

July 29, 2013

Families honoured in Medicine Hat for 100-year commitment to agriculture

Pioneering Alberta families who have farmed and ranched the same land for 100 years or more are being recognized by the Government of Alberta with Century Farm and Ranch Awards.

“We are proud to celebrate the legacy of Albertans who have dedicated their lives to agriculture and who have helped shape this province into what it is today,” said Verlyn Olson, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development. “The strength and future success of our agriculture industry depends greatly on the hard work, ingenuity and determination of our farming families.”

Prior to the discovery of oil, agriculture was Alberta’s primary industry. Today, agriculture continues to be the province’s largest renewable industry, with more than 43,000 farms totaling 50.5 million acres.

Recipients of the Century Farm and Ranch Award are presented with a bronze plaque to commemorate their significant achievement. A total of 82 families are being recognized across the province this year. This includes families who were recognized at an awards luncheon during the exhibition and stampede in Medicine Hat on July 27.

“I am proud that my family survived and built a life on our land for over 100 years,” said award recipient Edward Herrmann of Hilda. “My father and grandfather came here from Russia and built a legacy that continues today. Our plaque marks that important achievement for our family.”

Since the Century Farm and Ranch Awards began in 1993, a total of 1,440 families have received plaques.

Our government was elected to keep building Alberta, to live within its means and to fight to open new markets for Alberta’s resources. We will continue to deliver the responsible change Albertans voted for.

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Backgrounder: List of award recipients

Editor’s note: Photos from the Medicine Hat event will be posted on [Flickr](#) for media use. Interviews with families can be arranged.

Media inquiries may be directed to:

Erin McFarlane
Communications
Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development
780-638-3256
Erin.mcfarlane@gov.ab.ca

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Century Farm and Ranch Family Award Recipients

Ann and Arthur Berg of Oyen
Melvin and Linda Bingeman, Conestoga Farms of Oyen
David and Maureen Booker of Empress
Edith Chrusciel of Acadia Valley
Blanche Coultis of Duchess
Clarence and Helen Cyr of Pincher Creek
Sheldon and Rosemary Ellik of Schuler
Stanley and Tracy Fullerton of Drumheller
Greg and Karen Gordon of Hanna
Floyd and Marian Haas of Medicine Hat
Leonard and Ina Hains of Cereal
Philip and Margaret Harahus of Iddesleigh
Vianne Herman, H & K Ranch Ltd. of Hilda
Edward and Darlene Herrmann of Schuler
Glenna McNeill and son Malcolm McNeill of Empress
Kent Meers of Acadia Valley
Rose Niwa of Acadia Valley
Raymond and Sherrie Rude of Sedalia
William and Kim Smith of Sibbald
Darryl Strankman of Esther
Alvina Pearl White of Jenner
Doug and Benita Will of Schuler

A full listing of 2012 Century Farm and Ranch Family award recipients can be found on the website at: <http://www.agric.gov.ab.ca/app68/centuryfarm>

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To call toll-free within Alberta dial 310-0000.