. Volunteer expectations are shifting. Community demographics are evolving. New generations are seeking different ways to engage, connect, and contribute.

A conference helps us learn. – A summit helps us shape the future.

The Agricultural Societies Summit is designed to be more collaborative, more engaging, and more forward-looking than ever before. It will bring together board members, managers, volunteers, community leaders, government partners, and industry supporters to explore the opportunities that lie ahead for Alberta's Agricultural Societies.

Under the theme "Branching into Tomorrow" we'll examine how strong roots in our heritage can support new growth, fresh ideas, and innovative approaches to serving our communities.

AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS



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.

Application Deadline October 30th, 2026 @ 4:00pm

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.

Application Deadline October 30th, 2026 @ 4:00pm

MARKETING AWARDS

The Marketing Awards Contest has six categories. It is held annually during the AAAS Convention. Winners will be presented with their awards during the Saturday Night-themed gala at the Convention.

Application Deadline October 30th, 2026 @ 4:00pm

WILDFIRE EVACUEE SUPPORT

AGRICULTURE SOCIETIES STEP UP

As wildfires continue to impact rural Alberta, Agricultural Societies across the province are stepping up to provide critical support for evacuees. Many facilities are opening their grounds to offer temporary space for trailers, camping, and even livestock pens—providing much needed relief for those displaced by the fires.

To help connect evacuees with available support, AAAS has created an online map showing which Ag Society facilities are currently offering space. If your Ag Society has the capacity to assist, we encourage you to add your facility to the list by filling out the form linked on our wildfire support page.

CHECK OUT OUR MAP

Visit albertaagsocieties.ca/wild-fire-support to view the map, access resources, or sign up your Ag Society to provide support. Together, we can help our neighbours stay safe and supported.

READ MORE



We also offer an evacuation checklist to help individuals and families stay prepared in the event of a wildfire or flood. Being ready ahead of time can make all the difference during an emergency and help keep your loved ones, animals, and important items safe.

GOT ANY BIG **EVENTS** AROUND THE CORNER?

SHARE YOUR
UPCOMING AG
SOCIETY EVENTS
WITH US



NEED ENTERTAINMENT FOR YOUR EVENT?

We work with an amazing variety of talented people who would love to be part of your community event, fair, or celebration.



FALL REGIONAL MEETINGS ARE COMING!

Join our CEO, Tim, this fall as he travels across the province to share updates, discuss what's ahead for agricultural societies, and answer your questions. Dates and locations will be available on our website in July—check back soon for details!



AAAS-OAAS CONVENTION EXCHANGE PROGRAM



AAAS AND THE ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES (OAAS) HAVE PARTNERED TO OFFER A UNIQUE CONVENTION EXCHANGE PROGRAM FOR YOUNG PROFESSIONALS AGED 18–40.



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 18th–20th, 2027

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

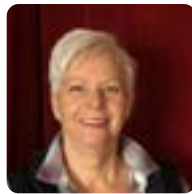
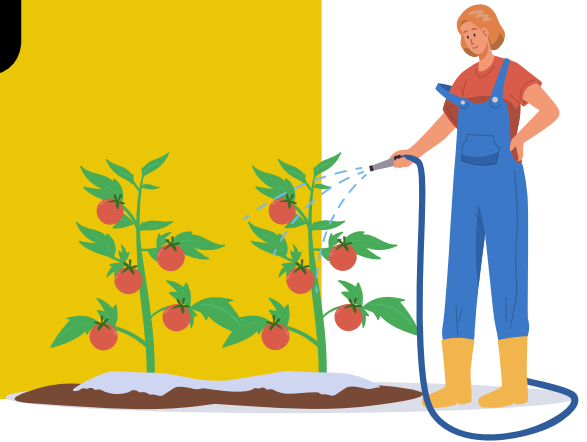
Note: Transportation to the event and any meals outside the scheduled convention meals are not included. Selected participants are responsible for those costs. Alcohol not included. Transportation costs may be eligible under the leadership portion of the AAAS annual grant if covered by your home Ag Society.

WHO CAN APPLY? (DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 30th @ 4:00PM)

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
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

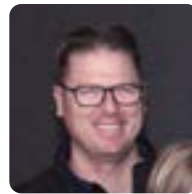
2026 BOARD MEMBERS



PETRA
PRESIDENT



FRED
*1st VICE
PRESIDENT*



RICK
*2nd VICE
PRESIDENT*



NATAHSA
TREASURER



SHAN
REGION 2



LINDA
REGION 3



SEBASTIEN
REGION 4



AUDREY
REGION 6

WANT TO BE A PART OF THE BOARD?

Want to be a part of our board? As per the bylaws, a Board of Directors, consisting of nine persons elected by regional members, and one person by Industry Partners, shall administer the affairs of the Association.

The Board of Directors is the legal authority for the Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies. As a member of the Board, a Director acts in a position of trust for the membership and is responsible for the effective governance of the society. *Contact our office for more information on how to become apart of our team.*

SUMMER 2026

newsletter

albertaagsocieties.ca

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