



## Focus on 4-H

*Drayton Valley* - July 3-5 marks the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Northwest regional show, Focus on 4-H, which will be held at the Drayton Valley Omniplex. The 2009 version of this three-day event promises to deliver all of the components that prove to make 4-H regional exhibitions great. There will be horse, beef, canine, sheep and lifeskills classes, a musical ride and a multi-judging competition, a lip sync show and a tractor rodeo, and of course, an Iron Man Decathlon on.

Wait a minute. A what?

New this year is the Iron Man Decathlon, a 10-station race with different 4-H- related fun challenges at each stop, which will run over Saturday and Sunday. Participants can expect to be challenged on their 4-H knowledge, their general skills and their enthusiasm. The event is divided into age categories, with each level modified for each age group.

With a primary emphasis on fun, Focus boasts a high regional participation turnout, drawing members from the far edges of the Northwest region. The competitive spirit will be alive and well, but not at the sacrifice of learning, positive experiences and the making of a ton of great memories.

First-year Knight Riders 4-H Light Horse Club member Lexi Abbott is excited about the upcoming show. "I was at Focus last year with my sister, but I wasn't old enough to be in 4-H yet, and so this is the first time I get to compete. I can't wait!"

Lisa Reich, Lin-Berry Buck 4-H Beef Club member, can understand where Lexi is coming from. "I'm excited to have so many of my friends around. Last year's Focus was so much fun – more than I even describe! I know that this year is going to be even better."

Northwest Regional Assistant Jennifer Taylor can attest to the impressive force that is the Focus planning committee, guaranteeing the event will be a huge success. "I am completely blown away by the strength of the committee, and the diversity of projects that are going to be represented at the event."

For more information on Focus on 4-H or the Northwest Region, please contact Jocelyn McKinnon at (780) 674-8250 or [jocelyn.mckinnon@gov.ab.ca](mailto:jocelyn.mckinnon@gov.ab.ca). For further information on 4-H, please visit [www.4h.ab.ca](http://www.4h.ab.ca).

