



YOUNG AGRICULTURAL SPEAKERS TAKE THE STAGE AT ATHABASCA PRELIMINARY COMPETITION



Athabasca, AB (June 27, 2026) – The Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies (AAAS), in partnership with the Calgary Stampede and Alberta Young Speakers for Agriculture, proudly hosted the Northern Alberta Preliminary of the Youth Agriculture Speaking Championships at Athabasca University on Saturday, June 27, 2026. The event marked the first time Athabasca served as a preliminary competition location, expanding opportunities for youth across Northern Alberta to showcase their public speaking skills and passion for agriculture.

Youth aged 11 to 24 delivered thoughtful and engaging speeches on a variety of current agricultural topics, demonstrating their knowledge, leadership, and communication skills while inspiring audiences with their vision for the future of agriculture. Participants competed in both Junior (ages 11–15) and Senior (ages 16–24) divisions.

Congratulations to our preliminary winners:

Junior Division Winners:

Kaylee Kanarek (Athabasca)
Paige Lenz (Parkland County)

Senior Division Winner:

Shelby Dutertre (Bonnyville)



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These participants have earned the opportunity to advance to the Youth Agriculture Speaking Championships Finals, taking place at the Calgary Stampede on Saturday, July 11, 2026, where they will compete alongside finalists from the Olds and Calgary preliminary events for over \$15,000 in prizes and awards.

Volunteer Judges

The Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies extends its sincere appreciation to the volunteer judges who generously shared their time and expertise to evaluate this year's competitors. Their thoughtful feedback and encouragement play an important role in helping young speakers develop their confidence and public speaking skills

Judging Panel:

Mayanne Campbell (*Alteri Insurance*)
Camille Wallach
Amber Schmidt
Vince Brennan
Glen Duck
Ian Hill



**THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS FOR
SUPPORTING THE YOUTH SPEAKING CHAMPIONSHIPS!**



The Youth Agriculture Speaking Championships continue to provide an incredible platform for young people to develop confidence, strengthen their communication skills, and share their perspectives on the future of agriculture. We congratulate every participant for their hard work and dedication and wish our finalists the very best as they prepare for the championships at the Calgary Stampede.

About the Youth Agriculture Speaking Championships

The Youth Agriculture Speaking Championships are presented by BURNCO in partnership with the Calgary Stampede, Alberta Young Speakers for Agriculture, and the Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies. The competition encourages youth to explore important agricultural topics while building confidence, leadership, and public speaking skills. No agricultural background is required to participate.



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