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## **Agricultural society and province partner to promote agriculture**

The Government of Alberta is stepping up with funding for the Olds Agricultural Society to support rural youth development and facility upgrades.

“The Olds Agricultural Society is part of the heart of this community and does a tremendous job organizing events that help make Olds a wonderful place to call home,” said Verlyn Olson, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development. “We are pleased to support the society’s ongoing efforts to encourage youth leadership and to showcase our province’s strong and vibrant agriculture industry.”

The Olds Agricultural Society will receive two grants, totaling more than \$76,000, through Alberta’s Agricultural Initiatives Program. A \$54,740 grant will assist with the cost of recent facility upgrades that will enhance the society’s capacity to host major agriculture events. This includes renovations to an infield tent and meeting rooms, playground construction, and parking improvements.

A \$22,000 grant will support the successful Summer Synergy Rural Youth Showcase. Now in its fourth year, the event is a partnership between the Olds Agricultural Society, Olds College, Calgary Stampede, and Alberta 4-H. Alberta youth, age 9 to 20, have the opportunity to highlight and enhance their leadership and agriculture skills, while participating in a premier livestock show that includes taking part in the Calgary Stampede.

“Olds Agricultural Society is very proud of our many collaborative partnerships with the local community, industry and government,” says Curtis Flewelling, President of the Olds Agricultural Society. “Summer Synergy is one of our signature events, which showcases a personal and professional development opportunity for our outstanding rural youth to achieve their personal best. The event’s founding partners represent over 400 years of building stronger Albertans and Canadians.”

The Agricultural Initiatives Program supports projects that encourage improvements in agriculture, enhance the quality of life in the agricultural community, and facilitate rural development. The program is funded through the Alberta Lottery Fund.

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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