



News Release

For Immediate Release

UFA and 4-H Alberta recognize Erica Bexte, an outstanding community member!

April 7, 2014 (Vulcan, AB) — In conjunction with National Volunteer Week, held April 6 - 12, 2014, UFA Co-operative Limited and 4-H Alberta were pleased to recognize the 2013 recipient of the UFA 4-H Alumni Volunteer Service Award at the UFA Farm & Ranch Supply store in Vulcan, Alberta.

2013's recipient, Erica Bexte, who currently resides in Arrowwood, Alberta, was presented with a UFA 4-H Alumni Service Award certificate and received a \$2,000 UFA gift certificate in recognition of demonstrating leadership through community involvement and volunteer work.

"Congratulations to Erica Bexte, who has contributed greatly to her community and her province. She is an outstanding 4-H representative and we are proud of her achievements," says Bruce Banks, CEO, 4-H Foundation of Alberta. "The UFA 4-H Alumni Volunteer Service Awards are a highlight of 4-H Alberta's partnership with UFA. We truly appreciate that UFA shares our objective of recognizing and encouraging community participation, leadership, and voluntarism among youth and young adults in Alberta."

Bexte was recognized at the Vulcan UFA location on Monday, April 7, for her outstanding contributions to the advancement of her local community and her continued commitment to the 4-H Alberta program. This presentation was fitting, as National Volunteer Week works to pay tribute to the millions of Canadian volunteers who generously donate their time and talents to our communities and local nonprofit organizations. Today's young volunteers are involved and committed to their choice causes more than ever before, and Erica Bexte is a shining example of this promising trend.

In order to be selected, Bexte was required to be between the age of 20 and 35; have pursued post-secondary education; have returned and remain committed to her rural roots; and have enhanced her community as a 4-H volunteer for at least two years.

Bexte was a member of the Arrowwood River Wranglers 4-H club and Arrowwood Beef 4-H club for a total of nine years. She is currently in her third year at the University of Lethbridge, where she is pursuing her Bachelor of Education. When she is not focusing on her studies, Bexte is giving back to her home community. Bexte was an assistant and then an instructor for the "Just Dance" program for the last several years. She is a member of the United Church Board and teaches Sunday School at her local church. She helps organize, as well as plays and sings at, the church services and at local community events. She also volunteers at the annual local Agriculture Society Rodeo.

"It is our honour to be awarding Erica with the recognition she deserves. She demonstrates the type of leader and the key to the future of agriculture and rural Alberta – this is why UFA supports a number of important leadership and development programs through the 4-H Alberta program" says Jessica Barrie, Community Investment Manager, UFA Co-operative Limited.

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According to her nominators, Linda Gooch, Judy Ashbacher, and Sherry Malmberg, "Erica was a great mentor for younger members when she was a member of our club. She is one of those "young people" that the entire community looks at with admiration." Erica continues to volunteer with her former 4-H club, the Arrowwood River Wranglers, where she marks record books and continues to serve as a mentor to 4-H members. She also gives her time as a volunteer public speaking judge for both the Calgary and Southern 4-H regions.

4-H Alberta and UFA are pleased and proud to recognize Bexte's contributions and community spirit, as well as the rest of the 4-H Alberta volunteers that continue to strengthen the program and our communities.

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Note

UFA supports a variety of programs and opportunities throughout 4-H Alberta from the Alberta 4-H Centre to leader training and educational components like: 4-H Alberta Key leaders, Annual 4-H Leaders' Conference, Provincial Equine Leaders' Forum, and Beef and Sheep Leaders' Update. The partnership offers a significant portion of grass root support which includes financial contributions to all 4-H Alberta Achievement Days in the province and a recently developed 4-H Loyalty Discount Program offered to the entire membership.

About UFA Co-operative Limited

*Founded in 1909, **UFA Co-operative Limited** is an Alberta-based agricultural co-operative with more than 120,000 member-owners. UFA's network comprises more than 110 bulk fuel and cardlock Petroleum locations, 35 Farm & Ranch Supply stores and a support office located in Calgary, AB. Independent Petroleum Agents and more than 1,200 UFA employees provide products, services and agricultural solutions to farmers, ranchers, members and commercial customers in Alberta, British Columbia and Saskatchewan. UFA also owns and operates Wholesale Sports Outdoor Outfitters. With 13 locations and more than 600 employees, Wholesale Sports is the largest multi-channel retailer in Western Canada dedicated to the outdoor industry. For more information, visit UFA.com.*

About 4-H Alberta

*Building communities since 1917, **4-H Alberta** has been mentoring the youth of this province in the ways of leadership and communication, all the while equipping them with confidence, life-applicable skills and a network of friends that spans the entire country. With a profuse alumni network, 4-H Alberta is the province's rural youth organization of choice.*

For more information, or to arrange interviews, please contact:

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